Matthew 1 provides an account of the genealogy and birth of Jesus Christ. This chapter begins with a lineage tracing from Abraham to David, from David to the Babylonian exile, and from the exile to Jesus. It also details how Mary, though a virgin, became pregnant by the Holy Spirit, and gave birth to Jesus.

1st Paragraph: The chapter starts with a genealogy that traces 42 generations from Abraham through King David to Jesus Christ. Each segment is divided into fourteen generations: from Abraham to David; from David until the exile in Babylon; and from that point until Christ's birth (Matthew 1:1-17). This lineage establishes Jesus as a rightful heir in both Abrahamic and Davidic lines.

2nd Paragraph: The next part (Matthew 1:18-25) tells about Mary's miraculous conception. Despite being betrothed to Joseph, she becomes pregnant through the Holy Spirit. Joseph initially contemplates divorcing her quietly but an angel appears in his dream explaining that Mary's child is conceived by the Holy Spirit and will save people from their sins.

3rd Paragraph: In this final section, Joseph obeys God's command conveyed through the angelic vision by taking Mary as his wife without consummating their marriage until she gives birth. As instructed by the angel, they name their son 'Jesus'. His name signifies "he will save his people from their sins", fulfilling Old Testament prophecies concerning a coming Savior.

Matthew 1:1 The book of the generation of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham.

This verse introduces the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David and Abraham.

1. The Generational Lineage of Jesus Christ: What it Means for Us Today

2. Following in the Footsteps of Abraham and David: Our Spiritual Heritage

1. Romans 4:1-12 – Abraham’s faith and the promise of God

2. Psalm 89:3-4 – The covenant between God and David

Matthew 1:2 Abraham begat Isaac; and Isaac begat Jacob; and Jacob begat Judas and his brethren;

Abraham's lineage is traced from Isaac to Jacob and then to Judas and his brothers.

1: God's faithfulness in preserving His promises from Abraham to Jacob and beyond.

2: God's perfect plan and timing in how He chooses to pass down His promises.

1: Genesis 12:1-3; God's promise to Abraham to make of him a great nation.

2: Genesis 28:10-16; God's reaffirmation of His promises to Jacob.

Matthew 1:3 And Judas begat Phares and Zara of Thamar; and Phares begat Esrom; and Esrom begat Aram;

This passage explains the genealogy of Jesus Christ through the line of his ancestor Judas.

1. The Faithfulness of Jesus Christ in Fulfilling God’s Promises

2. The Significance of Our Ancestry

1. Romans 15:8 - Now I say that Jesus Christ was a minister of the circumcision for the truth of God, to confirm the promises made unto the fathers.

2. Isaiah 11:1-3 - And there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots: And the spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord.

Matthew 1:4 And Aram begat Aminadab; and Aminadab begat Naasson; and Naasson begat Salmon;

This passage mentions the genealogy of Jesus from several generations before his birth.

1: Following the Path of Jesus – learning from the example of our ancestors.

2: Appreciating our Roots - recognizing the significance of our family history.

1: Luke 3:23-38 - a genealogy of Jesus.

2: Deuteronomy 7:7-8 - God's promise to the descendants of Abraham.

Matthew 1:5 And Salmon begat Booz of Rachab; and Booz begat Obed of Ruth; and Obed begat Jesse;

Salmon was the father of Booz who was the father of Obed who was the father of Jesse.

1. God can bring good out of any situation

2. God's faithfulness is seen in our heritage

1. Romans 8:28 - And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.

2. Lamentations 3:22-23 - Because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.

Matthew 1:6 And Jesse begat David the king; and David the king begat Solomon of her that had been the wife of Urias;

This passage tells of the genealogy of King David, the son of Jesse, born to Urias' wife.

1. God's hand is in every detail of our lives - the good and the bad - and He uses it all for His glory.

2. We are all part of a larger story that God is telling, and our lives are connected to those of generations past and generations to come.

1. Romans 8:28 - And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.

2. Psalm 78:67-68 - Moreover he refused the tabernacle of Joseph, and chose not the tribe of Ephraim: But chose the tribe of Judah, the mount Zion which he loved.

Matthew 1:7 And Solomon begat Roboam; and Roboam begat Abia; and Abia begat Asa;

This passage discusses the lineage of King Solomon.

1. God's plan of redemption through Jesus Christ was established in the lineage of King Solomon.

2. We can look to the lineage of King Solomon as a reminder of God's faithfulness and His promises.

1. Romans 8:28-29 - "And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters."

2. Hebrews 11:7-8 - "By faith Noah, when warned about things not yet seen, in holy fear built an ark to save his family. By his faith he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness that comes by faith."

Matthew 1:8 And Asa begat Josaphat; and Josaphat begat Joram; and Joram begat Ozias;

The passage details the lineage of Jesus from Asa to Ozias.

1. God's faithfulness is revealed in his faithfulness to keep his promises and fulfill prophecies from generation to generation.

2. Our families are a reflection of God's faithfulness in our lives.

1. Isaiah 55:11 - So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it.

2. Psalm 103:17-18 - But the mercy of the LORD is from everlasting to everlasting upon them that fear him, and his righteousness unto children's children; To such as keep his covenant, and to those that remember his commandments to do them.

Matthew 1:9 And Ozias begat Joatham; and Joatham begat Achaz; and Achaz begat

Ezekias;

This passage is a genealogy of Jesus, tracing his ancestry from Ozias to Ezekias.

1. God's Faithfulness in Fulfilling His Promises Through the Generations

2. The Significance of Jesus' Ancestry for His Mission

1. Hebrews 11:11-12 - "Through faith also Sara herself received strength to conceive seed, and was delivered of a child when she was past age, because she judged him faithful who had promised. Therefore sprang there even of one, and him as good as dead, so many as the stars of the sky in multitude, and as the sand which is by the sea shore innumerable."

2. Luke 3:23-38 - "And Jesus himself began to be about thirty years of age, being (as was supposed) the son of Joseph, which was the son of Heli, Which was the son of Matthat, which was the son of Levi, which was the son of Melchi, which was the son of Janna, which was the son of Joseph, Which was the son of Mattathias, which was the son of Amos, which was the son of Naum, which was the son of Esli, which was the son of Nagge, Which was the son of Maath, which was the son of Mattathias, which was the son of Semei, which was the son of Joseph, which was the son of Juda, Which was the son of Joanna, which was the son of Rhesa, which was the son of Zorobabel, which was the son of Salathiel, which was the son of Neri, Which was the son of Melchi, which was the son of Addi, which was the son of Cosam, which was the son of Elmodam, which was the son of Er, Which was the son of Jose, which was the son of Eliezer, which was the son of Jorim, which was the son of Matthat, which was the son of Levi, Which was the son of Simeon, which was the son of Juda, which was the son of Joseph, which was the son of Jonan, which was the son of Eliakim,"

Matthew 1:10 And Ezekias begat Manasses; and Manasses begat Amon; and Amon begat Josias;

This passage details the genealogy of Jesus, beginning with King David and ending with Josias.

1. Blessing through Generations: Celebrating the Lineage of Jesus

2. What it Means to be a Descendant of King David

1. Psalm 89:3 - "I have made a covenant with my chosen, I have sworn unto David my servant."

2. Luke 3:23-38 - Jesus' genealogy as recorded by Luke.

Matthew 1:11 And Josias begat Jechonias and his brethren, about the time they were carried away to Babylon:

This passage describes the genealogy of Jesus, beginning with Josias and ending with Jechonias, who were both carried away to Babylon.

1. Our faith is rooted in a deep and abiding lineage of God's chosen people.

2. No matter the hardships of life, the Lord's plan for our salvation is eternal and unchanging.

1. Isaiah 41:10 - "Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand."

2. Romans 8:28 - "And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose."

Matthew 1:12 And after they were brought to Babylon, Jechonias begat Salathiel; and Salathiel begat Zorobabel;

Jechonias' descendants were carried to Babylon, and through Zorobabel, a royal line was established.

1. God's Plan Always Prevails - How God's Sovereignty is displayed in the line of Jechonias

2. God's Mercy and Faithfulness - How God's grace endures despite the consequences of sin

1. Romans 8:28 - And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.

2. Isaiah 46:10-11 - Declaring the end from the beginning and from ancient times things not yet done, saying, 'My counsel shall stand, and I will accomplish all my purpose.'

Matthew 1:13 And Zorobabel begat Abiud; and Abiud begat Eliakim; and Eliakim begat Azor;

Passage Summarizing: Zorobabel was the father of Abiud, who was the father of Eliakim, who was the father of Azor.

1. The importance of having a lineage and a family history

2. The power of generational blessings

1. Luke 3:23-38 - The Genealogy of Jesus

2. Exodus 20:6 - The Commandment to Honor Your Father and Your Mother

Matthew 1:14 And Azor begat Sadoc; and Sadoc begat Achim; and Achim begat Eliud;

This passage records the genealogy of Jesus, beginning with his ancestor Azor.

1: God's providence is seen in the lineage of Jesus.

2: We can trace God's work throughout history.

1: Romans 8:28-29 - And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.

2: Isaiah 55:8-9 - For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

Matthew 1:15 And Eliud begat Eleazar; and Eleazar begat Matthan; and Matthan begat Jacob;

This passage explains the genealogy of Jesus through his ancestor Eliud.

1: God's faithfulness in preserving the lineage of Jesus

2: The importance of being part of God's chosen lineage

1: Genesis 12:1-3, God's promise to Abraham

2: Luke 3:23-38, Jesus' genealogy in the Gospel of Luke

Matthew 1:16 And Jacob begat Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom was born Jesus, who is called Christ.

This verse from Matthew 1:16 reveals that Joseph was the husband of Mary and that Jesus Christ was born of them.

1. The Mighty Lineage of Jesus: A Study in the Power of God's Fulfillment

2. The Power of a Righteous Marriage: Joseph and Mary's Faithful Union

1. Luke 3:23-38 – The genealogy of Jesus

2. Ephesians 5:31-32 – The mystery of marriage in Christ

Matthew 1:17 So all the generations from Abraham to David are fourteen generations; and from David until the carrying away into Babylon are fourteen generations; and from the carrying away into Babylon unto Christ are fourteen generations.

This verse states that the lineage of Jesus Christ can be traced back to Abraham through 14 generations each.

1. We are all part of God's family, sharing a common ancestry through Jesus Christ.

2. We all have a unique place in God's plan, and are all connected by our shared heritage.

1. Matthew 22:32 - "I am the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob? God is not the God of the dead, but of the living."

2. Romans 4:11-12 - "He received the sign of circumcision, a seal of the righteousness of

the faith which he had while still uncircumcised, that he might be the father of all those who believe, though they are uncircumcised, that righteousness might be imputed to them also."

Matthew 1:18 Now the birth of Jesus Christ was on this wise: When as his mother Mary was espoused to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Ghost.

This passage describes the miraculous conception of Jesus Christ by the Holy Spirit.

1. God's Plan for the Birth of Jesus: A Miraculous Story

2. The Power of the Holy Spirit: A Tale of Divine Intervention

1. Isaiah 7:14 - "Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel."

2. Luke 1:34-35 - "Then said Mary unto the angel, How shall this be, seeing I know not a man? And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God."

Matthew 1:19 Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not willing to make her a publick example, was minded to put her away privily.

Joseph's sense of justice and his desire to protect Mary from public scorn led him to plan to divorce her privately.

1: God rewards those who act justly, even if their actions are difficult.

2: Love and mercy must be balanced with justice.

1: Proverbs 21:15 - When justice is done, it brings joy to the righteous but terror to evildoers.

2: Romans 12:17-21 - Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but always strive to do what is good for each other and for everyone else.

Matthew 1:20 But while he thought on these things, behold, the angel of the LORD appeared unto him in a dream, saying, Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost.

Joseph was reassured by an angel of the Lord in a dream not to be afraid to take Mary as his wife, despite her pregnancy being a miracle from the Holy Ghost.

1. Fear Not: Reassurances of God in Difficult Situations

2. God's Provision: Miracles of the Holy Spirit

1. Isaiah 41:10 - Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.

2. Luke 1:34-35 - And Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?" And the angel answered her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God.

Matthew 1:21 And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins.

Jesus was born to save mankind from their sins.

1. God's Plan for Salvation: Jesus Christ

2. The Importance of Faith in Jesus

1. Romans 10:9-10 - “That if you confess with your mouth, ‘Jesus is Lord,’ and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved.”

2. Ephesians 2:8-9 - “For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast.”

Matthew 1:22 Now all this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying,

This passage describes an event in which a prophecy of the Lord spoken by the prophet was fulfilled.

1. The Power of Fulfilled Prophecy: Remembering God's Faithfulness

2. Living by Faith: Trusting in God's Promises

1. Isaiah 46:9-11 - Remember the former things of old: for I am God, and there is none else; I am God, and there is none like me.

2. Hebrews 11:1 - Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

Matthew 1:23 Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us.

God's promise of Emmanuel, God with us, has been fulfilled.

1. Emmanuel: God's Love and Provision for Us

2. The Significance of Christmas: Emmanuel, God with Us

1. Isaiah 7:14 - Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.

2. John 1:14 - And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Matthew 1:24 Then Joseph being raised from sleep did as the angel of the Lord had bidden him, and took unto him his wife:

Joseph obeyed God's instructions and took Mary as his wife.

1. Obeying God's Will: A Lesson From Joseph

2. When God Calls, We Must Respond

1. Ephesians 5:22-33 - Wives, submit to your husbands as to the Lord

2. Joshua 24:15 - Choose today whom you will serve

Matthew 1:25 And knew her not till she had brought forth her firstborn son: and he called his name JESUS.

Joseph and Mary had a son, and Joseph named him Jesus.

1. God's Plan for Redemption: How the Birth of Jesus Fulfilled Prophecy

2. The Importance of Obedience: How Joseph Followed God's Will

1. Isaiah 7:14: Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.

2. Luke 2:7: And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.

Matthew 2 details the events following Jesus's birth, including the visit of the Magi, King Herod's plot to kill Jesus, and the holy family's flight to Egypt and subsequent return after Herod's death.

1st Paragraph: The chapter begins with the visit of the Magi (wise men from the East) who have followed a star to find and worship Jesus, whom they call "the king of the Jews". This inquiry alarms King Herod and all of Jerusalem. He deceitfully asks them to inform him where Jesus is under the pretense of wanting to worship him too (Matthew 2:1-8).

2nd Paragraph: Guided by a star, Magi find Jesus with Mary and offer their gifts. However, being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they depart for their country by another way. When Herod realizes that he has been outwitted by them, he orders massacre of all male children aged two or under in Bethlehem in an attempt to kill Jesus (Matthew 2:9-18).

3rd Paragraph: In Matthew 2:19-23, an angel warns Joseph in a dream about Herod’s deadly intent prompting him to flee with Mary and baby Jesus into Egypt. They remain there until after Herod’s death when an angel again appears in Joseph’s dream telling

him it is safe now to return. Fearing Archela

Matthew 2:1 Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judaea in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem,

The wise men from the east visited Jesus after he was born in Bethlehem of Judaea in the days of Herod the king.

1: We can learn from the wise men to seek God and worship Him with our gifts.

2: We should be willing to follow God and go wherever He leads us.

1: Isaiah 60:1-2 "Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord rises upon you. See, darkness covers the earth and thick darkness is over the peoples, but the Lord rises upon you and his glory appears over you."

2: Matthew 16:24-25 "Then Jesus said to His disciples, “If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it.”

Matthew 2:2 Saying, Where is he that is born King of the Jews? for we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him.

The wise men asked where the King of the Jews had been born, as they had seen his star in the east.

1. The Power of Faith: How the Wise Men Followed the Star

2. The Promise of Hope: Finding Christ in Unexpected Places

1. Isaiah 9:6-7 For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

2. Luke 1:26-38 In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary.

Matthew 2:3 When Herod the king had heard these things, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him.

Herod and the people of Jerusalem were disturbed when they heard news of the coming of the Messiah.

1. Don't be Troubled by the Coming of the Messiah - Matthew 2:3

2. Stay Faithful in Troubled Times - Matthew 2:3

1. Isaiah 7:14 - Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel.

2. Isaiah 9:6-7 - For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the greatness of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David’s throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the Lord Almighty will accomplish this.

Matthew 2:4 And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he demanded of them where Christ should be born.

Herod gathered the chief priests and scribes of the people to ask them where the Messiah should be born.

1. God's Plan for the Messiah: How Fulfillment of Prophecy Led to Christ's Birth

2. Herod's Fear of Jesus: The Struggle to Embrace God's Plan

1. Isaiah 7:14, “Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.”

2. Micah 5:2, “But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, who are too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel, whose coming forth is from of old, from ancient days.”

Matthew 2:5 And they said unto him, In Bethlehem of Judaea: for thus it is written by the prophet,

The people of the East asked Herod where to find the newborn King and he referred them to Bethlehem as it was written in scripture.

1. We must always look to God's Word for guidance and direction in our lives.

2. We should seek to serve God above all else, even if it means sacrificing our own ambitions.

1. Isaiah 7:14 Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.

2. Matthew 22:37-40 Jesus said to him, "'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.' This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets."

Matthew 2:6 And thou Bethlehem, in the land of Juda, art not the least among the princes of Juda: for out of thee shall come a Governor, that shall rule my people Israel.

The birth of Jesus Christ was prophesied to occur in Bethlehem, the least among the princes of Judah. He was foretold to be a ruler to lead the people of Israel.

1: Jesus is the ruler of all, even when we feel insignificant.

2: We can find our worth in Jesus, even when we feel like the least.

1: John 1:1-5 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. In Him was life, and the life was the light of men.

2: Isaiah 9:6-7 For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; and the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of His government and peace there will be no end, upon the throne of David and over His kingdom, to order it and establish it with judgment and justice from that time forward, even forever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this.

Matthew 2:7 Then Herod, when he had privily called the wise men, enquired of them diligently what time the star appeared.

Herod asked the wise men for information about the star that had appeared.

1: Don't be afraid to ask for help and advice.

2: Seek wise counsel when facing difficult decisions.

1: Proverbs 11:14 "Where there is no guidance, a people falls, but in an abundance of counselors there is safety."

2: James 1:5 "If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him."

Matthew 2:8 And he sent them to Bethlehem, and said, Go and search diligently for the young child; and when ye have found him, bring me word again, that I may come and worship him also.

This passage describes how the wise men were instructed by King Herod to search for the newborn Jesus in Bethlehem so that Herod could pay homage to the child.

1. God's plan for the coming of the Messiah was orchestrated by both the wise men and King Herod.

2. The wise men's obedience to King Herod's command was ultimately a part of God's plan for the salvation of mankind.

1. Isaiah 7:14 - Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel.

2. Luke 2:1-7 - In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria. And everyone went to their own town to register. So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She

wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.

Matthew 2:9 When they had heard the king, they departed; and, lo, the star, which they saw in the east, went before them, till it came and stood over where the young child was.

The magi followed a star to find the newborn Christ.

1: Following Christ is a journey of faith.

2: God will lead us if we put our trust in Him.

1: Isaiah 30:21 - Whether you turn to the right or to the left, your ears will hear a voice behind you, saying, “This is the way; walk in it.”

2: Proverbs 3:5-6 - Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.

Matthew 2:10 When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy.

The Magi rejoiced with great joy when they saw the star of Bethlehem.

1: We should celebrate with joy any signs of hope and redemption that God sends us.

2: Even when the path ahead is unclear, we should trust in God and rejoice.

1: Isaiah 35:10 - And the ransomed of the Lord shall return, and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain gladness and joy, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

2: Psalm 16:11 - You make known to me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

Matthew 2:11 And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down, and worshipped him: and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto him gifts; gold, and frankincense, and myrrh.

The wise men saw the young Jesus and worshipped him, giving him gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.

1. Worship Jesus: Showing Devotion and Recognizing His Divinity

2. The Power of Giving: Generosity and Gratitude

1. Philippians 2:9-11 - Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

2. Matthew 10:8 - Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse those who have leprosy, drive out demons. Freely you have received; freely give.

Matthew 2:12 And being warned of God in a dream that they should not return to Herod, they departed into their own country another way.

God warned Joseph and Mary to avoid Herod and they obeyed.

1. God is always looking out for us and we should trust in His guidance.

2. Obeying God’s will brings us closer to Him and helps us to be more in line with His plan for our lives.

1. Deuteronomy 6:24 - “And the Lord commanded us to do all these statutes, to fear the Lord our God, for our good always, that He might preserve us alive, as it is this day.”

2. Psalm 25:4-5 - “Show me Your ways, O Lord; teach me Your paths. Lead me in Your truth and teach me, for You are the God of my salvation; on You I wait all the day.”

Matthew 2:13 And when they were departed, behold, the angel of the Lord appeareth to Joseph in a dream, saying, Arise, and take the young child and his mother, and flee into Egypt, and be thou there until I bring thee word: for Herod will seek the young child to destroy him.

Joseph was instructed in a dream to take Jesus and Mary to Egypt to escape Herod's plan to kill Jesus.

1. The Story of Joseph and Jesus: A Tale of Faithful Obedience

2. The Power of Dreams: God's Message Through Our Subconscious

1. Exodus 14:13-14 - And Moses said unto the people, Fear ye not, stand still, and see the salvation of the Lord, which he will shew to you to day: for the Egyptians whom ye have seen to day, ye shall see them again no more for ever. The Lord shall fight for you, and ye shall hold your peace.

2. Matthew 1:20-21 - But while he thought on these things, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a dream, saying, Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost.

Matthew 2:14 When he arose, he took the young child and his mother by night, and departed into Egypt:

Joseph and Mary escaped to Egypt to protect the young child Jesus from King Herod.

1. The protection of Jesus: How God's faithfulness and guidance can keep us safe.

2. Joseph: A model of obedience and trust in God's will.

1. Isaiah 41:10 - "Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand."

2. Matthew 1:23 - "Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel" (which means, God with us).

Matthew 2:15 And was there until the death of Herod: that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying, Out of Egypt have I called my son.

The Gospel of Matthew states that when Jesus was a child, he was taken to Egypt to escape the wrath of King Herod. This fulfilled the prophecy of the Lord spoken by the prophet, that the Lord's son would be called out of Egypt.

1) "The Power of Prophecy: How God's Word Fulfills His Promises"

2) "The Call of God: How We Answer His Calling in Our Lives"

1) Isaiah 11:1 - "A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots."

2) Psalm 78:1-7 - "Give ear, O my people, to my teaching; incline your ears to the words of my mouth! I will open my mouth in a parable; I will utter dark sayings from of old, things that we have heard and known, that our fathers have told us. We will not hide them from their children, but tell to the coming generation the glorious deeds of the Lord, and his might, and the wonders that he has done."

Matthew 2:16 Then Herod, when he saw that he was mocked of the wise men, was exceeding wroth, and sent forth, and slew all the children that were in Bethlehem, and in all the coasts thereof, from two years old and under, according to the time which he had diligently enquired of the wise men.

Herod ordered the slaughter of all children in Bethlehem and its surroundings two years old and younger in a fit of rage.

1. God's Sovereignty: A Study of Herod's Wrath in Matthew 2

2. The Consequences of Jealousy: A Study of Herod's Sin in Matthew 2

1. Romans 8:28- And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.

2. Job 5:19- He shall deliver thee in six troubles: yea, in seven there shall no evil touch thee.

Matthew 2:17 Then was fulfilled that which was spoken by Jeremy the prophet, saying,

The passage describes how the prophecy of Jeremiah the prophet was fulfilled when Herod killed the children in Bethlehem.

1. The Power of Fulfilled Prophecy: How God's Word Stands True

2. The Tragedy of Herod's Sin: The Consequences of Turning Away from God

1. Jeremiah 31:15 - Thus saith the Lord; A voice was heard in Ramah, lamentation, and bitter weeping; Rachel weeping for her children refused to be comforted for her children, because they were not.

2. Matthew 2:18 - In Rama was there a voice heard, lamentation, and weeping, and great mourning, Rachel weeping for her children, and would not be comforted, because they are not.

Matthew 2:18 In Rama was there a voice heard, lamentation, and weeping, and great mourning, Rachel weeping for her children, and would not be comforted, because they are not.

In Matthew 2:18, a voice is heard in Rama, lamenting and weeping for Rachel's children who have died and cannot be comforted.

1. Learning to Comfort Others in Times of Grief

2. Finding Strength and Comfort in the Lord's Word

1. John 14:18 - "I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you."

2. Romans 8:38-39 - "For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord."

Matthew 2:19 But when Herod was dead, behold, an angel of the Lord appeareth in a dream to Joseph in Egypt,

Joseph was instructed in a dream by an angel of the Lord to take Mary and Jesus back to Israel.

1. God is sovereign and cares for His people, even in difficult circumstances.

2. God has a plan and purpose for our lives, even when things seem uncertain.

1. Isaiah 41:10 - "fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand."

2. Isaiah 55:8-11 - "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts."

Matthew 2:20 Saying, Arise, and take the young child and his mother, and go into the land of Israel: for they are dead which sought the young child's life.

The Magi were told to return to Israel to protect Jesus and his mother from King Herod's orders.

1. God will always protect those who are faithful to Him.

2. We can trust God to be faithful even in the face of danger.

1. Psalm 91:11-12 - For he will command his angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways; they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.

2. Hebrews 13:6 - So we say with confidence, “The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can mere mortals do to me?”

Matthew 2:21 And he arose, and took the young child and his mother, and came into the land of Israel.

Joseph and Mary take the young Jesus to the land of Israel.

1. The importance of obedience to God's will.

2. Following God's plan even when it is difficult.

1. Ephesians 5:15-17 - "Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, making the best use of the time, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is."

2. Mark 1:15 - "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel."

Matthew 2:22 But when he heard that Archelaus did reign in Judaea in the room of his father Herod, he was afraid to go thither: notwithstanding, being warned of God in a dream, he turned aside into the parts of Galilee:

Joseph was warned in a dream to avoid Archelaus, so he and his family moved to Galilee instead.

1. The Wisdom of Obedience to God's Guidance

2. The Power of Dreams

1. Acts 16:6-10 - Paul and Silas heeding the Holy Spirit's guidance to Macedonia

2. Genesis 20:3-7 - God warning Abimelech in a dream to not take Sarah

Matthew 2:23 And he came and dwelt in a city called Nazareth: that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophets, He shall be called a Nazarene.

Jesus moved to Nazareth in order to fulfill a prophecy made by the prophets.

1. God's plans for us may not be what we expect, but they are always perfect.

2. Our faith is strengthened as we witness the power of God's fulfilled prophecies.

1. Jeremiah 29:11 - “For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.”

2. Isaiah 55:11 - So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; It shall not return to Me void, But it shall accomplish what I please, And it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it.

Matthew 3 introduces the character and ministry of John the Baptist, his message of repentance, and the baptism of Jesus Christ. This chapter depicts John as a forerunner to Jesus, preparing people for His coming by preaching repentance and baptizing them in the Jordan River.

1st Paragraph: The chapter begins with John the Baptist appearing in Judea's wilderness preaching a message of repentance because "the kingdom of heaven has come near". He

is identified as the one spoken about by Prophet Isaiah - "A voice of one calling in the wilderness, 'Prepare the way for the Lord'". He leads an ascetic lifestyle, wearing clothes made from camel's hair and eating locusts and wild honey (Matthew 3:1-6).

2nd Paragraph: In this part (Matthew 3:7-12), John rebukes Pharisees and Sadducees coming to his baptism. He challenges their presumption of righteousness based on ancestral lineage to Abraham, instead emphasizing genuine repentance that produces good fruit. He also predicts that one mightier than him will come who will baptize with Holy Spirit and fire.

3rd Paragraph: The final section (Matthew 3:13-17) presents Jesus coming from Galilee to Jordan to be baptized by John. Initially reluctant because he considers Jesus superior than him, John agrees upon Jesus's insistence. As soon as Jesus is baptized, heavens open up revealing Spirit of God descending like a dove on Him while a voice from heaven declares Him as God’s beloved Son.

Matthew 3:1 In those days came John the Baptist, preaching in the wilderness of Judaea,

John the Baptist preached of repentance in the wilderness of Judaea.

1. The Power of Repentance

2. Transforming Your Life Through Repentance

1. Isaiah 40:3-5 - Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

2. Luke 13:3 - Unless you repent, you will all likewise perish.

Matthew 3:2 And saying, Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.

This passage speaks of the need for repentance in order to enter the Kingdom of Heaven.

1. The Urgency of Repentance: What We Must Do to Enter the Kingdom of Heaven.

2. The Grace of Repentance: God's Compassion and Love for Us.

1. Luke 13:3 - "I tell you, no! But unless you repent, you too will all perish."

2. Acts 17:30-31 - "In the past God overlooked such ignorance, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent. For he has set a day when he will judge the world with justice by the man he has appointed. He has given proof of this to everyone by raising him from the dead."

Matthew 3:3 For this is he that was spoken of by the prophet Esaias, saying, The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.

This passage is John the Baptist's proclamation of Jesus' coming. 1. Reflecting on the importance of preparing our hearts for the Lord's coming; 2. The significance of John the Baptist's proclamation of Jesus. 1. Isaiah 40:3-5; 2. Luke 3:4-6.

Matthew 3:4 And the same John had his raiment of camel's hair, and a leathern girdle about his loins; and his meat was locusts and wild honey.

John the Baptist lived a very simple life, wearing clothing made from camel's hair and eating locusts and wild honey.

1. In order to follow God's will, we must be willing to live a humble and uncomplicated life.

2. We should be content with whatever sustenance God provides us.

1. Matthew 5:3 "Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."

2. Philippians 4:12-13 "I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound: every where and in all things I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me."

Matthew 3:5 Then went out to him Jerusalem, and all Judaea, and all the region round about Jordan,

This passage talks about the people of Jerusalem, Judaea, and the region around the Jordan River who went out to John the Baptist to hear his message and be baptised.

1: God calls His people to repentance in order to receive the gifts of His salvation.

2: We must be willing to follow God’s call and submit to His will.

1: Isaiah 55:6-7 “Seek the Lord while he may be found; call upon him while he is near; let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him return to the Lord, that he may have compassion on him, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.”

2: Jeremiah 29:13 “You will seek me and find me, when you seek me with all your heart.”

Matthew 3:6 And were baptized of him in Jordan, confessing their sins.

People were baptized in Jordan by John the Baptist and confessed their sins.

1. The Power of Confession: How Confessing Our Sins Can Lead To A Renewed Faith

2. The Significance of Baptism: How Baptism Can Lead To A Closer Relationship With God

1. 1 John 1:9 - If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

2. Acts 2:38 - Peter replied, “Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Matthew 3:7 But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees come to his baptism, he said unto them, O generation of vipers, who hath warned you to flee from the wrath to come?

John the Baptist warned the Pharisees and Sadducees of the coming wrath of God.

1. O Generation of Vipers: Preparing for God's Wrath

2. Heed the Warning: Fleeing from the Wrath to Come

1. Ezekiel 3:17-21

2. Luke 21:34-36

Matthew 3:8 Bring forth therefore fruits meet for repentance:

The passage is an exhortation from John the Baptist to bear fruit worthy of repentance.

1. The Fruits of Repentance: An Examination of the Requirements of True Faith

2. Living a Life Worthy of Repentance: A Call to Action

1. Luke 3:8-14 - John the Baptist's call for repentance and baptism

2. Ephesians 5:9-10 - Living a life of love and light worthy of repentance

Matthew 3:9 And think not to say within yourselves, We have Abraham to our father: for I say unto you, that God is able of these stones to raise up children unto Abraham.

God's power is limitless and no one can boast of their ancestry.

1: We must not forget God's Omnipotence and Omniscience

2: Our Ancestry cannot give us any special privileges

Romans 4:16 Therefore it is of faith, that it might be by grace; to the end the promise might be sure to all the seed; not to that only which is of the law, but to that also which is of the faith of Abraham; who is the father of us all.

Romans 9:7 Neither, because they are the seed of Abraham, are they all children: but, In Isaac shall thy seed be called.

Matthew 3:10 And now also the axe is laid unto the root of the trees: therefore every tree which bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire.

The axe is now laid to the root of the trees, and those that do not bring forth good fruit will be cut down and cast into the fire.

1. The importance of bearing good fruit in our lives

2. The consequences of not bringing forth good fruit

1. Galatians 5:22-23 - But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.

2. James 2:17 - So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.

Matthew 3:11 I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance: but he that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and with fire:

John the Baptist prepares the way for Jesus by baptizing with water unto repentance. Jesus will baptize with the Holy Ghost and fire.

1. The Baptism of Jesus: A Symbol of God's Love

2. The Power of the Holy Spirit: A Fire for the Soul

1. Acts 2:4 - And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

2. 1 Corinthians 12:13 - For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit.

Matthew 3:12 Whose fan is in his hand, and he will throughly purge his floor, and gather his wheat into the garner; but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.

John the Baptist warns of the judgement of God, the wheat being gathered into the garner and the chaff being burned with unquenchable fire.

1. The Need for Repentance: A Warning from John the Baptist

2. The Power of God's Judgement: An Invitation to Holiness

1. Isaiah 5:24 - Therefore as the fire devoureth the stubble, and the flame consumeth the chaff, so their root shall be as rottenness, and their blossom shall go up as dust: because they have cast away the law of the LORD of hosts, and despised the word of the Holy One of Israel.

2. Hebrews 10:26-27 - For if we sin wilfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins, But a certain fearful looking for of judgment and fiery indignation, which shall devour the adversaries.

Matthew 3:13 Then cometh Jesus from Galilee to Jordan unto John, to be baptized of him.

Jesus comes to John to be baptized.

1: Jesus shows us the importance of humbling ourselves and allowing God to work in our lives.

2: Following in Jesus' footsteps, we should strive to be obedient to God's will.

1: Philippians 2:5-8 - Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

2: James 4:10 - Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you.

Matthew 3:14 But John forbad him, saying, I have need to be baptized of thee, and comest thou to me?

John the Baptist refused to baptize Jesus, asking instead to be baptized by him.

1. The Humility of John the Baptist: A Lesson in Self-Awareness

2. The Power of Jesus: A Lesson in Authority

1. Philippians 2:3-8

2. Luke 9:46-48

Matthew 3:15 And Jesus answering said unto him, Suffer it to be so now: for thus it becometh us to fulfil all righteousness. Then he suffered him.

Jesus allowed John the Baptist to baptize Him, fulfilling all righteousness.

1. The Importance of Fulfilling All Righteousness

2. The Power of Sacrifice

1. Philippians 2:8 - And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

2. Hebrews 12:2 - Fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before Him He endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Matthew 3:16 And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him:

Jesus was baptized and the heavens opened to him. He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and lighting upon him.

1. The Power of Baptism: Jesus' Example

2. The Holy Spirit: Our Comforter and Guide

1. Isaiah 11:2-3 - "And the Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord;"

2. John 1:32-34 - "And John bare record, saying, I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it abode upon him. And I knew him not: but he that sent me to baptize with water, the same said unto me, Upon whom thou shalt see the Spirit descending, and

remaining on him, the same is he which baptizeth with the Holy Ghost."

Matthew 3:17 And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.

God spoke from heaven in approval of Jesus, His beloved Son.

1. The Power of God's Affirmation - How God's words of approval can encourage and strengthen us.

2. The Beloved Son - A look at Jesus' unique relationship with God and the implications it has for our lives.

1. Isaiah 42:1 - “Behold my servant, whom I uphold; mine elect, in whom my soul delighteth; I have put my spirit upon him: he shall bring forth judgment to the Gentiles.”

2. 2 Corinthians 1:20 - “For all the promises of God in him are yea, and in him Amen, unto the glory of God by us.”

Matthew 4 covers Jesus's temptation in the wilderness, His ministry in Galilee, and the calling of His first disciples. It highlights how Jesus overcame temptations from Satan, began to preach about the Kingdom of Heaven, and gathered followers.

1st Paragraph: The chapter begins with Jesus being led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by Satan. After fasting for forty days and nights, He is tempted three times by Satan - to turn stones into bread, to jump off a pinnacle of the temple testing God's protection, and to worship Satan in exchange for all kingdoms of the world. In each case, Jesus rebuffs these temptations using scripture (Matthew 4:1-11).

2nd Paragraph: Following John's arrest, Jesus leaves Nazareth for Capernaum in Galilee where He begins His public ministry. Echoing John’s message from Matthew 3:2, He proclaims "Repent for the kingdom of heaven has come near" (Matthew 4:12-17).

3rd Paragraph: In this final section (Matthew 4:18-25), we see Jesus calling His first disciples - fishermen Simon Peter and his brother Andrew along with two other brothers James son of Zebedee and his brother John. They immediately leave their nets to follow Him. As they travel throughout Galilee together, they teach in synagogues, preach about God’s kingdom and heal various diseases among people.

Matthew 4:1 Then was Jesus led up of the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil.

Jesus was led into the wilderness by the Spirit to be tempted by the devil.

1. God knows our struggles and is always present to help us endure them.

2. Jesus faced temptation and ultimately overcame it, reminding us of our own strength and resilience.

1. Hebrews 4:15 - "For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet he did not sin."

2. 1 Corinthians 10:13 - "No temptation has overtaken you except what is common to mankind. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can endure it."

Matthew 4:2 And when he had fasted forty days and forty nights, he was afterward an hungred.

After fasting for forty days and forty nights, Jesus became hungry.

1: We must be vigilant in our spiritual practice even when the going gets tough.

2: The power of prayer and fasting can bring us closer to God.

1: James 5:16 "Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective."

2: 1 Corinthians 9:24-27 " Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one receives the prize? So run that you may obtain it. Every athlete exercises self-control in all things. They do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable. So I do not run aimlessly; I do not box as one beating the air. But I discipline my body and keep it under control, lest after preaching to others I myself should be disqualified."

Matthew 4:3 And when the tempter came to him, he said, If thou be the Son of God,

command that these stones be made bread.

The devil tempts Jesus by asking him to turn stones into bread if he is the Son of God.

1. The Danger of Temptation: How to Resolve the Struggle.

2. The Power of Faith: Overcoming Temptation with God's Help.

1. James 1:12-15 – Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love him.

2. 1 Corinthians 10:13 – No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.

Matthew 4:4 But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.

Man cannot survive on bread alone, but rather on every word that God speaks.

1) The Power of God's Word: Understanding How We Receive Life from God's Promises

2) Abiding in Christ: How to Rely on Christ for Every Need

1) Isaiah 40:8 - The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever.

2) Psalm 119:89 - Forever, O Lord, your word is firmly fixed in the heavens.

Matthew 4:5 Then the devil taketh him up into the holy city, and setteth him on a pinnacle of the temple,

The devil tempts Jesus in the holy city and sets him on a pinnacle of the temple.

1. God is always with us, even when it seems like we are alone.

2. When we are tempted to do something wrong, God will provide strength to resist.

1. Isaiah 41:10 - "Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand."

2. James 1:12-15 - "Blessed is the one who perseveres under trial because, having stood the test, that person will receive the crown of life that the Lord has promised to those who love him. When tempted, no one should say, “God is tempting me.” For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone; but each person is tempted when they are dragged away by their own evil desire and enticed. Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death."

Matthew 4:6 And saith unto him, If thou be the Son of God, cast thyself down: for it is written, He shall give his angels charge concerning thee: and in their hands they shall bear thee up, lest at any time thou dash thy foot against a stone.

Satan tempts Jesus to prove he is the Son of God by casting himself down, but Jesus responds by quoting scripture that states God will protect him.

1. The Strength of Faith: Standing Firm in the Face of Temptation

2. The Power of Scripture: God's Word to Guide Us

1. Hebrews 11:1 - "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen."

2. Psalm 119:105 - "Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path."

Matthew 4:7 Jesus said unto him, It is written again, Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God.

This passage highlights Jesus' instruction to not tempt God.

1. "The Power of God's Word: Trusting God and Obeying His Commands"

2. "Don't Test the Lord: Living a Life of Faith and Obedience"

1. James 1:13-14 - "Let no one say when he is tempted, 'I am being tempted by God,' for God cannot be tempted with evil, and He Himself tempts no one. But each person is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed."

2. Deuteronomy 6:16 - "Do not put the Lord your God to the test, as you did at Massah."

Matthew 4:8 Again, the devil taketh him up into an exceeding high mountain, and sheweth him all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them;

The devil took Jesus to a high mountain and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory.

1. The Temptation of Jesus Christ on the Mountain

2. The Power of the Enemy Revealed

1. Luke 4:5-13

2. Ephesians 6:10-12

Matthew 4:9 And saith unto him, All these things will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me.

Satan tempts Jesus by offering Him all the world's riches if He will worship him.

1. The Power of Temptation: How to Resist and Overcome

2. The Cost of Faithfulness: How to Remain Committed to God

1. 1 Corinthians 10:13 – “No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.”

2. James 1:13-15 – “Let no one say when he is tempted, ‘I am being tempted by God,’ for God cannot be tempted with evil, and he himself tempts no one. But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire. Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death.”

Matthew 4:10 Then saith Jesus unto him, Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve.

Jesus rebukes Satan, commanding him to leave and citing scripture that believers should worship and serve God alone.

1. "The Cost of Serving God: Standing Strong in the Face of Temptation"

2. "The Power of the Word: The Strength of Scripture to Counter Evil"

1. Ephesians 6:11-13 - "Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand."

2. James 4:7-8 - "Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded."

Matthew 4:11 Then the devil leaveth him, and, behold, angels came and ministered unto him.

After Jesus fasted in the wilderness for forty days, the devil tempted him three times. However, Jesus resisted and the devil left him. Then angels appeared to minister to him.

1. The power of God's grace in resisting temptation

2. How to stay strong in faith during times of testing

1. Hebrews 4:14-16 - Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has gone through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet he did not sin.

2. James 1:12-15 - Blessed is the one who perseveres under trial because, having stood the test, that person will receive the crown of life that the Lord has promised to those who love him. Let no one say when they are tempted, “I am being tempted by God,” for

God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone; but each person is tempted when they are dragged away by their own evil desire and enticed. Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death.

Matthew 4:12 Now when Jesus had heard that John was cast into prison, he departed into Galilee;

Jesus departed to Galilee after hearing that John was cast into prison.

1. Jesus' Compassion - How Jesus felt empathy for John and acted to show his love.

2. Difficult Times - How to remain hopeful and faithful in times of trouble.

1. Isaiah 40:31 - "But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint."

2. Matthew 11:28 - "Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest."

Matthew 4:13 And leaving Nazareth, he came and dwelt in Capernaum, which is upon the sea coast, in the borders of Zabulon and Nephthalim:

Jesus moves to Capernaum to preach and teach.

1. Let us follow the example of Jesus and move out of our comfort zones to spread the gospel.

2. Jesus moved to Capernaum to preach and teach, let us use these moments to seek out God's Word.

1. Matthew 28:19-20 Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.

2. Mark 16:15 And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.

Matthew 4:14 That it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Esaias the prophet, saying,

The passage is about how Jesus fulfilled the prophecy of Isaiah.

1. God's Perfect Plan: How Jesus Was Predicted in Scripture

2. Following the Will of God: How Jesus Fulfilled Prophecy

1. Isaiah 7:14, "Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel."

2. Matthew 3:15, "But Jesus answered him, 'Let it be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness.' Then he consented."

Matthew 4:15 The land of Zabulon, and the land of Nephthalim, by the way of the sea, beyond Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles;

This passage describes Galilee as the land of Zabulon and Nephthalim, situated by the sea and beyond the Jordan River, and was home to Gentiles.

1. God's Provision: Finding Hope in Difficult Times

2. The Power of Forgiveness: How to Overcome Adversity

1. Romans 15:4 - "For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope."

2. Isaiah 43:1-2 - "Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you."

Matthew 4:16 The people which sat in darkness saw great light; and to them which sat in the region and shadow of death light is sprung up.

This passage reveals God's promise to bring light into the darkness.

1. God gives us the Light of Hope in the Darkness

2. Embracing the Light of Christ in Times of Despair

1. Isaiah 9:2: "The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned."

2. John 8:12: "When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, 'I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.'"

Matthew 4:17 From that time Jesus began to preach, and to say, Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.

Jesus began to preach the good news that the Kingdom of Heaven was near.

1: Repent and Believe in the Kingdom of Heaven

2: Seek the Kingdom of Heaven and Find New Life

1: Luke 13:3, "Unless you repent, you too will all perish."

2: John 3:16-17, "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."

Matthew 4:18 And Jesus, walking by the sea of Galilee, saw two brethren, Simon called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea: for they were fishers.

Jesus encounters Peter and Andrew, two fishermen brothers.

1. Reaching Out to the Fishers of Men: A Call to Evangelism

2. The Power of Friendship: Jesus and His Disciples

1. Matthew 28:19-20 - "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

2. Ecclesiastes 4:9-12 - “Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their toil. For if they fall, one will lift up his fellow. But woe to him who is alone when he falls and has not another to lift him up! Again, if two lie together, they keep warm, but how can one keep warm alone? And though a man might prevail against one who is alone, two will withstand him—a threefold cord is not quickly broken.”

Matthew 4:19 And he saith unto them, Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.

Jesus calls on his disciples to follow him and become fishers of people.

1. Following Jesus: The Call to Share the Gospel

2. Using Our Talents to Expand God's Kingdom

1. Ephesians 4:11-12 - And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ.

2. Proverbs 11:30 - The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life, and whoever captures souls is wise.

Matthew 4:20 And they straightway left their nets, and followed him.

Two fishermen, upon hearing Jesus's call, immediately left their nets and followed him.

1. Following Jesus requires an immediate commitment.

2. Jesus is worthy of our wholehearted devotion.

1. Mark 8:34-38 - “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me.

2. James 1:22 - “But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.”

Matthew 4:21 And going on from thence, he saw other two brethren, James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother, in a ship with Zebedee their father, mending their nets; and he called them.

Jesus saw two brothers, James and John, with their father mending their nets and called them to follow Him.

1. The Call to Discipleship - understanding the importance of obedience to God's call.

2. Following Jesus - discovering the life-changing impact of following Jesus.

1. Luke 9:23-24 - "And he said to all, “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will save it.”

2. Matthew 16:24 - "Then Jesus said to his disciples, “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me.”

Matthew 4:22 And they immediately left the ship and their father, and followed him.

This passage is about Jesus calling two brothers, Simon and Andrew, to follow him.

1. Following Jesus: A Call to Leave Everything Behind

2. Drawing Closer to Christ: Obedience to His Word

1. John 12:26 - "Whoever serves me must follow me; and where I am, my servant also will be. My Father will honor the one who serves me."

2. Luke 9:23 - Then he said to them all: “Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me.”

Matthew 4:23 And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing all manner of sickness and all manner of disease among the people.

Jesus went throughout the region of Galilee teaching in synagogues, preaching the Gospel, and healing the sick and diseased.

1. Jesus: The Great Healer

2. Living Out the Gospel of the Kingdom

1. Psalm 103:3 - He forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases

2. Acts 10:38 - How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power, who went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil.

Matthew 4:24 And his fame went throughout all Syria: and they brought unto him all sick people that were taken with divers diseases and torments, and those which were possessed with devils, and those which were lunatick, and those that had the palsy; and he healed them.

The fame of Jesus spread throughout all of Syria, and many who were suffering from sickness and torment were brought to him for healing.

1. God's Mercy in Healing: Exploring Jesus' Healing Ministry

2. Reaching Out With Compassion: Jesus' Ministry to the Sick

1. Isaiah 53:4 - Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted.

2. Matthew 9:35 - And Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people.

Matthew 4:25 And there followed him great multitudes of people from Galilee, and from Decapolis, and from Jerusalem, and from Judaea, and from beyond Jordan.

Great multitudes of people followed Jesus from different regions of the region.

1: Following Jesus brings true joy.

2: Following Jesus requires us to come from all parts of our lives.

1: Mark 8:34-35 "And when he had called the people unto him with his disciples also, he said unto them, Whosoever will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me. For whosoever will save his life shall lose it; but whosoever shall lose his life for my sake and the gospel's, the same shall save it."

2: Acts 2:41-42 "Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls. And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers."

Matthew 5 is the start of the Sermon on the Mount, which is one of Jesus' most significant teachings. This chapter introduces the Beatitudes, discusses fulfilling the Law, and provides new interpretations for traditional teachings on murder, adultery, divorce, oaths, retaliation, and love for enemies.

1st Paragraph: The chapter begins with Jesus delivering the Beatitudes - a series of blessings to those who embody certain virtues such as meekness and mercy. These statements emphasize spiritual values over worldly values. In this section (Matthew 5:1-12), Jesus also encourages his followers to rejoice in persecution because their reward will be great in heaven.

2nd Paragraph: Moving forward (Matthew 5:13-32), Jesus teaches about being "salt of the earth" and "light of the world", emphasizing that his followers should influence others positively and that they should not hide their faith but let it shine for all to see. He then discusses how he has come not to abolish but fulfill the Law and Prophets. He reinterprets laws concerning murder (anger), adultery (lustful intent), divorce (unlawfulness except on grounds of sexual immorality) providing a deeper understanding beyond literal adherence.

3rd Paragraph: In Matthew 5:33-48, Jesus continues by advising against making false oaths; instead encouraging honesty without swearing by anything. He then instructs to turn another cheek when struck and love your enemies as opposed to seeking an eye for an eye revenge. This promotes forgiveness over retaliation while loving your enemies serves as a challenge to extend love beyond personal circles reflecting God's unconditional love.

Matthew 5:1 And seeing the multitudes, he went up into a mountain: and when he was set, his disciples came unto him:

Jesus teaches his disciples the Beatitudes on a mountaintop.

1. "The Power of Perspective: Finding Joy in Adversity"

2. "Living with a Kingdom Mindset: The Blessings of God"

1. Romans 12:2 - "Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect."

2. Psalm 34:8 - "Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good! Blessed is the man who takes refuge in him!"

Matthew 5:2 And he opened his mouth, and taught them, saying,

Jesus preached his on the mount to a large crowd.

1: The power of Jesus' word and how it can bring change in our lives.

2: The importance of living a life of faith and trusting in the Lord.

1: James 1:22 - "But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves."

2: Romans 10:17 - "So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ."

Matthew 5:3 Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

This verse proclaims that those who are humble and acknowledge their dependence on God will be rewarded with eternal life in heaven.

1. "The Blessing of Humility"

2. "The Reward of Poverty in Spirit"

1. Proverbs 22:4 - "The reward for humility and fear of the Lord is riches and honor and

life."

2. James 4:6 - "But He gives more grace. Therefore He says: “God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble.”

Matthew 5:4 Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted.

Jesus declared that those who mourn will be comforted by God.

1. "God's Comfort for Those Who Mourn," focusing on how God provides comfort to those who mourn.

2. "The Value of Mourning," emphasizing why mourning can be beneficial.

1. Psalm 34:18, "The Lord is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit."

2. Isaiah 61:2, "To proclaim the year of the Lord's favor and the day of vengeance of our God, to comfort all who mourn."

Matthew 5:5 Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth.

This passage speaks of the blessings of meekness, and how those who are meek will be rewarded with inheriting the earth.

1. "The Power of Meekness" - Examining the spiritual power of meekness and why it is so important to God.

2. "Inheriting the Earth" - Exploring the concept of inheriting the earth and how it can be achieved.

1. James 3:13-18 - Examining the power of meekness and wisdom over anger and pride.

2. Psalm 37:11 - Discussing the promise of the Lord to those who trust in Him and rely on His guidance.

Matthew 5:6 Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled.

Jesus teaches that those who seek righteousness will be rewarded for their efforts.

1. "The Fruits of Righteousness"

2. "The Blessings of Seeking After Righteousness"

1. Galatians 5:22-23: "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance: against such there is no law."

2. Romans 8:28: "And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose."

Matthew 5:7 Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy.

This passage encourages us to be merciful to others, as we will receive mercy in return.

1. The Power of Mercy: How Showing Kindness to Others Brings Blessing

2. The Rewards of Mercy: How Being Compassionate Brings Us Closer to God

1. Luke 6:36 - “Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.”

2. Proverbs 11:17 - “A kind man benefits himself, but a cruel man brings trouble on himself.”

Matthew 5:8 Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God.

This verse highlights the importance of having a pure heart in order to experience a close relationship with God.

1. The Power of a Pure Heart: How to Live a Life of Holiness and Experience the Presence of God

2. The Beauty of Purity: Living with an Undivided Heart that Seeks After God

1. 1 John 3:2-3 - "Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is. And everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure."

2. Psalm 24:3-4 - "Who shall ascend the hill of the Lord? And who shall stand in his holy place? He who has clean hands and a pure heart, who does not lift up his soul to what is false and does not swear deceitfully."

Matthew 5:9 Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God.

Jesus teaches that peacemakers are blessed and will be called the children of God.

1. "The Blessing of Peacemaking: Becoming Children of God"

2. "The Path of Peacemaking: Following in the Footsteps of Jesus"

1. Romans 12:18 - "If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone."

2. Isaiah 11:6-9 - "The wolf will live with the lamb, the leopard will lie down with the goat, the calf and the lion and the yearling together; and a little child will lead them... They will neither harm nor destroy on all my holy mountain, for the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea."

Matthew 5:10 Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

This verse encourages those who are persecuted for doing what is right to remain faithful, as God will eventually reward them with entrance to the kingdom of heaven.

1. Stand Strong - Encouragement to remain faithful in the face of persecution

2. Reap What You Sow - The spiritual rewards of doing what is right

1. Romans 8:18 - "For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us."

2. 1 Peter 4:12-13 - "Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you: But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy."

Matthew 5:11 Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake.

Christians are blessed when they are persecuted and lied about for their faith in Jesus Christ.

1. A Blessing in Persecution: Embracing Suffering for the Sake of Christ

2. Standing Firm: Enduring Rejection for the Gospel’s Sake

1. John 15:18-21 - "If the world hates you, remember that it hated me first. If you belonged to the world, it would love you as its own. As it is, you do not belong to the world, but I have chosen you out of the world. That is why the world hates you. Remember what I told you: ‘A servant is not greater than the master.’ If they persecuted me, they will persecute you too. If they obeyed my teaching, they will obey yours too. They will do all these things to you because of me, for they do not know the one who sent me."

2. Hebrews 12:1-2 - "Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God."

Matthew 5:12 Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you.

The passage encourages believers to be joyful and thankful for God's promises of reward in heaven, as they have been persecuted in the same way as the prophets before them.

1. Rejoice in the Promise of Heaven - A Reflection on Matthew 5:12

2. God's Reward in Heaven for the Persecuted - An Exposition of Matthew 5:12

1. James 1:2-4 - Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.

2. 2 Corinthians 4:17-18 - For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.

Matthew 5:13 Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be salted? it is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men.

Salt of the Earth: The importance of being a positive example in the world.

1: Being the Salt of the Earth - Using our gifts and talents to make a positive impact on the world.

2: The Lost Savour - Understanding how our behaviour can affect our ability to positively influence.

1: Colossians 4:6 - Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone.

2: 1 Peter 3:15 - But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect.

Matthew 5:14 Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid.

Jesus calls believers to be a light to the world, like a city on a hill.

1. Our Light: Shining for Christ in the World

2. Be the Light: The Call to Followers of Jesus

1. Philippians 2:15 - "That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world."

2. Matthew 5:16 - "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven."

Matthew 5:15 Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house.

This passage is emphasizing the importance of sharing one's faith with others.

1. The Light of Faith: Why It Is Important to Share Your Faith With Others

2. Passing the Torch: How to Share Your Faith With Others

1. Romans 10:14-15 - “How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, “How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!”

2. Philippians 2:14-16 - “Do all things without grumbling or disputing, that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, holding fast to the word of life, so that in the day of Christ I may be proud that I did not run in vain or labor in vain.”

Matthew 5:16 Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.

This verse encourages believers to live a life that is visible and glorifies God.

1. The Call to Let Our Light Shine: A Challenge to Live a Life Visible to God

2. The Power of Good Works: Living a Life That Glorifies God

1. Ephesians 2:10 - For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

2. Isaiah 43:7 - Everyone who is called by My name, whom I have created for My glory; I have formed him, yes, I have made him.

Matthew 5:17 Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil.

Jesus came to fulfill the law and the prophets, rather than to destroy them.

1: Jesus came to fulfill God's plan of salvation.

2: Jesus came to complete the law and prophets that were given to us.

1: Isaiah 42:21 - The Lord is well pleased for his righteousness' sake; he will magnify the law, and make it honourable.

2: Galatians 3:19 - Wherefore then serveth the law? It was added because of transgressions, till the seed should come to whom the promise was made.

Matthew 5:18 For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled.

This passage explains that Jesus promises that the laws of the Old Testament will remain in effect until they are fulfilled.

1. The Unchanging Nature of God's Law

2. Holding Fast to God's Word in a Changing World

1. Romans 3:31, "Do we then make void the law through faith? God forbid: yea, we establish the law."

2. James 1:22-25, "But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves. For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass: For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was. But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed."

Matthew 5:19 Whosoever therefore shall break one of these least commandments, and shall teach men so, he shall be called the least in the kingdom of heaven: but whosoever

shall do and teach them, the same shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven.

Jesus encourages his followers to keep all of God's commandments and to teach others to do the same, for it is those who do this that will be called great in the kingdom of heaven.

1. The Greatness of Obedience: How Obeying God's Commands Can Lead to Eternal Rewards

2. Teaching God's Commands: How We Can Spread the Word of God and Receive His Blessings

1. Deuteronomy 11:18-19 - “you shall therefore lay up these words of mine in your heart and in your soul, and you shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. You shall teach them to your children, speaking of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up.”

2. James 1:22-25 - “But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man observing his natural face in a mirror; for he observes himself, goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of man he was. But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does.”

Matthew 5:20 For I say unto you, That except your righteousness shall exceed the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, ye shall in no case enter into the kingdom of heaven.

Jesus tells the crowd that they must have a righteousness greater than that of the scribes and Pharisees in order to enter into the Kingdom of Heaven.

1. The Necessity of Exceeding Righteousness

2. Living to Please God, Not Man

1. Romans 10:3-4 - For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God.

2. James 4:4-5 - You adulterous people! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.

Matthew 5:21 Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, Thou shalt not kill; and whosoever shall kill shall be in danger of the judgment:

This passage states that it is forbidden to kill and those who do it will face judgement.

1. The Grave Consequences of Taking a Life

2. The Value of Every Human Life

1. Romans 6:23 - For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

2. James 4:17 - Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin.

Matthew 5:22 But I say unto you, That whosoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment: and whosoever shall say to his brother, Raca, shall be in danger of the council: but whosoever shall say, Thou fool, shall be in danger of hell fire.

Jesus warns that any person who is angry with their brother without cause will be judged, but any person who calls their brother an insult will be subject to even greater punishment.

1. "Measuring Our Words: How to Respond to Conflict"

2. "The Power of Words: Our Responsibilities to Each Other"

1. Proverbs 12:18 - There is one whose rash words are like sword thrusts, but the tongue of the wise brings healing.

2. James 3:9-10 - With it we bless our Lord and Father, and with it we curse people who are made in the likeness of God. From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers, these things ought not to be so.

Matthew 5:23 Therefore if thou bring thy gift to the altar, and there rememberest that thy brother hath ought against thee;

Christ calls us to reconcile with our brothers before worshipping God.

1: "Love Thy Neighbor - A Call to Reconciliation"

2: "The Altar of Reconciliation"

1: Romans 12:18, "If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone."

2: James 4:7, "Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you."

Matthew 5:24 Leave there thy gift before the altar, and go thy way; first be reconciled to thy brother, and then come and offer thy gift.

Reconciliation with our brothers should come before offering gifts to God.

1. The Priority of Reconciliation: How to Restore Relationships Before Worshiping God

2. The Power of Reconciliation: Uniting in God's Love to Reconnect in Fellowship

1. Ephesians 4:2-3 "Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace."

2. James 3:17-18 "But the wisdom from above is first of all pure. It is also peace loving, gentle at all times, and willing to yield to others. It is full of mercy and good deeds. It shows no favoritism and is always sincere."

Matthew 5:25 Agree with thine adversary quickly, whiles thou art in the way with him; lest at any time the adversary deliver thee to the judge, and the judge deliver thee to the officer, and thou be cast into prison.

Agree with your adversary quickly before heading to court.

1. "Let Go and Let God: Resolving Conflict in a Peaceful Way"

2. "The Power of Compromise: Resolving Conflict with Faith and Love"

1. James 4:7 - "Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you."

2. Philippians 4:6-7 - "Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."

Matthew 5:26 Verily I say unto thee, Thou shalt by no means come out thence, till thou hast paid the uttermost farthing.

This passage speaks of the importance of paying off debts in full.

1: Being a Good Steward of Our Resources - God expects us to be wise with our money and pay off our debts in full.

2: The Importance of Being Responsible - We must be responsible with our finances and ensure that our debts are paid off.

1: Proverbs 22:7 - The rich ruleth over the poor, and the borrower is servant to the lender.

2: Luke 16:11 - If therefore ye have not been faithful in the unrighteous mammon, who will commit to your trust the true riches?

Matthew 5:27 Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, Thou shalt not commit adultery:

This passage is emphasizing the importance of following the Ten Commandments, specifically the commandment "Thou shalt not commit adultery".

1. The Power of Commitment - How Keeping Our Promises Keeps Us on the Right Path

2. The Value of Obedience - Why Following God's Commands brings Us Closer to Him

1. Hebrews 13:4 - Marriage is honourable in all, and the bed undefiled: but whoremongers and adulterers God will judge.

2. Proverbs 6:20-23 - My son, keep thy father's commandment, and forsake not the law of thy mother: Bind them continually upon thine heart, and tie them about thy neck. When thou goest, it shall lead thee; when thou sleepest, it shall keep thee; and when thou awakest, it shall talk with thee. For the commandment is a lamp; and the law is light; and reproofs of instruction are the way of life.

Matthew 5:28 But I say unto you, That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart.

Whosoever looks upon a woman lustfully has committed adultery in their heart.

1. "The Power of Your Thoughts: The Impact of Lustful Desires"

2. "The Call to Purity: Achieving Holiness in Mind and Heart"

1. 1 Thessalonians 4:3-5 - "For this is the will of God, even your sanctification, that ye should abstain from fornication: That every one of you should know how to possess his vessel in sanctification and honour; Not in the lust of concupiscence, even as the Gentiles which know not God."

2. Romans 12:2 - "And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God."

Matthew 5:29 And if thy right eye offend thee, pluck it out, and cast it from thee: for it is profitable for thee that one of thy members should perish, and not that thy whole body should be cast into hell.

This passage from the Bible encourages us to be willing to sacrifice any part of ourselves that may lead us astray from God's will.

1. Taking Radical Action for God: Making Difficult Sacrifices to Follow God's Plan

2. The Importance of Intervening When Temptation Strikes

1. Proverbs 4:23 - “Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it.”

2. Matthew 6:24 - “No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other.”

Matthew 5:30 And if thy right hand offend thee, cut it off, and cast it from thee: for it is profitable for thee that one of thy members should perish, and not that thy whole body should be cast into hell.

Jesus teaches that it is better to remove something from our lives that causes us to sin than to risk our whole body being thrown into Hell.

1. "Actions Speak Louder Than Words: Living the Gospel in Everyday Life"

2. "Living a Life of Holiness: Becoming More Like Christ"

1. Romans 6:12-14 - Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its evil desires. Do not offer any part of yourself to sin as an instrument of wickedness, but rather offer yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life; and offer every part of yourself to him as an instrument of righteousness.

2. 1 Corinthians 6:18-19 - Flee from sexual immorality. All other sins a person commits are outside the body, but whoever sins sexually, sins against their own body. Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own.

Matthew 5:31 It hath been said, Whosoever shall put away his wife, let him give her a writing of divorcement:

The passage states that it was said that anyone who divorces their spouse must give them a certificate of divorce.

1. Marriage is a sacred covenant and should be entered into with care and commitment.

2. Divorce should be a last resort and when it does happen, the spouse should be treated with care and respect.

1. Malachi 2:16 - “‘For I hate divorce,’ says the LORD, the God of Israel, ‘and him who covers his garment with wrong,’ says the LORD of hosts. ‘So take heed to your spirit, that you do not deal treacherously.’”

2. Romans 7:2-3 - “For the married woman is bound by law to her husband while he is living; but if her husband dies, she is released from the law concerning the husband. So then, if while her husband is living she is joined to another man, she shall be called an adulteress; but if her husband dies, she is free from the law, so that she is not an adulteress though she is joined to another man.”

Matthew 5:32 But I say unto you, That whosoever shall put away his wife, saving for the cause of fornication, causeth her to commit adultery: and whosoever shall marry her that is divorced committeth adultery.

Jesus says that if a man divorces his wife, except for the cause of fornication, it causes her to commit adultery. Additionally, if the woman is remarried, the man who marries her commits adultery.

1. Marriage: The Sanctity of Love

2. Divorce: God's Perspective

1. Ephesians 5:22-33 - Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord.

2. Malachi 2:14-16 - For the Lord, the God of Israel says that He hates divorce.

Matthew 5:33 Again, ye have heard that it hath been said by them of old time, Thou shalt not forswear thyself, but shalt perform unto the Lord thine oaths:

This passage speaks of honoring one’s oaths and avoiding breaking one’s promises.

1. The Importance Of Keeping Your Word

2. The Power Of Integrity

1. James 5:12 - “But above all, my brothers, do not swear—not by heaven or by earth or by anything else. Let your “Yes” be yes, and your “No,” no, or you will be condemned.”

2. Proverbs 12:22 - “The Lord detests lying lips, but he delights in people who are trustworthy.”

Matthew 5:34 But I say unto you, Swear not at all; neither by heaven; for it is God's throne:

This passage cautions against swearing, and warns that even swearing by heaven is wrong, as it is God's throne.

1. The Importance of Keeping Our Words Sacred

2. The Virtue of Honoring God Above All

1. James 5:12 - “Above all, my brothers, do not swear—not by heaven or by earth or by anything else. Let your “Yes” be yes, and your “No,” no, or you will be condemned.”

2. Psalm 24:3-4 - “Who may ascend the mountain of the Lord? Who may stand in His holy place? The one who has clean hands and a pure heart, who does not trust in an idol or swear by a false god.”

Matthew 5:35 Nor by the earth; for it is his footstool: neither by Jerusalem; for it is the city of the great King.

God is the great King over all of creation and Jerusalem is His city.

1. God is the King of Kings and Lord of Lords

2. We must always honor and reverence God's city of Jerusalem

1. Isaiah 66:1 - "Thus says the Lord: Heaven is my throne, and the earth is my footstool; what is the house that you would build for me, and what is the place of my rest?"

2. Psalm 48:2 - "Beautiful in elevation, the joy of the whole earth, is Mount Zion, on the sides of the north, the city of the great King."

Matthew 5:36 Neither shalt thou swear by thy head, because thou canst not make one

hair white or black.

Jesus teaches his disciples not to swear by their head because they have no control over their hair's color.

1. "The Powerlessness of Swearing by Our Heads"

2. "The Importance of Obeying Jesus' Teachings"

1. James 5:12 - "But above all, my brothers, do not swear—not by heaven or by earth or by anything else. Let your “Yes” be yes, and your “No,” no, or you will be condemned.”

2. Joshua 9:18-20 - “But the people of Israel did not attack them, because the rulers of the assembly had sworn an oath to them by the Lord, the God of Israel. Then all the assembly complained about the leaders. But all the leaders answered them, ‘We have given them our oath by the Lord, the God of Israel, and now we cannot touch them. This is what we will do to them: We will let them live, so that God’s wrath will not fall on us for breaking the oath we swore to them.’”

Matthew 5:37 But let your communication be, Yea, yea; Nay, nay: for whatsoever is more than these cometh of evil.

We should be straightforward and honest in our speech, and avoid exaggeration or embellishment.

1. Speak the Truth in Love - Ephesians 4:15

2. Be Content with What You Have - Hebrews 13:5

1. James 3:1-12 - Taming the Tongue

2. Proverbs 10:19 - Truthful Lips Last Forever

Matthew 5:38 Ye have heard that it hath been said, An eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth:

Jesus teaches to turn the other cheek instead of retaliating.

1. Jesus calls us to a higher standard of living: love and forgiveness.

2. Retaliation is not an option; we must choose humility and peace.

1. Romans 12:17-21 - "Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everyone. If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. Do not take revenge, my dear friends, but leave room for God’s wrath, for it is written: “It is mine to avenge; I will repay,” says the Lord. On the contrary:

“If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head.” Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

2. Colossians 3:12-14 - Therefore, as God’s chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.

Matthew 5:39 But I say unto you, That ye resist not evil: but whosoever shall smite thee on thy right cheek, turn to him the other also.

Jesus encourages his followers to not resist evil, but rather to turn the other cheek.

1. "Be the bigger person: How Turning the Other Cheek is a Model for Conflict Resolution"

2. "The Strength of Humility: Reaping the Benefits of Turning the Other Cheek"

1. Romans 12:17-21 - "Repay no one evil for evil, but give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all. If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, “Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord.” To the contrary, “if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink; for by so doing you will heap burning coals on his head.” Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

2. Philippians 2:3-4 - "Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others."

Matthew 5:40 And if any man will sue thee at the law, and take away thy coat, let him have thy cloak also.

This verse encourages us to be generous and forgiving in our dealings with others.

1. The Power of Generosity - Exploring the importance of being generous in our relationships with those around us.

2. A Heart of Forgiveness - Discovering how to extend grace and mercy to those who have wronged us.

1. Luke 6:27–36 - The Parable of the Good Samaritan.

2. Romans 12:19-21 - Overcoming evil with good.

Matthew 5:41 And whosoever shall compel thee to go a mile, go with him twain.

This verse encourages us to go beyond what is asked of us and to do more than what is expected.

1: Going Beyond What is Expected - Matthew 5:41

2: Compassion, Not Compliance - Matthew 5:41

1: Philippians 2:3-4, “Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.”

2: Galatians 6:2, “Bear one another’s burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.”

Matthew 5:42 Give to him that asketh thee, and from him that would borrow of thee turn not thou away.

Jesus encourages us to be generous and willing to lend to those in need.

1. A Generous Heart: The Joy of Giving

2. Lending a Helping Hand: The Love of Sharing

1. 1 John 3:17-18 "But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him? Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth."

2. Proverbs 11:24-25 "One gives freely, yet grows all the richer; another withholds what he should give, and only suffers want. Whoever brings blessing will be enriched, and one who waters will himself be watered."

Matthew 5:43 Ye have heard that it hath been said, Thou shalt love thy neighbour, and hate thine enemy.

This passage instructs us to love our neighbor and our enemies.

1. The Power of Love: How to Love Our Neighbors and Enemies

2. Forgiving Our Enemies: How to Love in Difficult Situations

1. Romans 12:20-21 - "Therefore if thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him drink: for in so doing thou shalt heap coals of fire on his head. Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good."

2. Luke 6:27-28 - "But I say unto you which hear, Love your enemies, do good to them which hate you, Bless them that curse you, and pray for them which despitefully use you."

Matthew 5:44 But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you;

Love your enemies and do good to those who hate you.

1. Love for All - Galatians 5:14; Romans 13:10

2. Loving Your Enemies - Philippians 2:3-4; Luke 6:27-36

1. Romans 12:14-21

2. 1 John 4:7-21

Matthew 5:45 That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust.

God is merciful and loving towards everyone, regardless of whether they are good or bad people.

1. God's Unconditional Love: The Parable of the Sun and the Rain

2. God's Grace and Mercy: No One Is Beyond His Reach

1. Romans 5:8 - “But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”

2. John 3:16 - “For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.”

Matthew 5:46 For if ye love them which love you, what reward have ye? do not even the publicans the same?

This verse teaches us that we should not only love people who love us, but also those who do not love us.

1: We can show God's love to others by loving those who may not love us in return.

2: We should extend our love to those who do not show us love, as Jesus did.

1: Luke 6:31-32 - "Do to others as you would have them do to you. If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? Even 'sinners' love those who love them."

2: 1 John 4:20-21 - "If anyone says, 'I love God,' yet hates his brother, he is a liar. For anyone who does not love his brother, whom he has seen, cannot love God, whom he has

not seen."

Matthew 5:47 And if ye salute your brethren only, what do ye more than others? do not even the publicans so?

This passage speaks of the importance of extending love and kindness to all people, even those who are seen as outsiders.

1. Love your neighbor: The importance of extending kindness to all.

2. Don't Judge a Book by its Cover: Treating others with respect, no matter who they are.

1. Galatians 5:13-14 - "For, brethren, ye have been called unto liberty; only use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another. For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this; Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself."

2. Romans 12:9-10 - "Let love be without dissimulation. Abhor that which is evil; cleave to that which is good. Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another."

Matthew 5:48 Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect.

Jesus encourages Christians to strive for perfection, just as God is perfect.

1. Perfection Through Faith: How to Live a Life of Holiness

2. The Power of Perfection: Pursuing God's Will in Our Lives

1. Philippians 4:13 - I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.

2. Hebrews 12:14 - Pursue peace with all people, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord.

Matthew 6 is part of the Sermon on the Mount and it covers three broad themes: acts of righteousness, including giving to the needy, prayer (including the Lord's Prayer), and fasting; a warning against storing earthly treasures; and an admonition not to worry.

1st Paragraph: The chapter begins with Jesus instructing His followers on how to conduct acts of righteousness. He warns against practicing piety in public for others' admiration. Whether it's giving to the needy or praying or fasting, these should be done privately, for God sees what is done in secret and rewards accordingly. This section includes Jesus teaching His disciples how they should pray - known as "The Lord's Prayer" (Matthew 6:1-18).

2nd Paragraph: Next, Jesus speaks about material possessions (Matthew 6:19-24). He cautions against storing up treasures on earth where they can be destroyed or stolen. Instead, He encourages His followers to store up treasures in heaven which are eternal. He also teaches that no one can serve two masters - God and money.

3rd Paragraph: In the final section (Matthew 6:25-34), Jesus advises against worry about life’s necessities like food and clothing because God knows all needs and provides for them just as he does for birds of air and lilies of field. Instead of worrying about worldly matters, one should seek first God’s kingdom and his righteousness with a promise that everything else will be given as well.

Matthew 6:1 Take heed that ye do not your alms before men, to be seen of them: otherwise ye have no reward of your Father which is in heaven.

Do not be ostentatious with your good deeds, as only God will reward you.

1. Generosity in Secret: Using God's Reward as Our Motivation

2. The Blessing of Obedience: Doing Good Without Seeking Praise

1. 1 Timothy 6:17-19 – “Instruct them to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share, storing up for themselves a good foundation for the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life.”

2. Proverbs 11:25 – “Whoever brings blessing will be enriched, and one who waters will himself be watered.”

Matthew 6:2 Therefore when thou doest thine alms, do not sound a trumpet before thee, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may have glory of men. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward.

Jesus warns against doing good works for the purpose of gaining human recognition, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets.

1. Doing Good Works for the Right Reasons

2. The Danger of Pride in Our Good Works

1. Proverbs 28:25-26 He that is of a proud heart stirreth up strife: but he that putteth his trust in the Lord shall be made fat. He that trusteth in his own heart is a fool: but whoso walketh wisely, he shall be delivered.

2. Philippians 2:3-4 Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves. Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others.

Matthew 6:3 But when thou doest alms, let not thy left hand know what thy right hand doeth:

This verse encourages believers to give charity without seeking recognition or reward in return.

1. "Living a Life of Selfless Giving"

2. "The Power of Generosity in Secrecy"

1. Proverbs 11:25 - A generous person will be enriched, and one who gives water will get water.

2. Luke 6:38 - Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.

Matthew 6:4 That thine alms may be in secret: and thy Father which seeth in secret himself shall reward thee openly.

We should give to others in secret, knowing that God will reward us openly.

1. The Power of Secret Giving: How Giving in Private Can Lead to Abundant Rewards

2. The Blessing of Generosity: Giving to Others as God Gives to Us

1. 1 Corinthians 9:7-8 - "Who goeth a warfare any time at his own charges? who planteth a vineyard, and eateth not of the fruit thereof? or who feedeth a flock, and eateth not of the milk of the flock?"

2. Matthew 19:21 - "Jesus said unto him, If thou wilt be perfect, go and sell that thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come and follow me."

Matthew 6:5 And when thou prayest, thou shalt not be as the hypocrites are: for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and in the corners of the streets, that they may be seen of men. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward.

Jesus warns against praying in order to be seen by others, as hypocrites do, since their reward is already received.

1. Pride and Humility in Prayer

2. Seeking the Lord's Approval, Not Man's

1. James 4:6 - "But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble."

2. Isaiah 29:13 - "Wherefore the Lord said, Forasmuch as this people draw near me with their mouth, and with their lips do honour me, but have removed their heart far from me, and their fear toward me is taught by the precept of men."

Matthew 6:6 But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly.

Jesus commands us to pray to God in secret and God will reward us openly.

1. God sees everything we do and will reward us for private acts of faith.

2. Praying in secret allows us to be honest and sincere with God.

1. 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 – Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

2. Psalm 34:17-19 – When the righteous cry for help, the Lord hears and delivers them out of all their troubles. The Lord is near to the brokenhearted and saves the crushed in spirit. Many are the afflictions of the righteous, but the Lord delivers him out of them all.

Matthew 6:7 But when ye pray, use not vain repetitions, as the heathen do: for they think that they shall be heard for their much speaking.

Prayer should be sincere and not full of vain repetitions.

1: God desires heartfelt, honest prayers from us and not empty words.

2: We should remember that God hears our prayers, not because of the number of words we say, but because of the sincerity of our hearts.

1: James 5:16; The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective.

2: 1 John 5:14; This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us.

Matthew 6:8 Be not ye therefore like unto them: for your Father knoweth what things ye have need of, before ye ask him.

God knows our needs before we even ask, so we should not worry.

1: God Provides What We Need

2: Trust in God's Timing

1: Philippians 4:6-7 - Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.

2: Isaiah 40:29-31 - He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak. Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall; but those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.

Matthew 6:9 After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name.

Jesus teaches us how to pray to God, our Father in Heaven.

1. Praying with Faith: Learning to Communicate with God

2. Hallowed Be Thy Name: The Power of a Holy Prayer

1. Romans 8:26 – “Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.”

2. James 5:16 – “Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.”

Matthew 6:10 Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.

Jesus instructs us to pray for God's kingdom to come to earth and for His will to be done on earth as it is in heaven.

1. "Praying for God's Kingdom to Come: His Will Be Done on Earth"

2. "Submitting to God's Will: As It Is in Heaven"

1. Luke 11:2 - "And he said to them, “When you pray, say: “Father, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come."

2. Hebrews 13:21 - “Equip you with everything good that you may do his will, working in us that which is pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.”

Matthew 6:11 Give us this day our daily bread.

This passage encourages us to trust in God to provide our needs every day.

1) Trust in God's Provision - exploring how God is our faithful provider and how we can have faith in Him in all circumstances.

2) Seeking God First - understanding how prioritizing God's will and kingdom in our lives leads to peace and contentment.

1) Philippians 4:6-7 - do not be anxious, but in every situation, through prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.

2) Matthew 6:33 - Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.

Matthew 6:12 And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.

This passage reminds us of the importance of forgiveness; that we should forgive others in the same manner that we have been forgiven by God.

1: Forgiveness - A Necessity of Life

2: The Power of Forgiveness - Unlocking the Doors of Grace

1: Ephesians 4:31-32 - Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.

2: Colossians 3:13 - Bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive.

Matthew 6:13 And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.

The passage suggests that God can lead us away from temptation and deliver us from evil.

1: Recognizing God's Power to Save Us from Temptation

2: God's Kingdom and Glory: A Call to Action

1: 1 Corinthians 10:13 - “No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.”

2: James 1:12-15 - “Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love him. Let no one say when he is tempted, “I am being tempted by God,” for God cannot be tempted with evil, and he himself tempts no one. But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire. Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death.”

Matthew 6:14 For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you:

Passage Jesus encourages us to forgive others for our own benefit, as our heavenly Father will also forgive us.

1. The Power of Forgiveness: How Forgiveness Can Transform Our Own Lives

2. The Promise of Forgiveness: The Benefits of Forgiving Others

1. Ephesians 4:32 - "Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you."

2. Colossians 3:13 - "Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you."

Matthew 6:15 But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

Forgiveness is essential for us to receive forgiveness from God.

1: God's Forgiveness is Dependent on Our Forgiveness of Others

2: The Power of Forgiveness: Unlocking Heaven's Blessings

1: Ephesians 4:32 - "Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you."

2: Colossians 3:13 - "bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive."

Matthew 6:16 Moreover when ye fast, be not, as the hypocrites, of a sad countenance: for they disfigure their faces, that they may appear unto men to fast. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward.

Jesus warns against hypocritical fasting, emphasizing that those who do it for show will receive their reward from people, not God.

1. "Fasting for Show: The Dangers of Hypocrisy"

2. "The Heart of Fasting: Seeking God's Reward"

1. Isaiah 58:6-7 - "Is not this the fast that I have chosen? to loose the bands of wickedness, to undo the heavy burdens, and to let the oppressed go free, and that ye break every yoke? Is it not to deal thy bread to the hungry, and that thou bring the poor that are cast out to thy house? when thou seest the naked, that thou cover him; and that thou hide not thyself from thine own flesh?"

2. James 1:27 - "Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world."

Matthew 6:17 But thou, when thou fastest, anoint thine head, and wash thy face;

The passage is telling us that when we fast, we should anoint our head and wash our face.

1. The Power of Fasting - A about the spiritual power of fasting and how it can help us draw closer to God.

2. The Significance of Anointing - A about the significance of anointing our head and washing our face when we fast.

1. Isaiah 58:6-7 - "Is not this the fast that I have chosen? to loose the bands of wickedness, to undo the heavy burdens, and to let the oppressed go free, and that ye

break every yoke? Is it not to deal thy bread to the hungry, and that thou bring the poor that are cast out to thy house? when thou seest the naked, that thou cover him; and that thou hide not thyself from thine own flesh?".

2. Matthew 5:6 - "Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled."

Matthew 6:18 That thou appear not unto men to fast, but unto thy Father which is in secret: and thy Father, which seeth in secret, shall reward thee openly.

Jesus teaches that fasting should be done in secret, and that God will reward those who do.

1. "The Rewards of Secret Fasting"

2. "The Power of Private Prayer"

1. Matthew 6:18

2. James 5:16b - "The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working."

Matthew 6:19 Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal:

The passage warns against hoarding material possessions that can be destroyed or stolen.

1: The True Treasure: Store Up Your Riches in Heaven

2: Guarding Your Heart: Don't Put Your Trust in Wealth

1: James 4:13-17 - Come now, you who say, “Today or tomorrow we will go into such and such a town and spend a year there and trade and make a profit”—

2: Colossians 3:1-3 - If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth.

Matthew 6:20 But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal:

Jesus encourages us to store up treasures in Heaven instead of Earth, as they will not be corrupted or stolen.

1: "The Blessings of Eternal Treasures"

2: "The Value of Investing in Heaven"

1: Mark 10:21-22 – Jesus said that we must be willing to give up earthly possessions to gain heavenly treasures.

2: Colossians 3:1-2 – We must set our hearts and minds on things of Heaven, not Earth.

Matthew 6:21 For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

This verse encourages us to focus our hearts and treasure on God and His Kingdom, rather than earthly possessions.

1: "Living with an Eternal Perspective"

2: "Seeking First the Kingdom"

1: Colossians 3:1-2 - "If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth."

2: Hebrews 13:5 - "Keep your life free from love of money, and be content with what you have, for he has said, “I will never leave you nor forsake you.”

Matthew 6:22 The light of the body is the eye: if therefore thine eye be single, thy whole body shall be full of light.

The eye serves as a metaphor for one's focus, and having a single eye implies that one's focus is on God, which will bring fullness of light.

1: Seek God's light through a single-minded focus.

2: Put God first and your life will be full of light.

1: Proverbs 4:18-19 “But the path of the righteous is like the light of dawn, which shines brighter and brighter until full day. The way of the wicked is like deep darkness; they do not know over what they stumble.”

2: Psalm 119:105 “Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path.”

Matthew 6:23 But if thine eye be evil, thy whole body shall be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in thee be darkness, how great is that darkness!

Jesus warns of the dangers of allowing our hearts to become dark, as this will darken our entire being.

1. The Power of Light: How to Keep Our Hearts from Darkness

2. The Danger of Darkness: Avoiding the Temptations of an Evil Eye

1. Ephesians 5:8-10 - "For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light, for light produces every kind of goodness and righteousness and truth. Try to learn what pleases the Lord."

2. John 12:35-36 - "Then Jesus told them, “You are going to have the light just a little while longer. Walk while you have the light, before darkness overtakes you. Whoever walks in the dark does not know where they are going. Put your trust in the light while you have it, so that you may become children of light.”

Matthew 6:24 No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.

Jesus teaches us that it is not possible to serve two masters because we will ultimately end up loving one and hating the other.

1. Following God's Path Instead of the World's

2. The Choice Between Loving God and Serving Money

1. James 4:4 Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God.

2. Hebrews 13:5-6 Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee. So that we may boldly say, The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me.

Matthew 6:25 Therefore I say unto you, Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on. Is not the life more than meat, and the body than raiment?

Jesus teaches us to not worry about our life and physical needs because our life is more important than food and clothes.

1. Contentment in Christ: Finding Peace in the Lord and Trusting in His Provision

2. Worry Not: Overcoming Anxiety and Learning to Rely on the Lord

1. Philippians 4:11-13 - Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content.

2. Isaiah 26:3 - Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee.

Matthew 6:26 Behold the fowls of the air: for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feedeth them. Are ye not much better than they?

Jesus reminds us that God takes care of even the birds of the air, so we have no need to worry.

1. “God’s Provision: Learning to Trust in God’s Care”

2. “The Comfort of God’s Loving Care”

1. Matthew 10:29-31 - “Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground outside your Father’s care. And even the very hairs of your head are all numbered. So don’t be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows.”

2. Psalm 121:2 - “My help comes from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth.”

Matthew 6:27 Which of you by taking thought can add one cubit unto his stature?

This passage reminds us that worrying won't change our life circumstances.

1: Worrying is Unnecessary - Philippians 4:6-7

2: Trust in God - Proverbs 3:5-6

1: James 1:2-4

2: 1 Peter 5:7

Matthew 6:28 And why take ye thought for raiment? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they toil not, neither do they spin:

1: God provides for us and is our provider, so trust in Him.

2: God will take care of our needs, so we don't need to worry.

1: Philippians 4:19 - And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus.

2: Isaiah 40:31 - But they who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint.

Matthew 6:29 And yet I say unto you, That even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these.

Jesus points out the beauty of nature, suggesting that even Solomon, in all his glory, was not as well-dressed as one of these creations of God.

1. "The Majesty of Nature: A Reflection of God's Glory"

2. "The Humility of Man: A Lesson from Solomon"

1. Psalm 19:1 - "The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands."

2. Ecclesiastes 2:7-8 - "I acquired male and female singers, and a harem as well—the delights of a man’s heart. I became greater by far than anyone in Jerusalem before me. In all this my wisdom stayed with me."

Matthew 6:30 Wherefore, if God so clothe the grass of the field, which to day is, and to morrow is cast into the oven, shall he not much more clothe you, O ye of little faith?

God cares for us and provides for all of our needs.

1: God is All-Providing and All-Caring

2: Have Faith in the Lord's Provision

1: Jeremiah 29:11-13 "For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart."

2: Philippians 4:19 "And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus."

Matthew 6:31 Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed?

The passage encourages not worrying about what we will eat, drink, or wear.

1: We should not worry about our needs, because God will provide.

2: We can trust in the Lord to provide for our needs.

1: Philippians 4:19 - "And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus."

2: Matthew 6:25-26 - "Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more important than food, and the body more important than clothes?"

Matthew 6:32 (For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things.

God knows our needs and wants us to trust Him to provide for us, rather than seeking worldly things.

1. "Satisfaction: Trusting in God's Provision"

2. "The Heart of Contentment: Putting God First"

1. Philippians 4:12-13 - "I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want."

2. 1 John 2:15-17 - "Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, love for the Father is not in them. For everything in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—comes not from the Father but from the world. The world and its desires pass away, but whoever does the will of God lives forever."

Matthew 6:33 But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.

Seek God first and He will provide for all our needs.

1. Seek God and He will Supply - Matthew 6:33

2. Rely on God for Provision - Matthew 6:33

1. Philippians 4:19 - And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus.

2. Psalm 37:25 - I have been young, and now am old, yet I have not seen the righteous forsaken or his children begging for bread.

Matthew 6:34 Take therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof.

Do not worry about tomorrow; focus on today and its challenges.

1: Live in the Moment - Place your trust in God and take each day one step at a time.

2: Don't Worry, Be Happy - Rely on the Lord and leave tomorrow's worries to tomorrow.

1: Philippians 4:6-7 - Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

2: 1 Peter 5:7 - Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.

Matthew 7 concludes the Sermon on the Mount, with Jesus discussing judgment, asking God for help, the path to heaven, and the importance of putting His words into practice.

1st Paragraph: The chapter begins with Jesus instructing his followers not to judge others hypocritically. He uses the metaphor of seeing a speck in someone else's eye while ignoring a plank in one's own eye. Instead of judging others harshly, one should first examine oneself (Matthew 7:1-5). He also warns about giving sacred things to those who can't appreciate them (Matthew 7:6).

2nd Paragraph: Next, Jesus encourages his followers to ask God for what they need, promising that their requests will be answered. He introduces the Golden Rule - treating others as you would want them to treat you - which sums up the Law and Prophets (Matthew 7:7-12). Then he describes two paths: a narrow gate leading to life which few find and a wide gate leading to destruction which many take (Matthew 7:13-14).

3rd Paragraph: In this final section (Matthew 7:15-29), Jesus warns about false prophets who appear harmless but are inwardly harmful. By their fruits or actions shall they be recognized. He then emphasizes that not everyone who calls Him Lord will enter heaven

but only those who do God's will. The chapter ends with a parable contrasting wise and foolish builders; those who hear His teachings and put them into practice are like wise builders whose house stands firm during storms while those who don't are like foolish builders whose house falls down when storm comes.

Matthew 7:1 Judge not, that ye be not judged.

This passage is a reminder to not judge others as God will be the ultimate judge.

1. The Power of Grace: How We Can Love Without Judging

2. The Heart of Forgiveness: Letting Go of Judgement

1. James 4:12 - There is only one lawgiver and judge, he who is able to save and to destroy.

2. Romans 14:10-13 - You, then, why do you judge your brother or why do you look down on your brother? For we will all stand before God’s judgment seat.

Matthew 7:2 For with what judgment ye judge, ye shall be judged: and with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you again.

Judging others will result in being judged in the same manner.

1: “Think twice before you judge”

2: “Treat others as you wish to be treated”

1: Luke 6:37 - “Judge not, and ye shall not be judged: condemn not, and ye shall not be condemned: forgive, and ye shall be forgiven.”

2: James 4:11-12 - “Speak not evil one of another, brethren. He that speaketh evil of his brother, and judgeth his brother, speaketh evil of the law, and judgeth the law: but if thou judge the law, thou art not a doer of the law, but a judge. There is one lawgiver, who is able to save and to destroy: who art thou that judgest another?”

Matthew 7:3 And why beholdest thou the mote that is in thy brother's eye, but considerest not the beam that is in thine own eye?

Be aware of your own faults before judging others.

1: Be humble and look inside yourself before judging others.

2: Put away pride and seek God's help in understanding why we judge.

1: James 4:11-12 "Do not speak evil against one another, brothers. The one who speaks against a brother or judges his brother, speaks evil against the law and judges the law. But if you judge the law, you are not a doer of the law but a judge.

2: Galatians 6:1-2 "Brothers, if anyone is caught in any transgression, you who are spiritual should restore him in a spirit of gentleness. Keep watch on yourself, lest you too be tempted. Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ."

Matthew 7:4 Or how wilt thou say to thy brother, Let me pull out the mote out of thine eye; and, behold, a beam is in thine own eye?

Christ warns against judging others when we have a greater problem.

1: We must focus on our own faults and sins before we point out those of others.

2: We should recognize that we are all sinners, and be humble in our judgments.

1: Romans 3:10-12 - "As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one: There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God. They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one."

2: James 4:11-12 - "Speak not evil one of another, brethren. He that speaketh evil of his brother, and judgeth his brother, speaketh evil of the law, and judgeth the law: but if thou judge the law, thou art not a doer of the law, but a judge. There is one lawgiver, who is able to save and to destroy: who art thou that judgest another?"

Matthew 7:5 Thou hypocrite, first cast out the beam out of thine own eye; and then shalt thou see clearly to cast out the mote out of thy brother's eye.

We should not judge others until we have first judged ourselves.

1. Overcoming Pride and Judging Others: A Study of Matthew 7:5

2. Seeing Clearly: Being Humble and Loving Our Brothers and Sisters

1. James 4:11-12 - “Do not speak evil against one another, brothers. The one who speaks against a brother or judges his brother, speaks evil against the law and judges the law. But if you judge the law, you are not a doer of the law but a judge.

2. Romans 12:3 - “For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned.”

Matthew 7:6 Give not that which is holy unto the dogs, neither cast ye your pearls before swine, lest they trample them under their feet, and turn again and rend you.

Do not give away your sacred things to those who do not value them, or show them to those who will not appreciate them, as it may lead to them causing you harm.

1. Do not waste your blessings on those who will not appreciate them.

2. Be wise with whom you share your spiritual gifts.

1. Proverbs 25:12 - "As an earring of gold, and an ornament of fine gold, so is a wise reprover upon an obedient ear."

2. Ecclesiastes 9:10 - "Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might; for there is no work, nor device, nor knowledge, nor wisdom, in the grave, whither thou goest."

Matthew 7:7 Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you:

Jesus encourages us to ask, seek, and knock in order to receive what we need.

1. Knock on the Door of Heaven: How to Receive God's Blessings

2. Asking, Seeking, and Knocking: Achieving Success Through Faith

1. James 4:2-3 (Ye have not, because ye ask not.)

2. Philippians 4:6-7 (Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.)

Matthew 7:8 For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened.

God grants us what we ask for if we seek it.

1: We must be prayerful and persistent in our requests to God, and He will answer us according to His will.

2: Faith is about trusting in God to give us what we need, even if it's not what we want.

1: James 4:2-3 - You do not have, because you do not ask. You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, to spend it on your passions.

2: Philippians 4:6-7 - Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Matthew 7:9 Or what man is there of you, whom if his son ask bread, will he give him a stone?

Jesus asks a rhetorical question about a father's willingness to give his son what he needs.

1. The Power of a Father's Love - how a father's love is so strong that he will always provide for his son's needs.

2. The Parable of the Bread and the Stone - using Jesus' parable to illustrate the importance of meeting the needs of those we love.

1. 1 John 3:1 - “See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called

children of God; and so we are.”

2. Romans 8:35 - “Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword?”

Matthew 7:10 Or if he ask a fish, will he give him a serpent?

The passage is a rhetorical question asking whether a good parent would give a child something harmful if the child asked for something good.

1. The importance of being a loving and compassionate parent.

2. Learning to trust in God's goodness and provision.

1. Galatians 6:7-10 - Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap.

2. Luke 4:4 - And Jesus answered him, "It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone.'"

Matthew 7:11 If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give good things to them that ask him?

God desires to give us good gifts that are far beyond anything we could ever ask for.

1. The Abundance of God's Love and Grace

2. The Goodness of God's Provision

1. Romans 8:32: "He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things?"

2. Ephesians 3:20: "Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us..."

Matthew 7:12 Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them: for this is the law and the prophets.

This verse encourages us to treat others as we would like to be treated, as it is the law and the prophets.

1. Practicing the Golden Rule: The Law of Love

2. Living Out the Law of Reciprocity: Doing to Others What We Would Have Done to Us

1. Luke 6:31: “Do to others as you would have them do to you.”

2. Galatians 5:14: “The entire law is summed up in a single command: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’”

Matthew 7:13 Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat:

The narrow path leads to life while the broad path leads to destruction.

1. The Narrow Path to Salvation

2. The Consequences of Wide Paths

1. Proverbs 14:12 - There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way to death.

2. Psalm 16:11 - You make known to me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

Matthew 7:14 Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.

The way to life is difficult and few will find it.

1. The Narrow Path - An Examination of Matthew 7:14

2. Few Will Find It - The Challenges of the Christian Walk

1. Matthew 19:23-24 - Jesus said to his disciples, "Truly I tell you, it is hard for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of heaven. Again I tell you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God."

2. John 14:6 - Jesus said, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."

Matthew 7:15 Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves.

Beware of false prophets who come in disguise.

1: Always be mindful of those who come in disguise and question their motives.

2: Be on guard against those who come in sheep's clothing but are wolves in disguise.

1: 1 John 4:1 - "Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world."

2: Proverbs 14:15 - "The simple believes everything, but the prudent gives thought to his steps."

Matthew 7:16 Ye shall know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles?

Jesus encourages us to judge people by their actions rather than their words.

1. "Living by the Fruit of the Spirit"

2. "Righteousness and the Way of the Lord"

1. Galatians 5:22-23 - "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control."

2. James 1:22-25 - "But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man observing his

natural face in a mirror; for he observes himself, goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of man he was. But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does."

Matthew 7:17 Even so every good tree bringeth forth good fruit; but a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit.

A good tree produces good fruit, while a corrupt tree produces bad fruit.

1. The Fruit of a Life: What Does Yours Look Like?

2. Our Choices Have a Lasting Impact: A Study in Matthew 7:17

1. Galatians 5:22-23, "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law."

2. James 3:17-18, "But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere. And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace."

Matthew 7:18 A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither can a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit.

The passage emphasizes that good and bad are mutually exclusive and cannot be combined.

1. The Power of Choice: Understanding the Consequences of Our Actions

2. Bearing Fruit: Recognizing that What We Do Matters

1. Galatians 5:22-23 - "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law."

2. James 3:17-18 - "But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be intreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy."

Matthew 7:19 Every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire.

People who do not produce good works will be condemned and thrown into the fire.

1. Bearing Fruit: The importance of doing good works in our lives.

2. Fire of Condemnation: The consequences of not following the right path.

1. Galatians 5:22-23 - But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.

2. James 2:17 - So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.

Matthew 7:20 Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them.

This verse states that a person's actions can be used to identify them and determine their character.

1. "The Fruit of the Spirit: How Our Actions Reveal Our Character"

2. "Knowing People by Their Fruits: Examining Ourselves"

1. Galatians 5:22-23 - "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law."

2. James 3:17 - "But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere."

Matthew 7:21 Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.

Jesus warns that saying "Lord, Lord" does not guarantee entry into heaven, but rather doing the will of God does.

1. "Trust in God's Will, Not Your Words"

2. "Focus on Obedience, Not Just Lip Service"

1. James 2:14-17 - "What does it profit, my brethren, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can faith save him? If a brother or sister is naked and destitute of daily food, and one of you says to them, "Depart in peace, be warmed and filled," but you do not give them the things which are needed for the body, what does it profit? Thus also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.

2. Romans 2:13 - For not the hearers of the law are just in the sight of God, but the doers of the law will be justified.

Matthew 7:22 Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works?

On the day of judgement, many will proclaim that they have done many great works in the name of the Lord, such as prophesying, casting out demons and performing great works.

1. The Necessity of Holiness: A on the importance of living a holy life, and the consequences of not doing so on judgement day.

2. The Power of Faith: A on the power of faith and the works it can empower one to accomplish in the name of the Lord.

1. Matthew 5:20 - "For I say unto you, That except your righteousness shall exceed the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, ye shall in no case enter into the kingdom of heaven."

2. James 2:14-17 - "What doth it profit, my brethren, though a man say he hath faith, and have not works? can faith save him? If a brother or sister be naked, and destitute of daily food, And one of you say unto them, Depart in peace, be ye warmed and filled; notwithstanding ye give them not those things which are needful to the body; what doth it profit? Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone."

Matthew 7:23 And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.

Jesus warns those who practice wickedness that He will reject them on judgment day.

1. Embrace God's Mercy Before it is Too Late

2. Choose Righteousness Over Wickedness

1. Psalm 97:10: "Ye that love the LORD, hate evil."

2. James 4:17: "Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin."

Matthew 7:24 Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock:

This passage shows us the importance of following Jesus' teachings and commands in order to build a strong spiritual foundation in our lives.

1. "Building Our Lives on the Rock: Establishing a Foundation of Faith"

2. "Heeding Jesus' Words: The Key to Spiritual Growth"

1. 1 Corinthians 3:10-15 - Paul's analogy of building on a foundation

2. Psalm 40:1-3 - David's song of praise for being heard and answered by God

Matthew 7:25 And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock.

This verse speaks of a house that was built upon a rock, and was not affected by the rain, floods, and winds.

1. The Strength of a Firm Foundation: Building Our Lives on the Rock of Jesus Christ

2. Weathering Storms: How to Remain Steadfast in Difficult Times

1. Isaiah 28:16 - "Therefore thus says the Lord God, “Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone, a tested stone, A costly cornerstone for the foundation, firmly placed. He who believes in

it will not be disturbed."

2. Psalm 25:5 - "Guide me in Your truth and teach me, For You are the God of my salvation; For You I wait all the day."

Matthew 7:26 And every one that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand:

Jesus teaches that those who do not heed his words will be like a foolish man who builds his house on sand.

1. "The Foundation of Our Lives: Building on the Rock"

2. "The Danger of Ignoring God's Word"

1. Proverbs 10:25 - "When the whirlwind passes, the wicked is no more, but the righteous has an everlasting foundation."

2. Psalm 11:3 - "If the foundations are destroyed, what can the righteous do?"

Matthew 7:27 And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell: and great was the fall of it.

The house built on a strong foundation, which is Jesus Christ, will stand firm despite the storms of life.

1: Building a House on a Solid Foundation

2: Standing Strong in the Storms of Life

1: Psalm 18:2 - The Lord is my rock, my fortress and my deliverer; my God is my rock, in whom I take refuge, my shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.

2: Ephesians 2:20 - Built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus Himself as the chief cornerstone.

Matthew 7:28 And it came to pass, when Jesus had ended these sayings, the people were astonished at his doctrine:

The people were amazed by Jesus' teaching.

1. Jesus: Our Teacher and Guide

2. The Power of Jesus' Words

1. Ephesians 4:20-21 - But that is not the way you learned Christ!— assuming that you have heard about him and were taught in him, as the truth is in Jesus.

2. Colossians 3:16-17 - Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts.

Matthew 7:29 For he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes.

This passage describes the way Jesus taught in comparison to the scribes, with authority instead of just reciting what had been taught before.

1. The Power of Authority - How Jesus came with a new message and challenged the status quo of religious teaching.

2. The Value of Obedience - How following Jesus' words with authority can lead to a meaningful life.

1. 1 Corinthians 12:28 - And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers...

2. Isaiah 50:4-5 - The Lord God has given me the tongue of those who are taught, that I may know how to sustain with a word him who is weary. Morning by morning he awakens; he awakens my ear to hear as those who are taught.

Matthew 8 presents several miracles performed by Jesus, demonstrating His authority over disease, nature, and the spiritual realm. It also highlights the cost of discipleship.

1st Paragraph: The chapter begins with Jesus healing a man with leprosy who approaches

Him in faith (Matthew 8:1-4). Following this, He heals a Roman centurion's servant from a distance just through His word. This event leads to Jesus praising the centurion's great faith (Matthew 8:5-13). Then He goes on to heal Peter's mother-in-law and many others who were demon-possessed or sick (Matthew 8:14-17).

2nd Paragraph: In Matthew 8:18-22, Jesus has interactions with potential disciples. When one man says he will follow Him wherever He goes, Jesus warns about the hardships that come with discipleship - even having no place to lay His head. To another who asks for time to bury his father before following Him, Jesus responds that he should let the dead bury their own dead; his duty is to follow and proclaim God’s kingdom.

3rd Paragraph: The last section (Matthew 8:23-34) presents two more miracles where Jesus shows His authority over nature and demons. First, He calms a storm on sea by rebuking wind and waves demonstrating His power over natural elements (Matthew 8:23-27). Then in Gadarenes territory, He drives out demons from two men into a herd of pigs which rush down steep bank into water and die. This frightens townspeople leading them to request Him to leave their region.

Matthew 8:1 When he was come down from the mountain, great multitudes followed him.

Jesus descended from the mountain to be followed by a great multitude of people.

1. Jesus desires to be followed and cared for by a multitude.

2. Jesus is an example of humble leadership.

1. John 13:13-17 - Jesus washing the disciples' feet as an example of humble leadership.

2. Matthew 19:27-30 - The rich young ruler’s request to follow Jesus and what it implies for discipleship.

Matthew 8:2 And, behold, there came a leper and worshipped him, saying, Lord, if thou wilt, thou canst make me clean.

A leper came to Jesus and asked to be healed, saying that if Jesus was willing, he could make him clean.

1. The Power of Faith: Jesus is willing to answer prayers of faith and cleanse us of all our sins.

2. The Compassion of Jesus: Jesus showed mercy and compassion to the leper by healing him and restoring him to a right relationship with God.

1. Romans 8:38-39 - For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

2. Mark 10:45-46 - For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.

Matthew 8:3 And Jesus put forth his hand, and touched him, saying, I will; be thou clean. And immediately his leprosy was cleansed.

This passage recounts the story of Jesus healing a leper.

1: Jesus has the power to heal and forgive us of our sins.

2: Jesus' healing of the leper is a reminder of His power to restore, renew and transform us.

1: Isaiah 53:4-5 - Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his stripes we are healed.

2: James 5:15 - And the prayer of faith will save the one who is sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven.

Matthew 8:4 And Jesus saith unto him, See thou tell no man; but go thy way, shew thyself to the priest, and offer the gift that Moses commanded, for a testimony unto them.

Jesus instructs a healed leper to keep his healing a secret, go to the priest, and offer a sacrifice according to Moses' commandment.

1. The Power of Obedience: How following Jesus’ command can lead to miraculous

healing.

2. The Blessing of Obedience: How honoring the commandments of God can bring about incredible blessings.

1. Leviticus 14:2-32 - Instructions to the priests concerning the cleansing of a leper.

2. Mark 1:45 - The leper’s instructions to tell no one about his healing.

Matthew 8:5 And when Jesus was entered into Capernaum, there came unto him a centurion, beseeching him,

The centurion comes to Jesus beseeching Him.

1. The Power of Faith: How Belief in Jesus Can Help Us Overcome Life's Challenges

2. The Power of Persistence: How to Overcome Doubt and Keep Believing

1. Philippians 4:13 - "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."

2. Hebrews 11:1 - "Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen."

Matthew 8:6 And saying, Lord, my servant lieth at home sick of the palsy, grievously tormented.

Jesus heals a paralytic.

1. God's power to heal our bodies and souls.

2. The importance of faith and trust in the Lord.

1. Mark 2:1-12 - Jesus heals a paralytic.

2. Isaiah 53:5 - But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our

iniquities; The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, And by His stripes we are healed.

Matthew 8:7 And Jesus saith unto him, I will come and heal him.

Jesus offers to heal a man in need.

1. God's Healing Mercy - How Jesus is always ready to bring us physical and spiritual healing.

2. The Power of Faith - How faith in God can bring us extraordinary blessings.

1. Isaiah 53:5 - “But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed.”

2. James 5:14-16 - “Is anyone among you sick? Let them call the elders of the church to pray over them and anoint them with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise them up. If they have sinned, they will be forgiven. Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.”

Matthew 8:8 The centurion answered and said, Lord, I am not worthy that thou shouldest come under my roof: but speak the word only, and my servant shall be healed.

The centurion recognized that Jesus had the power to heal his servant without even being physically present. He humbly acknowledged his unworthiness and expressed his faith in Jesus’ ability to heal.

1. Humility and Faith: Learning to Rely on Jesus

2. Recognizing Your Unworthiness and God’s Greatness

1. Matthew 8:5-13

2. Isaiah 40:28-31

Matthew 8:9 For I am a man under authority, having soldiers under me: and I say to this

man, Go, and he goeth; and to another, Come, and he cometh; and to my servant, Do this, and he doeth it.

This verse speaks of Jesus' authority and how He commands others to do His will.

1. God's Authority: Jesus' Example of Obedience

2. Our Obedience to the Will of God

1. Romans 6:16 - Do you not know that if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of obedience, which leads to righteousness?

2. Philippians 2:8 - And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

Matthew 8:10 When Jesus heard it, he marvelled, and said to them that followed, Verily I say unto you, I have not found so great faith, no, not in Israel.

Jesus marvels at the great faith of a Roman Centurion.

1. Seeing Great Faith Through God's Eyes

2. Living Out Faith In Our Daily Lives

1. Hebrews 11:1 - Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

2. Romans 10:17 - So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.

Matthew 8:11 And I say unto you, That many shall come from the east and west, and shall sit down with Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, in the kingdom of heaven.

Many will be welcomed into heaven from all directions.

1. The Unending Welcome of Heaven: God's Love and Mercy for All

2. Embracing Diversity: Celebrating the Unity of Heaven

1. Ephesians 2:13-18 - But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.

2. Romans 5:8 - But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Matthew 8:12 But the children of the kingdom shall be cast out into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

This verse speaks of the consequences of rejecting God's kingdom: being cast out into outer darkness with weeping and gnashing of teeth.

1. The Price of Rejection: The Consequences of Refusing the Kingdom of God

2. The Darkness of Sin: Understanding the Severity of Rejecting God's Kingdom

1. Luke 13:25-28 - The Parable of the Lost Sheep

2. 2 Thessalonians 1:6-10 - The Wrath of God Revealed

Matthew 8:13 And Jesus said unto the centurion, Go thy way; and as thou hast believed, so be it done unto thee. And his servant was healed in the selfsame hour.

Jesus heals the centurion's servant through faith.

1. The Power of Faith and How It Can Heal

2. Jesus Demonstrates His Compassion Through Healing

1. Hebrews 11:1 - "Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen."

2. James 5:15 - "And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord

will raise them up. If they have sinned, they will be forgiven."

Matthew 8:14 And when Jesus was come into Peter's house, he saw his wife's mother laid, and sick of a fever.

Jesus visited Peter's house and saw his mother-in-law lying there, suffering from a fever.

1. Trusting God in Times of Illness - Learning to lean on God when facing difficult circumstances.

2. The Compassion of Jesus - Drawing encouragement from Jesus' willingness to heal and serve.

1. Hebrews 13:5-6 - "Keep your life free from love of money, and be content with what you have, for he has said, “I will never leave you nor forsake you.”

2. James 5:14-15 - "Is anyone among you sick? Let them call the elders of the church to pray over them and anoint them with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise them up. If they have sinned, they will be forgiven."

Matthew 8:15 And he touched her hand, and the fever left her: and she arose, and ministered unto them.

This passage explains how Jesus healed a woman and freed her from a fever.

1: We can trust Jesus to heal us in our time of need.

2: When Jesus heals us, he gives us the strength to minister to others.

1: Isaiah 53:5 - "But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed."

2: James 5:14-15 - "Is any sick among you? let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord: And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him."

Matthew 8:16 When the even was come, they brought unto him many that were possessed with devils: and he cast out the spirits with his word, and healed all that were sick:

This passage describes Jesus healing many people who were sick and casting out evil spirits with his word.

1. God has the power to heal and protect us from evil.

2. Through Jesus' strength we can receive healing and wholeness.

1. Psalm 103:2-3 "Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits: Who forgiveth all thine iniquities; who healeth all thy diseases;"

2. Isaiah 41:10 "Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness."

Matthew 8:17 That it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Esaias the prophet, saying, Himself took our infirmities, and bare our sicknesses.

Jesus healed the sick to fulfill the prophecy of Isaiah.

1. Jesus Heals: A Reflection on Matthew 8:17

2. The Power of Fulfilling Prophecy: A Study of Matthew 8:17

1. Isaiah 53:4-5 - “Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his stripes we are healed.”

2. Luke 4:18-19 - “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.”

Matthew 8:18 Now when Jesus saw great multitudes about him, he gave commandment to depart unto the other side.

Jesus saw a great multitude and commanded them to go to the other side.

1. Jesus exemplifies how to respond to great multitudes with compassion and care.

2. We can learn to take a step back and evaluate a situation before making a decision.

1. Matthew 9:35-38 - Jesus responded to the great multitudes with compassion.

2. Exodus 14:15 - Moses exemplified how to respond to great multitudes with faith and trust in God.

Matthew 8:19 And a certain scribe came, and said unto him, Master, I will follow thee whithersoever thou goest.

This scribe expressed his desire to follow Jesus wherever he goes.

1: Following Jesus requires commitment and a willingness to go wherever He leads.

2: We must be willing to leave our comfort zones and follow Jesus wherever He takes us.

1: Luke 9:23 - And he said to them all, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me.

2: John 10:27 - My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me.

Matthew 8:20 And Jesus saith unto him, The foxes have holes, and the birds of the air have nests; but the Son of man hath not where to lay his head.

Jesus tells a man that he does not have a place to live like other creatures, as he is the Son of Man.

1. The Sacrifice of Jesus: The Son of Man's Homelessness

2. The Cost of Discipleship: Jesus' Example of Humility

1. Philippians 2:5-7 - Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men.

2. Hebrews 4:14-15 - Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession. For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin.

Matthew 8:21 And another of his disciples said unto him, Lord, suffer me first to go and bury my father.

A disciple asked Jesus to allow him to go and bury his father before following Him.

1. "Living in the Moment: Our Time with Jesus is Now,"

2. "The Call of God: Following Him Despite Other Responsibilities."

1. Luke 9:59-60: "To another he said, 'Follow me.' But he said, 'Lord, let me first go and bury my father.' And Jesus said to him, 'Leave the dead to bury their own dead; but as for you, go and proclaim the kingdom of God.'"

2. Ecclesiastes 11:4: "Whoever watches the wind will not plant; whoever looks at the clouds will not reap."

Matthew 8:22 But Jesus said unto him, Follow me; and let the dead bury their dead.

This passage encourages us to pursue following Jesus over all other commitments.

1: Taking up our cross and following Jesus.

2: Abandoning our plans to follow God's plans.

1: Luke 9:23-24 - "And he said to them all, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me.

2: Matthew 16:24-25 - "Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me."

Matthew 8:23 And when he was entered into a ship, his disciples followed him.

Jesus and his disciples got into a boat and began to sail away.

1. Jesus Is Our Source of Strength and Encouragement

2. Following Jesus: A Journey of Faith

1. Hebrews 13:5 - Keep your life free from love of money, and be content with what you have, for he has said, “I will never leave you nor forsake you.”

2. John 10:27 - My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me.

Matthew 8:24 And, behold, there arose a great tempest in the sea, insomuch that the ship was covered with the waves: but he was asleep.

The disciples were terrified by a great storm on the sea, but Jesus was asleep.

1. The Peace of Jesus in Troubled Times

2. Relying on God in Difficult Situations

1. Psalm 31:24 - Be of good courage, and he shall strengthen your heart, all ye that hope in the LORD.

2. Isaiah 26:3 - Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee.

Matthew 8:25 And his disciples came to him, and awoke him, saying, Lord, save us: we perish.

The disciples of Jesus were in fear and asked Him to save them from danger.

1. The Power of Faith in Troubled Times

2. Turning to Jesus in Times of Need

1. Psalm 91:2 - "I will say of the Lord, He is my refuge and my fortress: my God; in him will I trust."

2. Romans 10:13 - "For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved."

Matthew 8:26 And he saith unto them, Why are ye fearful, O ye of little faith? Then he arose, and rebuked the winds and the sea; and there was a great calm.

Jesus asked his disciples why they were afraid, and then calmed the sea and wind with his authority.

1. The Power of Faith: How God Rewards Those Who Believe

2. Facing Your Fears: How Jesus Helps Us Overcome Anxiety

1. Isaiah 43:2 - When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you.

2. Philippians 4:6-7 - Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Matthew 8:27 But the men marvelled, saying, What manner of man is this, that even the winds and the sea obey him!

This passage describes a scene of amazement as the men witness Jesus's power over the wind and sea.

1. Awe and Wonder: Rediscovering the Power of Jesus

2. The Lord of Heaven and Earth: The Miraculous Power of Jesus

1. Job 9:5-10

2. Isaiah 55:8-9

Matthew 8:28 And when he was come to the other side into the country of the Gergesenes, there met him two possessed with devils, coming out of the tombs, exceeding fierce, so that no man might pass by that way.

Jesus encountered two men possessed by demons as He traveled to the country of the Gergesenes. The men were so fierce that no one could pass by them.

1. Accepting Jesus as Our Savior: No Demon Can Stand in the Way

2. Overcoming Fear and Doubt Through Faith

1. James 4:7-8 - "Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you."

2. Matthew 16:24 - "Then Jesus said to his disciples, “Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me."

Matthew 8:29 And, behold, they cried out, saying, What have we to do with thee, Jesus, thou Son of God? art thou come hither to torment us before the time?

A group of demons cried out to Jesus, questioning why He was there to torment them before their time was up.

1. The Power of Jesus: How He Conquers All

2. Jesus Christ: The Only Hope for the Lost

1. Romans 8:37-39 - No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

2. Romans 10:13 - For “everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”

Matthew 8:30 And there was a good way off from them an herd of many swine feeding.

Jesus encountered a herd of swine while travelling away from a group of people.

1. The Power of Jesus: A Demonstration of Authority

2. The Implications of Jesus' Ministry on the Lives of Others

1. Mark 5:1-17 - Jesus cast out a legion of demons from a man into a herd of swine.

2. Luke 8:26-33 - Jesus cast out a legion of demons from a man and allowed them to enter a herd of swine.

Matthew 8:31 So the devils besought him, saying, If thou cast us out, suffer us to go away into the herd of swine.

The demons asked Jesus to allow them to enter a herd of pigs if He cast them out.

1: God has ultimate control over the demonic forces, and He commands them to obey Him.

2: We must be wary of the demonic forces and rely on God for protection against them.

1: James 4:7 - “Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.”

2: Ephesians 6:11-13 - “Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.”

Matthew 8:32 And he said unto them, Go. And when they were come out, they went into the herd of swine: and, behold, the whole herd of swine ran violently down a steep place into the sea, and perished in the waters.

Jesus told a group of two people to go away and when they did, a herd of swine ran down a steep hill and into the sea, where they all perished.

1. The Power of Jesus' Words: How Obedience Can Lead to Miracles

2. Steering Clear of Temptation: The Consequences of Following Our Desires

1. James 4:7 - Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

2. 1 Peter 5:8 - Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour.

Matthew 8:33 And they that kept them fled, and went their ways into the city, and told every thing, and what was befallen to the possessed of the devils.

The people in charge of the possessed fled and spread news of what had happened in the city.

1. The Power of God to Overcome Troubles

2. The Strength of Community in Difficult Times

1. Psalm 46:1 - "God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble."

2. Acts 16:25-26 - “About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the other prisoners were listening to them. Suddenly there was a massive earthquake, and the prison was shaken to its foundations. All the doors immediately flew open, and the chains of every prisoner fell off!”

Matthew 8:34 And, behold, the whole city came out to meet Jesus: and when they saw him, they besought him that he would depart out of their coasts.

The whole city of the people came out to meet Jesus but asked Him to leave their coasts.

1: Jesus is an example of humility and willingness to do God's will, even when it means not being welcomed in a place.

2: We can learn from Jesus to focus on doing God's will, no matter what the cost.

1: Philippians 2:5-8 - "Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross."

2: James 4:10 - "Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you."

Matthew 9 continues to recount the miracles of Jesus, demonstrating His authority to forgive sins, heal the sick, and raise the dead. It also discusses His mission to call sinners and the need for workers in God's harvest.

1st Paragraph: The chapter begins with Jesus healing a paralyzed man after declaring his sins forgiven, illustrating His authority over both physical ailment and spiritual forgiveness (Matthew 9:1-8). He then calls Matthew, a tax collector, to follow Him. This leads to a meal with other tax collectors and sinners where Jesus clarifies that He has come not for the righteous but for sinners (Matthew 9:9-13).

2nd Paragraph: Next are three more miracles performed by Jesus - healing of a woman who had been bleeding for twelve years just by her touching his cloak in faith (Matthew 9:20-22), raising Jairus’s daughter from death (Matthew 9:23-26), and restoring sight to two blind men who acknowledge Him as Son of David affirming their faith in Him as Messiah (Matthew 9:27-31). He also drives out a demon from a mute man enabling him to speak again which astonishes crowd but elicits accusation from Pharisees that he is using power of prince of demons (Matthew 9:32-34).

3rd Paragraph: In this final section (Matthew 9:35-38), Jesus continues teaching and healing throughout towns and villages. Seeing crowds as harassed and helpless like sheep without shepherd makes Him compassionate towards them. He concludes by telling His disciples that while harvest is plentiful, workers are few; they should therefore pray for Lord of harvest i.e., God Himself, to send out workers into His field.

Matthew 9:1 And he entered into a ship, and passed over, and came into his own city.

Jesus traveled by boat to his hometown.

1: Jesus trusts in God's plan and takes risks to follow it.

2: Jesus models how we can stay connected to our roots while seeking to advance God's kingdom.

1: Isaiah 43:2 - "When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you."

2: John 4:35 - "Do you not say, ‘There are yet four months, then comes the harvest’? Look, I tell you, lift up your eyes, and see that the fields are white for harvest."

Matthew 9:2 And, behold, they brought to him a man sick of the palsy, lying on a bed: and Jesus seeing their faith said unto the sick of the palsy; Son, be of good cheer; thy sins be forgiven thee.

A paralyzed man was brought to Jesus, and Jesus saw the faith of the people who brought him and said to the man that his sins were forgiven.

1. The Power of Faith in Jesus Christ

2. The Gift of Forgiveness through Jesus

1. Hebrews 11:1 - Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

2. Ephesians 1:7 - In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace.

Matthew 9:3 And, behold, certain of the scribes said within themselves, This man blasphemeth.

This passage reveals that some scribes were accusing Jesus of blasphemy.

1: Jesus was unfairly accused of blasphemy, but he remained steadfast in his teachings.

2: God's truth will always be challenged, but our faith will not waiver in the face of adversity.

1: Isaiah 53:7 - “He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth; like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent, so he opened not his mouth.”

2: Galatians 6:9 - “And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up.”

Matthew 9:4 And Jesus knowing their thoughts said, Wherefore think ye evil in your hearts?

Jesus knew the thoughts of the people and asked them why they were thinking evil in their hearts.

1. Understanding The Power Of Thoughts: How Our Thoughts Affect Our Lives

2. The Power Of A Righteous Heart: The Blessing Of Choosing To Think Rightly

1. Proverbs 23:7 - "For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he"

2. Romans 8:6-8 - "For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be."

Matthew 9:5 For whether is easier, to say, Thy sins be forgiven thee; or to say, Arise, and walk?

Jesus questioned whether it was easier to forgive sins or to heal physical ailments.

1. God's Unparalleled Mercy - How Jesus Demonstrates God's Ability to Forgive

2. The Power of Jesus - How Jesus' Power Can Transform the Lives of Those Who Believe

1. Isaiah 43:25 - "I, even I, am He who blots out your transgressions, for My own sake; And I will not remember your sins."

2. Psalm 103:12 - "As far as the east is from the west, So far has He removed our transgressions from us."

Matthew 9:6 But that ye may know that the Son of man hath power on earth to forgive sins, (then saith he to the sick of the palsy,) Arise, take up thy bed, and go unto thine house.

Jesus demonstrates his authority to forgive sins by healing a man of palsy.

1. The Power of Jesus to Forgive Sins

2. Jesus Heals: A Miracle of Faith

1. John 8:36 - "So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed."

2. Isaiah 53:5 - "But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed."

Matthew 9:7 And he arose, and departed to his house.

Jesus showed compassion and mercy by forgiving the sins of a paralyzed man.

1: Jesus is always willing to show mercy and compassion to those in need.

2: We should strive to follow Jesus' example and show mercy and compassion to others.

1: Colossians 3:12-14 - Therefore, as God’s chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.

2: James 2:13 - For judgment is without mercy to one who has shown no mercy. Mercy triumphs over judgment.

Matthew 9:8 But when the multitudes saw it, they marvelled, and glorified God, which had given such power unto men.

The multitudes marveled at Jesus' power, and glorified God for giving such power to man.

1: We can have faith that God has given us the power to do great things.

2: We must always glorify God, for He is the source of all power.

1: Philippians 4:13 - "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."

2: Psalm 62:11 - "God has spoken once, twice I have heard this: that power belongs to God."

Matthew 9:9 And as Jesus passed forth from thence, he saw a man, named Matthew, sitting at the receipt of custom: and he saith unto him, Follow me. And he arose, and followed him.

This passage tells the story of how Jesus called Matthew to follow him.

1. The Call of Jesus - The importance of being willing to accept and obey the call of Jesus.

2. Following Jesus - The importance of following Jesus and embracing the path He has set before us.

1. Luke 5:27-28 - When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, "Son, your sins are forgiven." 28 Then some of the scribes questioned the authority with which Jesus spoke.

2. John 15:16 - You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last—and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you.

Matthew 9:10 And it came to pass, as Jesus sat at meat in the house, behold, many publicans and sinners came and sat down with him and his disciples.

Jesus was dining in a house with his disciples when many publicans and sinners joined him.

1. Jesus' Unconditional Love and Acceptance

2. The Power of Forgiveness

1. Luke 19:10 "For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost."

2. Romans 5:8 "But God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us."

Matthew 9:11 And when the Pharisees saw it, they said unto his disciples, Why eateth your Master with publicans and sinners?

Jesus was criticized by the Pharisees for eating with publicans and sinners.

1. We are all sinners, and Jesus showed us the way to redemption by His example of love and acceptance.

2. God loves everyone, and it is our job to follow His example and show love and acceptance to all.

1. Luke 6:37, "Judge not, and ye shall not be judged: condemn not, and ye shall not be condemned: forgive, and ye shall be forgiven".

2. 1 John 4:7-8, "Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God. He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love".

Matthew 9:12 But when Jesus heard that, he said unto them, They that be whole need not a physician, but they that are sick.

Jesus teaches that those who are spiritually and physically ill need a physician to be healed.

1. The Sick Need a Physician: Exploring Jesus' Teaching on Healing

2. Out of the Sickness: How Jesus Can Bring Wholeness

1. Isaiah 53:5 - But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.

2. James 5:14 - Is any sick among you? let him call for the elders of the church; and let

them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord.

Matthew 9:13 But go ye and learn what that meaneth, I will have mercy, and not sacrifice: for I am not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.

Mercy is more valuable than sacrifice. God calls sinners to repent, not the righteous.

1: Mercy Matters: Reaching out to the Unrighteous

2: The Power of Repentance

1: Luke 5:32 - Jesus said, "I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance."

2: Isaiah 1:10-17 - For though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red as crimson, they shall be like wool.

Matthew 9:14 Then came to him the disciples of John, saying, Why do we and the Pharisees fast oft, but thy disciples fast not?

The disciples of John ask why Jesus' disciples do not fast often like the Pharisees do.

1. The Power of the Resurrection: How Jesus' Resurrection Transforms Fasting

2. Encouraging Fasting: A Call to Rekindle the Discipline of Fasting

1. Matthew 9:14

2. Romans 8:11 - "But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you."

Matthew 9:15 And Jesus said unto them, Can the children of the bridechamber mourn, as long as the bridegroom is with them? but the days will come, when the bridegroom shall be taken from them, and then shall they fast.

Jesus tells his disciples that there is no need for them to fast while He is with them, but that there will come a day when He will be taken away and then they will fast.

1. Joyful Living in the Presence of Jesus Christ

2. Preparing for the Coming of the Bridegroom

1. Romans 12:12 - Rejoicing in hope; patient in tribulation; continuing instant in prayer;

2. Luke 5:34-35 - And Jesus said unto them, Can ye make the children of the bridechamber fast, while the bridegroom is with them? But the days will come, when the bridegroom shall be taken away from them, and then shall they fast in those days.

Matthew 9:16 No man putteth a piece of new cloth unto an old garment, for that which is put in to fill it up taketh from the garment, and the rent is made worse.

This passage emphasizes the idea that trying to patch a worn out garment with a new piece of cloth will only make the tear worse.

1. We should not try to mend broken relationships with material things; it will only make the situation worse.

2. We should not attempt to repair our sins with our own solutions; God is the only one who can make our brokenness new again.

1. Isaiah 1:18 - "Come now, and let us reason together, saith the Lord: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool."

2. 2 Corinthians 5:17 - "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new."

Matthew 9:17 Neither do men put new wine into old bottles: else the bottles break, and the wine runneth out, and the bottles perish: but they put new wine into new bottles, and both are preserved.

The passage reminds us that we should not try to fit something new into something old, as the old will not be able to contain the new.

1: We must always strive to be open to the possibilities of the future.

2: We should not be afraid to try something new, even if it is unfamiliar.

1: Ephesians 4:22-24 - "That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts; And be renewed in the spirit of your mind; And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness."

2: Isaiah 43:18-19 - "Remember ye not the former things, neither consider the things of old. Behold, I will do a new thing; now it shall spring forth; shall ye not know it? I will even make a way in the wilderness, and rivers in the desert."

Matthew 9:18 While he spake these things unto them, behold, there came a certain ruler, and worshipped him, saying, My daughter is even now dead: but come and lay thy hand upon her, and she shall live.

A ruler came to Jesus and asked him to come and lay his hand on his daughter, who had recently died, so that she may live.

1. The Power of Faith: How Jesus Can Change Your Life

2. A Father's Love: Never Give Up Hope

1. Mark 5:21-43 - Jesus Healing of the Woman with a Hemorrhage

2. 1 John 5:14-15 - Confidence in Praying to God for Healing

Matthew 9:19 And Jesus arose, and followed him, and so did his disciples.

Jesus sets an example of following God by humbly walking with a tax collector.

1. Following God: An Example of Humility

2. Love for Others: A Heart Like Jesus

1. Philippians 2:5-8 - "Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross."

2. Luke 19:1-10 - "He entered Jericho and was passing through. And there was a man named Zacchaeus. He was a chief tax collector and was rich. And he was seeking to see who Jesus was, but on account of the crowd he could not, because he was small in stature. So he ran on ahead and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see him, for he was about to pass that way. And when Jesus came to the spot, he looked up and said to him, 'Zacchaeus, hurry and come down, for I must stay at your house today.' So he hurried and came down and received him joyfully."

Matthew 9:20 And, behold, a woman, which was diseased with an issue of blood twelve years, came behind him, and touched the hem of his garment:

This passage recounts a woman's faith in Jesus' ability to heal her.

1: The Power of Faith - The story of the woman with the issue of blood illustrates the power of faith to move mountains.

2: The Healing of Jesus - Jesus' compassion and healing power is illustrated in the story of the woman with the issue of blood.

1: Mark 5:25-34 - Jesus healed a woman with an issue of blood, demonstrating His power and demonstrating faith can move mountains.

2: Hebrews 11:1 - Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

Matthew 9:21 For she said within herself, If I may but touch his garment, I shall be whole.

The passage is about a woman with a bleeding disorder who was healed upon touching Jesus' garment.

1. The Power of Faith - Trusting in the Lord despite all odds

2. The Healing Touch of Jesus - How Jesus can bring healing to our lives

1. Hebrews 11:1 - Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

2. James 5:14-15 - Is any sick among you? Let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord: And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him.

Matthew 9:22 But Jesus turned him about, and when he saw her, he said, Daughter, be of good comfort; thy faith hath made thee whole. And the woman was made whole from that hour.

This passage tells the story of Jesus healing a woman from her affliction when she showed faith in Him.

1. The Power of Faith: How Jesus Can Transform Your Life

2. Taking Comfort in Christ: Finding Hope in Difficult Times

1. Hebrews 11:6 - "But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him."

2. Romans 10:17 - "So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God."

Matthew 9:23 And when Jesus came into the ruler's house, and saw the minstrels and the people making a noise,

Jesus calmed a noisy gathering in a ruler's house.

1: Jesus showed us the power of His authority and how we can be still in His presence.

2: Even in the midst of chaos, we can find peace in Jesus.

1: Luke 1:79 - He shall give light to them that sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.

2: John 14:27 - Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.

Matthew 9:24 He said unto them, Give place: for the maid is not dead, but sleepeth. And they laughed him to scorn.

The people laughed at Jesus when he said the girl was not dead, but only sleeping.

1. Faith Over Fear - The need to trust in God even in times of uncertainty and fear.

2. Hope in Jesus - The power of Jesus to bring life to those who were dead.

1. Isaiah 41:10 - Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.

2. John 11:25-26 - Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?”

Matthew 9:25 But when the people were put forth, he went in, and took her by the hand, and the maid arose.

This passage describes Jesus healing a woman who was paralyzed.

1: Jesus' compassion shows us the power of kindness and love.

2: Jesus' example of healing shows us the importance of helping those in need.

1: Mark 5:34-35 - Jesus said to the woman, “Daughter, your faith has healed you. Go in peace and be freed from your suffering.”

2: Luke 7:13-15 - When the Lord saw her, his heart overflowed with compassion. He said to her, “Don’t cry.” Then he stepped forward and touched the coffin, and the bearers stopped. He said, “Young man, I say to you, get up!”

Matthew 9:26 And the fame hereof went abroad into all that land.

The fame of Jesus' healing spread throughout the land.

1. The Power of God's Love: How Jesus Transformed a Nation

2. The Miracle of Faith: What We Can Learn From Jesus' Healing

1. Matthew 4:23-25 - Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom, and healing every disease and sickness among the people.

2. Mark 5:19-20 - Jesus did not let him, but said, “Go home to your own people and tell them how much the Lord has done for you, and how he has had mercy on you.” So the man went away and began to tell in the Decapolis how much Jesus had done for him.

Matthew 9:27 And when Jesus departed thence, two blind men followed him, crying, and saying, Thou son of David, have mercy on us.

The passage is about two blind men following Jesus, crying out to him to have mercy on them.

1. The Power of Faith: How Blindness Can Lead to Sight

2. Seeking Help from the Right Source: Trusting in the Lord

1. Luke 18:35-43 – The Parable of the Blind Beggar

2. Matthew 21:14-15 – The Children's Cry for Mercy

Matthew 9:28 And when he was come into the house, the blind men came to him: and Jesus saith unto them, Believe ye that I am able to do this? They said unto him, Yea, Lord.

Jesus encountered two blind men and asked them if they believed He was able to heal them. The men replied that they did believe Him.

1. Trust in the Lord and Believe He Can Do All Things

2. Jesus Is Able to Do Miracles

1. Hebrews 11:6 - "But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him."

2. John 14:12-14 - "Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father. And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If ye shall ask any thing in my name, I will do it."

Matthew 9:29 Then touched he their eyes, saying, According to your faith be it unto you.

This passage shows Jesus healing two blind men, and emphasizing the importance of faith.

1. "The Power of Faith: Seeing Beyond Our Immediate Circumstances"

2. "The Beauty of Believing: Miracles Through Faith"

1. Hebrews 11:1 - "Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen."

2. James 1:2-4 - "Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing."

Matthew 9:30 And their eyes were opened; and Jesus straitly charged them, saying, See that no man know it.

Jesus heals two blind men and instructs them to keep it a secret.

1. The Power of Jesus to Heal

2. The Importance of Keeping Jesus's Commands

1. Mark 5:43 - "And he charged them straitly that no man should know it; and

commanded that something should be given her to eat."

2. Isaiah 35:5-6 - "Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped. Then shall the lame man leap as an hart, and the tongue of the dumb sing: for in the wilderness shall waters break out, and streams in the desert."

Matthew 9:31 But they, when they were departed, spread abroad his fame in all that country.

This passage speaks of how Jesus' fame spread after his followers departed from that region.

1: We need to be witnesses for Christ and share His message with those around us.

2: The power of Jesus' ministry is not limited to the people who witnessed it firsthand.

1: Acts 1:8 - "But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth."

2: Matthew 28:19-20 - "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen."

Matthew 9:32 As they went out, behold, they brought to him a dumb man possessed with a devil.

A group of people brought to Jesus a man who was unable to speak and was possessed by a demon.

1. God's Power to Overcome Evil: A Study of Matthew 9:32

2. The Power of Faith: How Jesus Healed the Possessed Man in Matthew 9:32

1. Luke 11:14, "And he was casting out a devil, and it was dumb. And it came to pass, when the devil was gone out, the dumb spake; and the people wondered."

2. Mark 9:25, "When Jesus saw that the people came running together, he rebuked the foul spirit, saying unto him, Thou dumb and deaf spirit, I charge thee, come out of him, and enter no more into him."

Matthew 9:33 And when the devil was cast out, the dumb spake: and the multitudes marvelled, saying, It was never so seen in Israel.

The multitudes were amazed at Jesus' power to cast out a demon, enabling a previously mute person to speak.

1. Jesus' power to heal and restore the broken is unparalleled.

2. Trusting in Jesus opens the door to countless possibilities.

1. Luke 4:18-19 - “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, 19 To preach the acceptable year of the Lord.”

2. Acts 10:38 - “How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him.”

Matthew 9:34 But the Pharisees said, He casteth out devils through the prince of the devils.

The Pharisees accused Jesus of casting out demons through the power of the devil.

1: We must not be quick to judge others and instead trust in God's will.

2: Our faith in God should not be shaken by falsehoods or malicious words.

1: Jeremiah 29:11 - “For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.”

2: 1 Peter 5:7 - “Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.”

Matthew 9:35 And Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their

synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people.

Jesus went around all cities and villages, teaching in synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing all sickness and diseases of the people.

1. The Power of the Gospel: How Jesus Used the Gospel to Heal the Sick

2. The Ministry of Healing: An Invitation to Follow Jesus' Example

1. 1 Peter 2:24 - "He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed."

2. James 5:14-15 - "Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer of faith will save the one who is sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven."

Matthew 9:36 But when he saw the multitudes, he was moved with compassion on them, because they fainted, and were scattered abroad, as sheep having no shepherd.

Jesus showed compassion for the multitudes who were lost and without a shepherd.

1. Jesus and the Lost Sheep: How Compassion Leads to Salvation

2. Shepherdless: Finding Comfort and Strength in Jesus

1. Isaiah 40:11 - He shall feed his flock like a shepherd: he shall gather the lambs with his arm, and carry them in his bosom, and shall gently lead those that are with young.

2. 1 Peter 5:4 - And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away.

Matthew 9:37 Then saith he unto his disciples, The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few;

The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few.

1. The Abundance of God's Love: Why We Must Step Up to Reap His Blessings

2. The Urgency of the Gospel: Why We Must Act Now to Share the Good News

1. John 4:35-38 - Jesus' instruction to His disciples to go and proclaim the good news of the kingdom to the world.

2. Psalm 126:5-6 - The joy of the Lord's people when they share His truth with others.

Matthew 9:38 Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest.

Jesus calls on his disciples to pray to the Lord of the Harvest to send out workers to help with the harvest.

1. The Power of Prayer: Seeking God's Provision for His Work

2. Fulfilling God's Great Commission: Responding to Jesus' Call to Service

1. James 1:5-8 - If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him.

2. Isaiah 6:8 - Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, Whom shall I send, and who will go for us? Then said I, Here am I; send me.

Matthew 10 details the commissioning of the twelve apostles, their mission instructions, and the cost of following Jesus.

1st Paragraph: The chapter begins with Jesus giving His twelve disciples authority to drive out impure spirits and heal every disease and sickness (Matthew 10:1-4). These disciples are then named as apostles.

2nd Paragraph: In Matthew 10:5-15, Jesus instructs them on their mission - they are to go only to the lost sheep of Israel and proclaim that the kingdom of heaven is near. They are also given power to heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse lepers, and cast out demons. They are not to take money or extra clothing for their journey but rely on local hospitality for sustenance. If a town does not welcome them or listen to their message, they should

shake off its dust from their feet when leaving.

3rd Paragraph: The final section (Matthew 10:16-42) warns about forthcoming persecutions but encourages them not to fear because God will be with them. They should be prepared that families will be divided because of Him; whoever loves family more than Him is not worthy of Him; whoever loses life for His sake will find it. Those who welcome His followers also welcome Him and will receive a reward accordingly.

Matthew 10:1 And when he had called unto him his twelve disciples, he gave them power against unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all manner of sickness and all manner of disease.

Jesus gave his 12 disciples power to cast out unclean spirits and to heal all kinds of sickness and disease.

1. The Power to Heal: How Jesus Empowers Us to Live Out His Mission

2. Breaking Free from the Chains of Disease: How Jesus Liberates Us from the Bondage of Illness

1. Acts 3:6-7 - Then Peter said, “Silver or gold I do not have, but what I do have I give you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk.” Taking him by the right hand, he helped him up, and instantly the man’s feet and ankles became strong.

2. Isaiah 53:5 - But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed.

Matthew 10:2 Now the names of the twelve apostles are these; The first, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother; James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother;

Jesus appointed the twelve apostles to spread the gospel.

1: The importance of following Jesus' example and appointing others to spread the word of God.

2: The importance of discipleship and the legacy we can leave behind.

1: Acts 1:8 - But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth.

2: Mark 16:15 - He said to them, “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation.

Matthew 10:3 Philip, and Bartholomew; Thomas, and Matthew the publican; James the son of Alphaeus, and Lebbaeus, whose surname was Thaddaeus;

Jesus appoints the Twelve Apostles.

1. Trusting in God's Plan: Jesus Appoints the Twelve Apostles

2. Following the Call: The Twelve Apostles of Jesus

1. John 15:16 - “You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last.”

2. 1 Corinthians 12:12-13 - “Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ. For we were all baptized by one Spirit so as to form one body—whether Jews or Gentiles, slave or free—and we were all given the one Spirit to drink.”

Matthew 10:4 Simon the Canaanite, and Judas Iscariot, who also betrayed him.

This passage mentions Simon the Canaanite and Judas Iscariot, who betrayed Jesus.

1. The Danger of Betrayal: Learning from the Example of Judas

2. The Forgiveness of Jesus: From Simon the Canaanite to Judas Iscariot

1. Matthew 18:21-22 - Peter's Question to Jesus about Forgiveness

2. Luke 22:47-48 - Jesus Rebukes Judas for Betrayal

Matthew 10:5 These twelve Jesus sent forth, and commanded them, saying, Go not into the way of the Gentiles, and into any city of the Samaritans enter ye not:

Jesus sent out the twelve Apostles with instructions to not go to the Gentiles or Samaritans.

1. Jesus’ Call to Ministry: Go Forth with Confidence

2. Understanding the Mission of the Apostles

1. Acts 1:8 - But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.

2. Matthew 28:19 - Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Matthew 10:6 But go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.

Jesus instructs his disciples to go to the people of Israel in order to spread his teachings.

1. The Power of Jesus' Ministry: Bringing Lost Sheep Home

2. Accepting Jesus' Call to Reach the Lost

1. Isaiah 53:6 - "All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the Lord hath laid on him the iniquity of us all."

2. Ezekiel 34:11-12 - "For thus saith the Lord God; Behold, I, even I, will both search my sheep, and seek them out. As a shepherd seeketh out his flock in the day that he is among his sheep that are scattered; so will I seek out my sheep, and will deliver them out of all places where they have been scattered in the cloudy and dark day."

Matthew 10:7 And as ye go, preach, saying, The kingdom of heaven is at hand.

Jesus tells his disciples to go out and preach, proclaiming that the Kingdom of Heaven is near.

1. "The Kingdom of Heaven is Near: Why We Must Proclaim it Everywhere"

2. "The Nearness of the Kingdom of Heaven: How it Affects Our Lives"

1. Luke 10:9 - "Heal the sick that are therein, and say unto them, The kingdom of God is come nigh unto you."

2. Isaiah 52:7 - "How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him that bringeth good tidings, that publisheth peace; that bringeth good tidings of good, that publisheth salvation; that saith unto Zion, Thy God reigneth!"

Matthew 10:8 Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out devils: freely ye have received, freely give.

Freely give what you have received from God.

1: The Gift of Giving - Using the gifts God has given us to serve others

2: Freely Give - How to put giving into practice with what God has given us

1: 2 Corinthians 9:7 - Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

2: James 1:17 - Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change.

Matthew 10:9 Provide neither gold, nor silver, nor brass in your purses,

The passage is teaching not to carry money when preaching.

1. The Power of Giving: Understanding the Purpose of Providing

2. Learning to Live Without: The Benefits of Letting Go of Material Possessions

1. 2 Corinthians 9:7 - Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give;

not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver.

2. Matthew 6:19-20 - Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal.

Matthew 10:10 Nor scrip for your journey, neither two coats, neither shoes, nor yet staves: for the workman is worthy of his meat.

The worker is deserving of the wages they receive.

1: God values the work of our hands and we should too.

2: Doing a job with enthusiasm and excellence honors God and is rewarded.

1: Colossians 3:23-24, “Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving.”

2: Ephesians 4:28, “Anyone who has been stealing must steal no longer, but must work, doing something useful with their own hands, that they may have something to share with those in need.”

Matthew 10:11 And into whatsoever city or town ye shall enter, enquire who in it is worthy; and there abide till ye go thence.

This passage encourages us to seek out and stay with people who are worthy of our companionship.

1. The Worthy Life: Seeking out and Staying with the Right People

2. The Value of Companionship: Connecting with People Who Uplift Us

1. Proverbs 13:20 - “Whoever walks with the wise becomes wise, but the companion of fools will suffer harm.”

2. 1 Thessalonians 5:11- “Therefore encourage one another and build one another up,

just as you are doing.”

Matthew 10:12 And when ye come into an house, salute it.

This verse encourages us to greet people warmly in their homes.

1. The Power of Greeting Others with Love and Respect

2. A Heart of Hospitality: Welcoming Others into Your Home

1. Romans 12:10 - Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another.

2. Proverbs 3:27 - Withhold not good from them to whom it is due, when it is in the power of thine hand to do it.

Matthew 10:13 And if the house be worthy, let your peace come upon it: but if it be not worthy, let your peace return to you.

This passage encourages us to spread peace to those who are worthy of it, and to take it back from those who are not.

1: Let us be mindful of who we give our peace to, and not waste it on those who do not deserve it.

2: We should strive to bring peace to others, but also be discerning of who is deserving of it.

1: Romans 12:18 - If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men.

2: James 3:17-18 - But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be entreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy.

Matthew 10:14 And whosoever shall not receive you, nor hear your words, when ye depart out of that house or city, shake off the dust of your feet.

Jesus instructs His disciples to shake off the dust of their feet if they are not welcome in a house or city.

1. The Power of Rejection: How to Move on from Unwelcome Situations

2. The Comfort of Jesus: Trusting in Him in the Face of Rejection

1. Romans 12:19-21 - "Do not take revenge, my dear friends, but leave room for God’s wrath, for it is written: “It is mine to avenge; I will repay,” says the Lord. On the contrary: “If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head.”

2. Proverbs 17:13 - “If a man pays back evil for good, evil will never leave his house.”

Matthew 10:15 Verily I say unto you, It shall be more tolerable for the land of Sodom and Gomorrha in the day of judgment, than for that city.

Jesus warns of the consequences of rejecting His message, stating that the punishment for those who do not receive it will be greater than that of Sodom and Gomorrah.

1. The Danger of Rejecting God's Word

2. Jesus' Warning on Disobedience

1. Ezekiel 16:48-50

2. Luke 17:26-30

Matthew 10:16 Behold, I send you forth as sheep in the midst of wolves: be ye therefore wise as serpents, and harmless as doves.

Christ commanded the disciples to be wise and harmless in the midst of danger.

1. "Living Wisely in a Dangerous World"

2. "The Balance of Wisdom and Harmlessness"

1. Proverbs 4:5-7, "Get wisdom, get understanding: forget it not; neither decline from the words of my mouth. Forsake her not, and she shall preserve thee: love her, and she shall keep thee. Wisdom is the principal thing; therefore get wisdom: and with all thy getting get understanding."

2. James 1:5, "If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him."

Matthew 10:17 But beware of men: for they will deliver you up to the councils, and they will scourge you in their synagogues;

Beware of the dangers of persecution from men.

1. Trust in the Lord, for He never forsakes His own.

2. The Lord will sustain us through persecution.

1. Psalm 27:10 - "Though my father and mother forsake me, the Lord will take me in."

2. Isaiah 41:10 - "So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand."

Matthew 10:18 And ye shall be brought before governors and kings for my sake, for a testimony against them and the Gentiles.

Jesus tells his disciples that they will be brought before governors and kings to testify against them and the Gentiles.

1. The Power of Testimony: Our Role in Spreading the Gospel

2. Overcoming Fear and Standing Firm in Our Faith

1. Acts 4:29-31 - "And now, Lord, look upon their threats and grant to your servants to continue to speak your word with all boldness, while you stretch out your hand to heal, and signs and wonders are performed through the name of your holy servant Jesus.” And when they had prayed, the place in which they were gathered together was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and continued to speak the word of God with

boldness.

2. 1 Peter 3:14-15 - But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, you will be blessed. Have no fear of them, nor be troubled, but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect.

Matthew 10:19 But when they deliver you up, take no thought how or what ye shall speak: for it shall be given you in that same hour what ye shall speak.

The passage encourages people to trust in God that He will give them the words to speak when they are in need.

1. "Trust in the Lord: His Promises are True"

2. "Be Confident in the Lord and Rely on His Strength"

1. Psalm 56:3-4 "What time I am afraid, I will trust in thee. In God I will praise his word, in God I have put my trust; I will not fear what flesh can do unto me."

2. Isaiah 41:10 "Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness."

Matthew 10:20 For it is not ye that speak, but the Spirit of your Father which speaketh in you.

The Spirit of God speaks through us, not through our own words.

1. The Power of the Holy Spirit in our Lives

2. Being a Living Witness of God's Love

1. John 14:26 - "But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you."

2. Acts 1:8 - "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the

earth.”

Matthew 10:21 And the brother shall deliver up the brother to death, and the father the child: and the children shall rise up against their parents, and cause them to be put to death.

Passage Brothers and fathers may deliver each other or their children up to death, and children may rise against their parents and cause them to be put to death.

1. The Importance of Family Love in Troubled Times

2. The Challenge of Forgiveness When Betrayal is Present

1. Romans 12:17-21 - Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. If possible, so far as it depends upon you, live peaceably with all. Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God; for it is written, “Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord.” No, “if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink; for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads.” Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

2. 1 Peter 4:8 - Above all, maintain constant love for one another, for love covers a multitude of sins.

Matthew 10:22 And ye shall be hated of all men for my name's sake: but he that endureth to the end shall be saved.

This passage reminds us that our faith in Jesus will require us to be willing to suffer persecution, but we can take comfort in knowing that those who remain faithful to the end will be saved.

1. Remain Faithful in Persecution: The Power of Enduring in Christ

2. Rejoicing in the Promise of Salvation for the Faithful

1. Acts 5:41 - "And they departed from the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for his name."

2. James 1:2-4 - "My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. But let patience have her

perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing."

Matthew 10:23 But when they persecute you in this city, flee ye into another: for verily I say unto you, Ye shall not have gone over the cities of Israel, till the Son of man be come.

Jesus tells his disciples that they will suffer persecution in the cities of Israel, but that they should flee to another city as he will not have come until they have gone to all of the cities.

1. Finding Strength in Persecution: How Jesus Calls Us to Persevere

2. The Promise of Christ's Return: The Hope We Have in Difficult Times

1. Isaiah 40:31 - "But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint."

2. Romans 8:18 - "For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us."

Matthew 10:24 The disciple is not above his master, nor the servant above his lord.

Jesus is reminding his disciples that they are not above or greater than Him.

1. Jesus is the Master and we are His Disciples

2. A Servant's Loyalty to His Lord

1. John 13:15 - "For I have given you an example, that you should do as I have done to you."

2. Philippians 2:5-8 - "Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross."

Matthew 10:25 It is enough for the disciple that he be as his master, and the servant as

his lord. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebub, how much more shall they call them of his household?

The disciple should strive to be like their master, even though they may be subject to greater criticism and slander than their master.

1. Be strong in the face of criticism - Matthew 10:25

2. Live a life worthy of your calling - Philippians 1:27

1. Philippians 1:27 - "Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men".

2. Romans 8:18 - "For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us".

Matthew 10:26 Fear them not therefore: for there is nothing covered, that shall not be revealed; and hid, that shall not be known.

God does not want us to be afraid of any situation, as nothing is hidden from Him and He knows all.

1. God knows all: Trust in Him

2. Courage in the Face of Fear

1. John 3:20-21 “For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his works should be exposed. But whoever does what is true comes to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that his works have been carried out in God.”

2. Philippians 4:6-7 “Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.”

Matthew 10:27 What I tell you in darkness, that speak ye in light: and what ye hear in the ear, that preach ye upon the housetops.

Jesus encourages his disciples to spread his message of love and hope to others.

1: "Sharing God's Love and Hope"

2: "Proclaiming the Gospel to the World"

1: Romans 10:14-15 - "How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!"

2: Mark 16:15 - "And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature."

Matthew 10:28 And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.

Jesus tells us not to fear people who can only kill the body, but to fear God who can destroy both body and soul in hell.

1. Fear Not: Reassurance in Troubling Times

2. The Unfathomable Power of God

1. Isaiah 8:12-13 "Do not call conspiracy all that this people calls conspiracy, and do not fear what they fear, nor be in dread. But the Lord of hosts, him you shall honor as holy. Let him be your fear, and let him be your dread.

2. Romans 8:38-39 "For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord."

Matthew 10:29 Are not two sparrows sold for a farthing? and one of them shall not fall on the ground without your Father.

God watches over all creatures, even the smallest ones.

1: We can have faith that God will always be looking out for us.

2: God's love and care for us is so great that He even knows when a sparrow falls.

1: Isaiah 40:12-17 - Who has measured the waters in the hollow of his hand, and meted out heaven with the span, and comprehended the dust of the earth in a measure, and weighed the mountains in scales, and the hills in a balance?

2: Psalm 147:9 - He giveth to the beast his food, and to the young ravens which cry.

Matthew 10:30 But the very hairs of your head are all numbered.

Jesus encourages his listeners to not be afraid, as God knows and cares for even the smallest details of their lives.

1. God's Care for Us - How God's intimate knowledge of our lives shows his deep love for us.

2. Fear Not - Why we should trust in God and not be afraid in any situation.

1. Psalm 139:1-6 - O Lord, you have searched me and known me!

2. Matthew 6:25-34 - Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life.

Matthew 10:31 Fear ye not therefore, ye are of more value than many sparrows.

Jesus encourages his followers to not be afraid, as they are of more value than many sparrows.

1. "The Value of Each Life"

2. "The Assurance of God's Protection"

1. Isaiah 41:10 - "Do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand."

2. Psalm 91:9-10 - "If you make the Most High your dwelling - even the Lord, who is my

refuge - then no harm will befall you, no disaster will come near your tent."

Matthew 10:32 Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven.

Jesus encourages those who confess him before men to be confident that he will return the favor by confessing them before his Father in heaven.

1. Courage to Speak Up: The Power of Confessing Jesus Before Men

2. The Promise of Confession: Finding Strength in Jesus' Words

1. Romans 10:9-10 - "That if you confess with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved.”

2. 1 John 4:15 - "Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God."

Matthew 10:33 But whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my Father which is in heaven.

Jesus warns that those who deny him before men will also be denied before the Father in Heaven.

1. The Importance of Faith: Why We Shouldn't Deny Jesus

2. The Consequences of Denying Jesus: What Happens When We Choose Not to Believe

1. Romans 10:9-10 "That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation."

2. 1 John 4:15 "Whosoever shall confess that Jesus is the Son of God, God dwelleth in him, and he in God."

Matthew 10:34 Think not that I am come to send peace on earth: I came not to send peace, but a sword.

Jesus Christ has come to bring a division, not peace, to the world.

1. The Sword of Truth: Jesus' Call to Separate from the World

2. The Necessity of Taking up the Sword of Faith

1. Ephesians 6:10-17 - The Armor of God

2. James 4:4 - Friendship with the World is Hostility Toward God

Matthew 10:35 For I am come to set a man at variance against his father, and the daughter against her mother, and the daughter in law against her mother in law.

Jesus' message divides families: Jesus' message of the Gospel brings division in families when members have different beliefs and values.

1: Don't let your faith divide your family, instead use it as a tool to bring you closer together.

2: Even in times of division, remember that Jesus' message was one of peace and reconciliation.

1: Ephesians 4:1-3, "I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, urge you to live in a manner worthy of the calling you have received, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace."

2: Romans 12:18, "If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all."

Matthew 10:36 And a man's foes shall be they of his own household.

This passage speaks of how a person's enemies can come from within their own family.

1. The Power of Forgiveness: Overcoming Family Discord

2. The Surprising Enemy: Learning to Love Your Family

1. Matthew 5:44 - But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you.

2. Romans 12:20 - “If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head.”

Matthew 10:37 He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me: and he that loveth son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me.

Jesus calls for absolute loyalty to Him before family.

1: We must prioritize our love for God above our love for our family.

2: We must put God first in our lives, even before our closest family.

1: Matthew 22:37-40 - Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind.

2: Romans 8:35-39 - Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

Matthew 10:38 And he that taketh not his cross, and followeth after me, is not worthy of me.

Jesus teaches that in order to be worthy of Him, one must be willing to take up their cross and follow Him.

1. The Cross of Jesus: A Call to Follow Him

2. Taking Up Our Cross: A Path to Worthy of Christ

1. Luke 9:23 - "And he said to them all, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me."

2. Galatians 6:14 - "But God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world."

Matthew 10:39 He that findeth his life shall lose it: and he that loseth his life for my sake shall find it.

Whoever gives up their life for Christ will gain true life.

1. True life is found through surrendering our life to Jesus

2. Life has a higher purpose than our own desires

1. John 12:25 - Whoever loves their life will lose it, and whoever hates their life in this world will keep it for eternal life.

2. Philippians 1:21 - For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain.

Matthew 10:40 He that receiveth you receiveth me, and he that receiveth me receiveth him that sent me.

Receiving Jesus is to receive the Father who sent Him.

1. Jesus: The Person Sent By The Father

2. Receiving Jesus: A Blessing From The Father

1. John 14:9 - Jesus said, “Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father.”

2. Isaiah 9:6 - For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Matthew 10:41 He that receiveth a prophet in the name of a prophet shall receive a prophet's reward; and he that receiveth a righteous man in the name of a righteous man shall receive a righteous man's reward.

Jesus encourages us to honor those who do God's work by rewarding them with the same honor we would give to God.

1. "The Blessing of Honoring God's Servants"

2. "The Rewards of Righteousness"

1. Hebrews 6:10 - God is not unjust; he will not forget your work and the love you have shown him as you have helped his people and continue to help them.

2. Proverbs 19:17 - Whoever is kind to the poor lends to the Lord, and he will reward them for what they have done.

Matthew 10:42 And whosoever shall give to drink unto one of these little ones a cup of cold water only in the name of a disciple, verily I say unto you, he shall in no wise lose his reward.

This verse encourages us to help those in need, no matter how small the task or how humble the reward.

1. "The Rewards of Kindness: Giving a Cup of Cold Water in the Name of a Disciple"

2. "The Power of Small Acts: How a Cup of Cold Water Can Make a Big Difference"

1. Luke 6:38 - "Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you."

2. 2 Corinthians 9:6-7 - "Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver."

Matthew 11 records Jesus' response to John the Baptist's doubts, His criticism of unrepentant cities, and His invitation to find rest in Him.

1st Paragraph: The chapter begins with John the Baptist, now in prison, sending his

disciples to Jesus to confirm if He is indeed the Messiah (Matthew 11:1-6). Jesus responds by pointing out the miracles He has performed as evidence of His messianic identity. After John's disciples leave, Jesus praises John as a prophet and more than a prophet - the one who prepares way for Him. Yet he also says that least in kingdom of heaven is greater than John (Matthew 11:7-15).

2nd Paragraph: Next, Jesus criticizes cities where most of His miracles were performed but they did not repent - Chorazin, Bethsaida and Capernaum (Matthew 11:20-24). He compares them unfavorably with Tyre, Sidon and Sodom which would have repented had they seen such miracles. This highlights their hardness of heart despite witnessing signs of God's kingdom.

3rd Paragraph: In this final section (Matthew 11:25-30), Jesus offers a prayer thanking God for revealing truths about Himself and kingdom not to wise and learned but to little children i.e., those who are humble before God. Then He invites all who are weary and burdened to come to Him for rest. For His yoke is easy and burden light indicating that following Him brings relief from burdens imposed by religious legalism.

Matthew 11:1 And it came to pass, when Jesus had made an end of commanding his twelve disciples, he departed thence to teach and to preach in their cities.

Passage Jesus finished teaching his twelve disciples and then went to teach and preach in other cities.

1. "A Disciple's Responsibility to Share Jesus' Message"

2. "The Power of Preaching the Gospel"

1. Matthew 28:19-20 - "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

2. Acts 1:8 - "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

Matthew 11:2 Now when John had heard in the prison the works of Christ, he sent two of his disciples,

John the Baptist hears about Jesus' works from his disciples and sends two of them to ask

Jesus if he is the Messiah.

1. The power of witnessing - how even when imprisoned, John the Baptist was still willing to share the good news of Jesus' works

2. The importance of faithfulness - John's unwavering dedication to the truth, even in the face of adversity

1. Hebrews 11:1-2 - Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see. This is what the ancients were commended for.

2. Romans 10:14-15 - How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? And how can anyone preach unless they are sent?

Matthew 11:3 And said unto him, Art thou he that should come, or do we look for another?

The people of Jerusalem asked John the Baptist if Jesus was the expected Messiah or if they should look for someone else.

1. We can find assurance in the Lord, even when our questions are left unanswered.

2. We can trust in the Lord, even when our expectations are not met.

1. Isaiah 40:31 - But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.

2. Psalm 37:3-4 - Trust in the Lord and do good; dwell in the land and enjoy safe pasture. Take delight in the Lord, and he will give you the desires of your heart.

Matthew 11:4 Jesus answered and said unto them, Go and shew John again those things which ye do hear and see:

Jesus tells the people to go back to John and tell him of the wonderful things they have seen and heard.

1: Let us go back and tell others of the wonderful things that we have seen and heard in

Jesus' name.

2: We must never forget to share the good news of Christ and His love for us.

1: Philippians 1:27 - "Only let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving side by side for the faith of the gospel."

2: Acts 1:8 - "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

Matthew 11:5 The blind receive their sight, and the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, and the poor have the gospel preached to them.

The miracles of Jesus demonstrate his power and care for all people, regardless of their situation.

1: Jesus cares for all of us and is willing to heal us if we turn to Him.

2: Jesus has the power to bring us out of darkness and into His wonderful light.

John 8:12 - "Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, "I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life."

Isaiah 61:1 - "The Spirit of the Lord God is upon Me, because the Lord has anointed Me to preach good tidings to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound."

Matthew 11:6 And blessed is he, whosoever shall not be offended in me.

Jesus encourages those who follow him not to be offended by him.

1. "The Blessings of Trusting in Jesus"

2. "The Strength of Unshakable Faith"

1. Psalm 37:5 - Commit your way to the Lord, trust in Him, and He will act.

2. Philippians 4:6-7 - Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Matthew 11:7 And as they departed, Jesus began to say unto the multitudes concerning John, What went ye out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken with the wind?

John the Baptist was an extraordinary person, and Jesus asked the people why they went out to the wilderness to see him.

1: John the Baptist was a man of great faith and courage, and Jesus asked the people why they went out to the wilderness to seek him.

2: Jesus wanted to know what motivated the people to seek John the Baptist in the wilderness. We should all strive to emulate John's faith and courage.

1: Luke 7:28 - For I say unto you, Among those that are born of women there is not a greater prophet than John the Baptist.

2: Isaiah 40:3-5 - The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain and hill shall be made low: and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough places plain. And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together: for the mouth of the LORD hath spoken it.

Matthew 11:8 But what went ye out for to see? A man clothed in soft raiment? behold, they that wear soft clothing are in kings' houses.

This verse emphasizes the importance of looking beyond external appearances and material possessions when evaluating the worth of another person.

1. “The King’s Clothing: A Lesson on Seeing Beyond the Surface”

2. “The Riches of the Kingdom: God’s Way of Judging Value”

1. Luke 7:25 - But what went ye out for to see? A prophet? Yea, I say unto you, and more than a prophet.

2. James 2:1-7 - My brethren, have not the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory, with respect of persons.

Matthew 11:9 But what went ye out for to see? A prophet? yea, I say unto you, and more than a prophet.

This passage from Matthew speaks of the greatness of Jesus, as he is more than a prophet.

1. Jesus is Our Greatest Gift: Recognizing Jesus as More Than a Prophet

2. The Significance of Jesus: Understanding His Role in Our Lives

1. Isaiah 9:6-7 - For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.

2. John 1:14-18 - And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.

Matthew 11:10 For this is he, of whom it is written, Behold, I send my messenger before thy face, which shall prepare thy way before thee.

This passage is about John the Baptist, who was sent to prepare the way for Jesus.

1. How John the Baptist Prepared the Way for Jesus

2. The Significance of John the Baptist in the Bible

1. Isaiah 40:3-5 - A voice of one calling: “In the wilderness prepare the way for the Lord; make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

4 Every valley shall be raised up, every mountain and hill made low; the rough ground shall become level, the rugged places a plain.

2. Malachi 3:1 - “I will send my messenger, who will prepare the way before me. Then suddenly the Lord you are seeking will come to his temple; the messenger of the covenant, whom you desire, will come,” says the Lord Almighty.

Matthew 11:11 Verily I say unto you, Among them that are born of women there hath not risen a greater than John the Baptist: notwithstanding he that is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

This verse tells us that Jesus highly praised John the Baptist for his commitment to God’s message, but that even the humblest person in the Kingdom of Heaven is greater than him.

1. The Greatness of John the Baptist: How We Can Follow His Example

2. The Lowliness of the Kingdom of Heaven: How We Can Humbly Follow its Teachings

1. Matthew 5:3-12 - Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

2. Isaiah 40:3-5 - Prepare the way of the Lord; make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

Matthew 11:12 And from the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffereth violence, and the violent take it by force.

The kingdom of heaven is fiercely sought after by those who take it by force.

1. The Power of Faith: Taking Heaven by Force

2. The Strength of Belief: Seizing the Kingdom of Heaven

1. Luke 16:16 - The law and the prophets were until John: since that time the kingdom of God is preached, and every man presseth into it.

2. Romans 10:17 - So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

Matthew 11:13 For all the prophets and the law prophesied until John.

The passage states that all the prophets and the law prophesied until John.

1. The Fulfillment of Prophecy - Examining how the arrival of John the Baptist marked the fulfillment of prophecy in the Bible.

2. The Progression of Prophecy - Exploring how God progressively revealed His will through the prophets of the Old Testament.

1. Isaiah 40:3 - "The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God."

2. Malachi 3:1 - "Behold, I will send my messenger, and he shall prepare the way before me: and the Lord, whom ye seek, shall suddenly come to his temple, even the messenger of the covenant, whom ye delight in: behold, he shall come, saith the Lord of hosts."

Matthew 11:14 And if ye will receive it, this is Elias, which was for to come.

Jesus Elijah the prophet as the one who is to come before Him.

1. The Coming of Elijah: Knowing God's Timing and Purpose

2. The Significance of Elijah in the Bible: A Study in God's Faithfulness

1. Malachi 4:5-6 - "See, I will send you the prophet Elijah before that great and dreadful day of the Lord comes. He will turn the hearts of the fathers to their children, and the hearts of the children to their fathers; or else I will come and strike the land with total destruction."

2. John 1:19-21 - "Now this was John’s testimony when the Jewish leaders in Jerusalem sent priests and Levites to ask him who he was. He did not fail to confess, but confessed freely, 'I am not the Messiah.' They asked him, 'Then who are you? Are you Elijah?' He said, 'I am not.'"

Matthew 11:15 He that hath ears to hear, let him hear.

This passage emphasizes the importance of listening to Jesus' words.

1. We must be attentive to the words of Jesus and understand their power and meaning in our lives.

2. Jesus desires for us to open our hearts and minds to His teachings, so that we can experience His love and grace.

1. Luke 8:18 - "Take heed therefore how ye hear: for whosoever hath, to him shall be given; and whosoever hath not, from him shall be taken even that which he seemeth to have."

2. James 1:19 - "Wherefore, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath."

Matthew 11:16 But whereunto shall I liken this generation? It is like unto children sitting in the markets, and calling unto their fellows,

This passage compares the current generation to children in the marketplace calling to one another.

1. Understanding Our Generation

2. Seeking Wisdom in the Marketplace

1. Proverbs 1:20-33 - Wisdom calls out in the streets

2. Ecclesiastes 12:1-7 - The peril of a life without wisdom

Matthew 11:17 And saying, We have piped unto you, and ye have not danced; we have mourned unto you, and ye have not lamented.

The people have not responded to Jesus's words despite his attempts to reach them.

1. The Power of Jesus' Words: How We Should Respond

2. The Importance of Listening to God's Guidance

1. Isaiah 55:3 - "Incline your ear, and come unto me: hear, and your soul shall live; and I will make an everlasting covenant with you, even the sure mercies of David."

2. James 1:19 - "Wherefore, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath."

Matthew 11:18 For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, He hath a devil.

John the Baptist lived a life of sacrifice and self-denial, yet the people chose to criticize him and falsely accuse him of being possessed by a demon.

1. Living a life of sacrifice and self-denial often results in criticism and false accusations.

2. Jesus warns us that the world will not always recognize the holiness of our actions.

1. Matthew 7:16-20, "Ye shall know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles?"

2. 1 Peter 4:12-14, "Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you."

Matthew 11:19 The Son of man came eating and drinking, and they say, Behold a man gluttonous, and a winebibber, a friend of publicans and sinners. But wisdom is justified of her children.

Jesus was accused of being a glutton and a drunk because He ate and drank with sinners and tax collectors. However, His wisdom was proven true by those who followed Him.

1. The Power of Jesus's Wisdom: Exploring the Impact of Jesus's Teachings on Our Lives

2. The Beauty of Humility: How Jesus's Humility Can Inspire Us

1. John 5:39-40 - "You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is they that bear witness about me, yet you refuse to come to me that you may have life."

2. James 3:17 - "But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere."

Matthew 11:20 Then began he to upbraid the cities wherein most of his mighty works were done, because they repented not:

Jesus harshly rebuked the cities that had seen his miracles but refused to repent.

1: Jesus calls us to repentance, no matter our past.

2: Jesus shows us grace, even if we have not believed before.

1: Luke 15:7 - “I tell you that in the same way there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent.”

2: Ezekiel 33:11 - “Say to them, ‘As surely as I live, declares the Sovereign LORD, I take no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but rather that they turn from their ways and live.’”

Matthew 11:21 Woe unto thee, Chorazin! woe unto thee, Bethsaida! for if the mighty works, which were done in you, had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes.

Jesus expresses his displeasure with Chorazin and Bethsaida, despite the mighty works done in them, because had the same works been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented in deep sorrow.

1. The Power of Repentance and Forgiveness

2. The Importance of Righteous Living

1. Acts 2:38 - And Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.

2. 1 Peter 1:17 - And if ye call on the Father, who without respect of persons judgeth according to every man's work, pass the time of your sojourning here in fear.

Matthew 11:22 But I say unto you, It shall be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon at the day

of judgment, than for you.

The people of Israel will be held to a higher standard of judgment than those of Tyre and Sidon.

1: The Day of Judgment is Coming - Be Ready for it!

2: Put Your Faith in the Lord Now and Reap the Rewards

1: Revelation 20:11-15 - The Great White Throne Judgment

2: Isaiah 3:10-11 - God's Judgment on the Wicked

Matthew 11:23 And thou, Capernaum, which art exalted unto heaven, shalt be brought down to hell: for if the mighty works, which have been done in thee, had been done in Sodom, it would have remained until this day.

This passage speaks of a warning to Capernaum that if it does not repent, it will be brought down to hell just as Sodom and Gomorrah were.

1:

God warns us that if we do not repent, we will be subject to His wrath just as Capernaum, Sodom and Gomorrah were.

2:

God is patient and merciful, but we must heed His warnings and turn from our sins or face the consequences.

1: Romans 2:4-10 – God’s judgment and mercy on those who have done good and evil.

2: Luke 13:3-5 – Jesus’ warning to repent or face judgment.

Matthew 11:24 But I say unto you, That it shall be more tolerable for the land of Sodom in the day of judgment, than for thee.

Judgment will be harsher for those who reject Jesus than for those who do not.

1: Rejecting Jesus brings the harshest judgment.

2: Acceptance of Jesus brings mercy and grace.

1: Luke 6:37 - "Judge not, and ye shall not be judged: condemn not, and ye shall not be condemned: forgive, and ye shall be forgiven."

2: Romans 10:9-10 - "That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation."

Matthew 11:25 At that time Jesus answered and said, I thank thee, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because thou hast hid these things from the wise and prudent, and hast revealed them unto babes.

Jesus gives thanks to God for revealing His truth to the humble and simple.

1: God Reveals His Truth to the Humble

2: Jesus' Heart of Gratitude for God's Revealing of Truth

1: James 4:6 - “God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.”

2: 1 Peter 5:5 - “God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble.”

Matthew 11:26 Even so, Father: for so it seemed good in thy sight.

This verse speaks of God's ultimate sovereignty, that His will is always done, and it is always the best.

1: God is in Control - We should trust that God's will is always perfect, no matter how difficult it may seem.

2: God's Will is Always Best - We must accept that God's will is always the best and strive to do what He desires.

1: Romans 8:28 - And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.

2: Proverbs 3:5-6 - Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.

Matthew 11:27 All things are delivered unto me of my Father: and no man knoweth the Son, but the Father; neither knoweth any man the Father, save the Son, and he to whomsoever the Son will reveal him.

The Son is the only one who can reveal the Father to mankind, and the Father has delivered all things unto the Son.

1. Knowing the Father: The Privilege of Revealing the Lord to Others

2. The Uniqueness of Christ: Understanding the Connection between the Father and the Son

1. John 14:9-11, Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you so long, and yet you have not known Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; so how can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? Do you not believe that I am in the Father, and the Father in Me? The words that I speak to you I do not speak on My own authority; but the Father who dwells in Me does the works.

11 Believe Me that I am in the Father and the Father in Me, or else believe Me for the sake of the works themselves.

2. Hebrews 1:1-3, God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds; who being the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power, when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high.

Matthew 11:28 Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

Jesus invites those who are burdened and weary to come to Him for rest.

1. Come to Jesus for Rest - Matthew 11:28

2. Finding Rest in Christ - Matthew 11:28

1. Isaiah 40:29-31 - He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak.

2. Psalm 62:5-7 - He alone is my rock and my salvation; he is my fortress, I will never be shaken.

Matthew 11:29 Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls.

This passage encourages us to learn from Jesus, who is meek and humble, in order to find rest for our souls.

1. Learning to be Humble: Taking Jesus' Yoke Upon Us

2. Resting in His Peace: Learning from Jesus

1. Philippians 2:5-8 - Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men.

2. Psalm 37:7 - Be still before the Lord and wait patiently for him; fret not yourself over the one who prospers in his way, over the man who carries out evil devices.

Matthew 11:30 For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.

This passage is about Jesus' promise of a lighter load for those who follow him.

1: Jesus is the Answer - His yoke is easy and his burden is light.

2: The Path of Righteousness - Jesus offers us a way of life that is not burdened with hardship.

1: Psalm 55:22 - Cast your burden upon the Lord, and He will sustain you.

2: 1 Peter 5:7 - Casting all your anxieties on Him, because He cares for you.

Matthew 12 presents conflicts between Jesus and the Pharisees over Sabbath observance, His identification of Himself as greater than the temple and Jonah, and His teaching on true kinship.

1st Paragraph: The chapter begins with Pharisees accusing Jesus' disciples of breaking the Sabbath law by plucking grain to eat (Matthew 12:1-8). Jesus defends them, stating that human need takes precedence over ritual law. He declares Himself as "Lord of the Sabbath," asserting His authority over religious traditions. Another Sabbath controversy arises when He heals a man with a shriveled hand in synagogue (Matthew 12:9-14). Despite Pharisees' objection, Jesus argues doing good is lawful on Sabbath.

2nd Paragraph: After performing more healings, including restoring sight and speech to a demon-possessed man, Jesus faces accusations from Pharisees that He is using power of Beelzebul (Satan) for His miracles (Matthew 12:22-37). Rejecting this claim, He points out that a kingdom divided against itself cannot stand; thus it's illogical to suggest Satan would empower Him to drive out demons. He further warns about blasphemy against Holy Spirit which will not be forgiven - attributing God’s work to Satan. When asked for sign by some scribes and Pharisees, he refers to Jonah’s three days in fish's belly prophetic of his own death and resurrection – “sign of Jonah”.

3rd Paragraph: In this final section (Matthew 12:38-50), Jesus describes generation seeking signs as evil and adulterous indicating their unfaithfulness towards God despite evidence already provided through His ministry. Then upon being told his mother and brothers are waiting outside wanting to speak with Him, He redefines family not based on biological relationship but on doing God's will.

Matthew 12:1 At that time Jesus went on the sabbath day through the corn; and his disciples were an hungred, and began to pluck the ears of corn, and to eat.

Jesus and his disciples pick corn on the Sabbath day.

1: God's laws are not meant to be restrictive; instead, they are to be seen as a way to bring us closer to Him.

2: Jesus demonstrated that love and mercy are more important than legal observance.

1: Exodus 20:8-11 - Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.

2: Matthew 23:23 - Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye pay tithe of mint and anise and cummin, and have omitted the weightier matters of the law, judgment, mercy, and faith: these ought ye to have done, and not to leave the other undone.

Matthew 12:2 But when the Pharisees saw it, they said unto him, Behold, thy disciples do that which is not lawful to do upon the sabbath day.

The Pharisees observed the disciples of Jesus breaking the law on the Sabbath.

1. The Sabbath is a time for us to rest in the Lord and not to worry about earthly concerns.

2. The Sabbath is a day to remember God's covenant with us and all He has done for us.

1. Exodus 20:8-11 - Remember the Sabbath day and keep it holy.

2. Isaiah 58:13-14 - If you call the Sabbath a delight, the Lord will give you your heart's desire.

Matthew 12:3 But he said unto them, Have ye not read what David did, when he was an hungred, and they that were with him;

The passage is about Jesus' teaching on the importance of the Lord's Day and how David and his followers respected it.

1. The Power of Obedience: How Jesus' Teachings Guide Us To Respect The Lord's Day

2. Living With Integrity: Following Jesus' Example of a Life of Devotion

1. Exodus 20:8-11 - Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.

2. Romans 12:1-2 - Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

Matthew 12:4 How he entered into the house of God, and did eat the shewbread, which was not lawful for him to eat, neither for them which were with him, but only for the priests?

Jesus entered the House of God and ate the showbread, which was only permitted to the priests.

1. Jesus' willingness to break the rules to show His obedience to God

2. Why Jesus' example of obedience is important for us today

1. John 14:15 - "If you love me, keep my commands."

2. Romans 13:8-10 - "Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another, for whoever loves others has fulfilled the law."

Matthew 12:5 Or have ye not read in the law, how that on the sabbath days the priests in the temple profane the sabbath, and are blameless?

The passage talks about how the priests in the temple profane the Sabbath but are still considered blameless.

1. God's Law is Greater than Man's Law

2. Knowing the Difference Between Right and Wrong

1. Romans 7:12-14 - Therefore the law is holy, and the commandment is holy and righteous and good.

2. Exodus 20:8-11 - Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.

Matthew 12:6 But I say unto you, That in this place is one greater than the temple.

Jesus is teaching that He is greater than the temple and that something greater than the temple is present in this place.

1. Jesus is Greater Than Any Temple - Exploring the Significance of Jesus' Teachings in Matthew 12:6

2. Embracing the Presence of Something Greater - Celebrating the Mystery of Jesus' Divinity

1. John 10:30 - "I and my Father are one."

2. Colossians 2:9 - "For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily."

Matthew 12:7 But if ye had known what this meaneth, I will have mercy, and not sacrifice, ye would not have condemned the guiltless.

Mercy is more important than following religious rules and regulations.

1: God's Love and Mercy Always Triumphs

2: Embracing God's Grace and Mercy

1: James 2:13 - For judgment is without mercy to one who has shown no mercy. Mercy triumphs over judgment.

2: Romans 5:8 - But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Matthew 12:8 For the Son of man is Lord even of the sabbath day.

This passage states that Jesus is Lord of the Sabbath.

1. "What does it mean to be Lord of the Sabbath?"

2. "The importance of honoring Jesus as Lord of the Sabbath"

1. Exodus 20:8-11 - God's commandment to keep the Sabbath holy.

2. Colossians 2:16-17 - The importance of honoring God's commands regarding the Sabbath.

Matthew 12:9 And when he was departed thence, he went into their synagogue:

Jesus attended a synagogue and taught the people.

1. Jesus showed us the importance of community and fellowship by attending a synagogue.

2. Jesus demonstrated humility and grace by teaching in the synagogue.

1. Hebrews 10:24-25 - Let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another.

2. Acts 20:7 - On the first day of the week, when we were gathered together to break bread, Paul talked with them, intending to depart on the next day, and he prolonged his speech until midnight.

Matthew 12:10 And, behold, there was a man which had his hand withered. And they asked him, saying, Is it lawful to heal on the sabbath days? that they might accuse him.

Jesus heals a man with a withered hand on the Sabbath in response to a question posed by the Pharisees.

1. God's Mercy Overrules Man's Laws

2. The Healing Power of Faith

1. Isaiah 43:25 - “I, even I, am he who blots out your transgressions, for my own sake, and remembers your sins no more.”

2. James 5:15 - “And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise them up. If they have sinned, they will be forgiven.”

Matthew 12:11 And he said unto them, What man shall there be among you, that shall have one sheep, and if it fall into a pit on the sabbath day, will he not lay hold on it, and lift it out?

Jesus asked a rhetorical question about a man with one sheep falling into a pit on the Sabbath day and what he would do.

1. The Power of Compassion – how showing mercy and kindness can transcend even the most sacred laws

2. Taking Time to Care – understanding when and how to take a break from everyday life

1. Matthew 12:7 – “But if you had known what this means, ‘I desire mercy and not sacrifice,’ you would not have condemned the guiltless.”

2. Luke 6:35-36 – “But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return; and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High. For He is kind to the unthankful and evil.”

Matthew 12:12 How much then is a man better than a sheep? Wherefore it is lawful to do well on the sabbath days.

The passage emphasizes the importance of doing good on the Sabbath days, which is seen as being more important than a sheep.

1. "The Power of Doing Good on the Sabbath"

2. "The Higher Calling to Do Good on the Sabbath"

1. Isaiah 58:13-14 - “If you keep your feet from breaking the Sabbath and from doing as you please on my holy day, if you call the Sabbath a delight and the Lord’s holy day honorable, and if you honor it by not going your own way and not doing as you please or speaking idle words, then you will find your joy in the Lord.”

2. James 1:27 - “Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world.”

Matthew 12:13 Then saith he to the man, Stretch forth thine hand. And he stretched it forth; and it was restored whole, like as the other.

Jesus healed a man's hand by commanding him to stretch it out.

1. Jesus' power to heal and restore us physically and spiritually.

2. The importance of obedience to Jesus' commands.

1. Isaiah 53:5 - “But He was pierced for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on Him, and by His wounds we are healed.”

2. Psalm 103:3 - “He forgives all your sins, and He heals all your diseases.”

Matthew 12:14 Then the Pharisees went out, and held a council against him, how they might destroy him.

The Pharisees conspired to destroy Jesus.

1: We must always remember to forgive those who wrong us, even if it seems like they are intent on our destruction.

2: We must keep our faith in God, trusting Him to protect us from those who would do us harm.

1: Romans 12:19-21 - Do not take revenge, my dear friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," says the Lord. On the contrary: "If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head."

2: Psalm 27:1 - The Lord is my light and my salvation— whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life— of whom shall I be afraid?

Matthew 12:15 But when Jesus knew it, he withdrew himself from thence: and great multitudes followed him, and he healed them all;

Jesus healed the great multitudes that followed him.

1: Jesus is the Healer of All

2: Healing Through Jesus

1: Isaiah 53:5 - "But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed."

2: James 5:14–15 - "Is any sick among you? let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord: And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him."

Matthew 12:16 And charged them that they should not make him known:

Passage Jesus asked his disciples to keep his identity a secret.

1. The Power of Silence: Learning to be Discreet in our Faith

2. Keeping Jesus in the Shadows: The Necessity of Secrecy in Our Walk with God

1. Matthew 6:5-6: "And when you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full. But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen."

2. Colossians 4:5-6: "Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity. Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone."

Matthew 12:17 That it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Esaias the prophet, saying,

Jesus brought fulfillment to the prophecy spoken by Isaiah.

1: Jesus is the fulfillment of prophecy - how He brings life from death.

2: The power of Jesus' mission to fulfill the prophecy of Isaiah.

1: Isaiah 53:4-5 - Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.

2: John 1:45 - Philip findeth Nathanael, and saith unto him, We have found him, of whom Moses in the law, and the prophets, did write, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.

Matthew 12:18 Behold my servant, whom I have chosen; my beloved, in whom my soul is well pleased: I will put my spirit upon him, and he shall shew judgment to the Gentiles.

This passage speaks of the chosen servant of God and his mission to bring justice to the Gentiles.

1. The Power of God's Love: Understanding Jesus as the Chosen Servant of the Lord

2. The Mission of Justice: Implementing God's Plan for the Gentiles

1. Isaiah 42:1-4 - The Servant of the Lord

2. Acts 10:34-35 - Preaching to the Gentiles

Matthew 12:19 He shall not strive, nor cry; neither shall any man hear his voice in the streets.

This passage speaks of the meekness of Jesus, emphasizing that he did not quarrel or make a scene in public.

1. The Beauty of Meekness: What We Can Learn from Jesus

2. The Power of Self-Control: Learning from the Example of Jesus

1. Proverbs 15:1 - "A soft answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger."

2. 1 Peter 3:4 - "Rather, it should be that of your inner self, the unfading beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is of great worth in God’s sight."

Matthew 12:20 A bruised reed shall he not break, and smoking flax shall he not quench, till he send forth judgment unto victory.

God will not break the weak, but will provide strength until justice is served.

1: God will provide strength to the weak to persevere through life's struggles.

2: God will provide justice to those who are oppressed.

1: Isaiah 40:29 He giveth power to the faint; and to them that have no might he increaseth strength.

2: Psalm 9:9 The Lord also will be a refuge for the oppressed, a refuge in times of trouble.

Matthew 12:21 And in his name shall the Gentiles trust.

This passage highlights the importance of trusting in Jesus' name as Gentiles.

1: When we place our trust in Jesus, we can have faith that He will provide for us.

2: When we rely on Jesus, we are able to lean on Him in times of need.

1: Isaiah 12:2 - “Behold, God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid; for the Lord God is my strength and my song, and he has become my salvation.”

2: Hebrews 11:1 - “Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.”

Matthew 12:22 Then was brought unto him one possessed with a devil, blind, and dumb: and he healed him, insomuch that the blind and dumb both spake and saw.

Jesus heals a man possessed by a demon, giving him both sight and speech.

1. The Power of Jesus to Heal

2. Jesus Demonstrates Divine Authority

1. Matthew 8:16 – When evening came, many who were demon-possessed were brought to him, and he drove out the spirits with a word and healed all the sick.

2. Mark 16:17-18 – And these signs will accompany those who believe: In my name they will drive out demons; they will speak in new tongues; they will pick up snakes with their hands; and when they drink deadly poison, it will not hurt them at all; they will place their hands on sick people, and they will get well.

Matthew 12:23 And all the people were amazed, and said, Is not this the son of David?

The people of Jesus' time were amazed to see that he was the son of David.

1. God's Plan: Following the Prophecy of the Son of David

2. Believe in the Promise: Rejoicing in the Son of David

1. Isaiah 11:1 - "And there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots"

2. Micah 5:2 - "But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel"

Matthew 12:24 But when the Pharisees heard it, they said, This fellow doth not cast out devils, but by Beelzebub the prince of the devils.

The Pharisees accused Jesus of casting out devils by the power of Beelzebub, the prince of the devils.

1. The Power of Jesus: How Jesus Overcomes Evil

2. The Pharisees and Their Accusations: Understanding Unbelief

1. Ephesians 6:12 - For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.

2. Colossians 2:15 - Having disarmed principalities and powers, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in it.

Matthew 12:25 And Jesus knew their thoughts, and said unto them, Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation; and every city or house divided against itself shall not stand:

A divided kingdom or house will not stand.

1. The Strength of Unity: How to Strengthen Your Relationships

2. Overcoming Division: How to Unite a Divided Kingdom

1. Ephesians 4:1-3 - “I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.”

2. Psalm 133:1 - “Behold, how good and pleasant it is when brothers dwell in unity!”

Matthew 12:26 And if Satan cast out Satan, he is divided against himself; how shall then his kingdom stand?

Jesus asks how Satan can cast out Satan if they are divided against themselves, since that would mean his kingdom would not be able to stand.

1. How to Know When You Are Being Tested by Satan

2. The Power of Unity in Fighting Against Evil

1. Ephesians 6:10-18 - Be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might.

2. James 4:7 - Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

Matthew 12:27 And if I by Beelzebub cast out devils, by whom do your children cast them out? therefore they shall be your judges.

Jesus defends his authority to cast out demons by questioning the authority of the Pharisees' children to do the same.

1: Jesus is Supreme - Our Lord Jesus is the only one with authority over the forces of evil.

2: The Ultimate Judge - We can trust Jesus to make the final judgement, for He is the ultimate judge.

1: Colossians 1:17 - He is before all things, and in him all things hold together.

2: John 5:22 - For the Father judges no one, but has given all judgment to the Son.

Matthew 12:28 But if I cast out devils by the Spirit of God, then the kingdom of God is come unto you.

Jesus claims that He is from the Kingdom of God and has the power to cast out demons and evil spirits by the Spirit of God.

1. The Power of God: How Jesus Demonstrates His Divine Authority.

2. Understanding the Kingdom of God: What Jesus is Really Telling Us.

1. Luke 11:20 - But if I with the finger of God cast out devils, no doubt the kingdom of God is come upon you.

2. Isaiah 9:6-7 - For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end.

Matthew 12:29 Or else how can one enter into a strong man's house, and spoil his goods, except he first bind the strong man? and then he will spoil his house.

This passage is about Satan being bound in order for Jesus to bring salvation.

1. The Power of Jesus: Binding the Strong Man and Spoiling His House

2. The Impact of Salvation: Setting Satan Free and Restoring God's Kingdom

1. Colossians 2:14-15 - "Having wiped out the handwriting of requirements that was against us, which was contrary to us. He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross."

2. Romans 8:1-2 - "There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and death."

Matthew 12:30 He that is not with me is against me; and he that gathereth not with me scattereth abroad.

He who does not align with God is against Him, and will have their efforts scattered.

1: We must be with God if we wish to be successful in our endeavors.

2: To be truly aligned with God, we must gather with Him and not scatter our efforts.

1: Ecclesiastes 4:9-12 - Two people are better than one, because they get more done by working together.

2: Proverbs 27:17 - Iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another.

Matthew 12:31 Wherefore I say unto you, All manner of sin and blasphemy shall be forgiven unto men: but the blasphemy against the Holy Ghost shall not be forgiven unto men.

Sin and blasphemy can be forgiven, but blasphemy against the Holy Spirit cannot.

1: God is merciful and forgiving, but we must not test His patience.

2: God is still gracious and loving even when we make mistakes, but we must not take His grace for granted.

1: Ephesians 2:4-5 - But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ— by grace you have been saved—

2: 1 John 1:9 - If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Matthew 12:32 And whosoever speaketh a word against the Son of man, it shall be forgiven him: but whosoever speaketh against the Holy Ghost, it shall not be forgiven him, neither in this world, neither in the world to come.

Jesus teaches that anyone who speaks against the Son of Man will be forgiven, but not those who speak against the Holy Spirit.

1. The Power of Forgiveness in Jesus

2. The Sanctity of the Holy Spirit

1. Romans 8:26-27 - Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words.

2. 1 John 1:9 - If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Matthew 12:33 Either make the tree good, and his fruit good; or else make the tree corrupt, and his fruit corrupt: for the tree is known by his fruit.

The tree is known by its fruit; good trees produce good fruit and corrupt trees produce corrupt fruit.

1. The Power of Our Actions: How Our Choices Determine Our Legacy

2. What We Put Out into the World: The Consequences of Our Words and Deeds

1. Galatians 6:7-8 - Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap. 8 For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life.

2. James 3:17-18 - But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere. 18 And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.

Matthew 12:34 O generation of vipers, how can ye, being evil, speak good things? for out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh.

The mouth speaks according to the abundance of the heart, so those who are evil cannot speak good things.

1. The Heart of the Matter: How the Abundance of the Heart Affects Our Speech

2. Beware of What You Say: How Our Words Reveal Our Character

1. James 3:1-12 - The Power of the Tongue

2. Matthew 15:18-20 - What Defiles a Person

Matthew 12:35 A good man out of the good treasure of the heart bringeth forth good things: and an evil man out of the evil treasure bringeth forth evil things.

A good man brings forth good things from his heart and an evil man brings forth evil things from his heart.

1. The Power of Our Thoughts: What We Think, We Become

2. Cultivating a Heart of Holiness and Purity

1. Philippians 4:8-9 - "Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me—practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you."

2. Hebrews 10:22 - "Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water."

Matthew 12:36 But I say unto you, That every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment.

Every idle word spoken will be judged on the day of judgment.

1: Pay Attention To Your Words - Matthew 12:36

2: Take Care What You Say - Matthew 12:36

1: James 3:1-12 - Taming the Tongue

2: Proverbs 18:21 - The power of life and death is in the tongue.

Matthew 12:37 For by thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned.

This verse teaches that our words will determine our justification or condemnation.

1: The Power of our Words - We should use our words wisely, as they can have a powerful and lasting impact on ourselves and others.

2: The Consequences of our Words - Our words can create either positive or negative consequences depending on how they are used.

1: James 3:5-8 - Our words have the power to bless or curse, and we should strive to use them in a way that builds up and encourages.

2: Proverbs 12:18 - The right words at the right time can bring healing and peace.

Matthew 12:38 Then certain of the scribes and of the Pharisees answered, saying, Master, we would see a sign from thee.

The scribes and Pharisees asked Jesus for a sign to prove his authority.

1) The Power of a Request: How Asking Questions Can Lead to Answers

2) Seeking Signs: What the Pharisees Can Teach Us About Faith

1) Matthew 16:1-4

2) John 4:48-51

Matthew 12:39 But he answered and said unto them, An evil and adulterous generation seeketh after a sign; and there shall no sign be given to it, but the sign of the prophet Jonas:

Jesus tells the people a sign will be given to them, the sign of the prophet Jonah.

1. The Sign of Jonah: What the Bible Teaches Us About God's Intervention in Our Lives

2. Seeking After Signs: Recognizing God's Miracles in Everyday Life

1. Luke 11:29-30 - When the crowds were increasing, he began to say, “This generation is an evil generation. It seeks for a sign, but no sign will be given to it except the sign of Jonah.

2. Psalm 78:12-14 - He divided the sea and let them pass through it, and made the waters stand like a heap. In the daytime he led them with a cloud, and all the night with a fiery light. He split rocks in the wilderness and gave them drink abundantly as from the deep.

Matthew 12:40 For as Jonas was three days and three nights in the whale's belly; so shall the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.

Jonas' time in the whale's belly serves as a symbol of Jesus' death and resurrection.

1: Jesus died and rose again to save us from our sins.

2: Jesus is the resurrection and the life; believing in Him brings eternal life.

1: John 11:25 Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live.

2: Romans 5:8 But God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Matthew 12:41 The men of Nineveh shall rise in judgment with this generation, and shall condemn it: because they repented at the preaching of Jonas; and, behold, a greater than Jonas is here.

The men of Nineveh demonstrate that repentance can lead to salvation, even when the people are far from God.

1. Repentance leads to salvation, no matter where you are in life.

2. The grace of God is greater than any of us can imagine.

1. Jonah 3:1-10 - The people of Nineveh believed God's message and repented.

2. Romans 5:8 - But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Matthew 12:42 The queen of the south shall rise up in the judgment with this generation, and shall condemn it: for she came from the uttermost parts of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon; and, behold, a greater than Solomon is here.

This passage speaks of a greater power than Solomon, who will come and judge this generation.

1: We must seek the wisdom of God, as the Queen of the South sought out the wisdom of Solomon.

2: We must not underestimate the power of God, for He is greater than any worldly leader.

1: James 1:5 - "If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him."

2: Proverbs 2:1-5 - "My son, if thou wilt receive my words, and hide my commandments with thee; So that thou incline thine ear unto wisdom, and apply thine heart to understanding; Yea, if thou criest after knowledge, and liftest up thy voice for understanding; If thou seekest her as silver, and searchest for her as for hid treasures; Then shalt thou understand the fear of the LORD, and find the knowledge of God."

Matthew 12:43 When the unclean spirit is gone out of a man, he walketh through dry places, seeking rest, and findeth none.

The unclean spirit seeks to find rest in dry places but finds none.

1. The Struggle of Finding Rest in a Weary World

2. Finding Comfort in Times of Discouragement

1. Isaiah 40:30-31 - Even youths shall faint and be weary, and young men shall fall exhausted; but they who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint.

2. Psalm 127:2 - It is in vain that you rise up early and go late to rest, eating the bread of anxious toil; for he gives to his beloved sleep.

Matthew 12:44 Then he saith, I will return into my house from whence I came out; and when he is come, he findeth it empty, swept, and garnished.

Jesus speaks of a man who returns home to find it empty and clean.

1. "The Power of Cleanliness: Lessons from Jesus's Parable"

2. "Finding Contentment in an Empty House"

1. Isaiah 40:11 - He will tend his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms; he will carry them in his bosom, and gently lead those that are with young.

2. Proverbs 24:3-4 - By wisdom a house is built, and by understanding it is established; by knowledge the rooms are filled with all precious and pleasant riches.

Matthew 12:45 Then goeth he, and taketh with himself seven other spirits more wicked than himself, and they enter in and dwell there: and the last state of that man is worse than the first. Even so shall it be also unto this wicked generation.

Jesus warns the people that sinning will lead to a worse state than before, and that the same will apply to the current wicked generation.

1. The Danger of Sin: A Warning from Jesus

2. The Cost of Wickedness: Learning from Jesus

1. James 1:14-15 - But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire. Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death.

2. Proverbs 14:12 - There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way to death.

Matthew 12:46 While he yet talked to the people, behold, his mother and his brethren stood without, desiring to speak with him.

Jesus' family attempted to speak to him while he was teaching the people.

1. The importance of staying focused on the task at hand, even when family attempts to distract us.

2. Jesus' example of how to prioritize the needs of others over our own family.

1. Philippians 2:3-4 - Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves.

2. Mark 3:31-35 - Jesus’ mother and brothers came to him, but he replied, “Whoever does God’s will is my brother and sister and mother.”

Matthew 12:47 Then one said unto him, Behold, thy mother and thy brethren stand without, desiring to speak with thee.

Jesus was approached by his mother and siblings who wanted to talk to him.

1. The importance of family and the need to prioritize relationships with those closest to us.

2. The example of Jesus in taking time to talk with his family, even in the midst of his ministry.

1. Mark 3:31-35 – Jesus' family's attempt to restrain him.

2. Matthew 10:37 – Jesus' teaching on the importance of loving one's family.

Matthew 12:48 But he answered and said unto him that told him, Who is my mother? and who are my brethren?

Jesus questions the meaning of family and challenges the traditional definition.

1. Family is More Than Just Blood: Exploring the Meaning of Family Beyond Biological Relationships

2. The Call to Love: Jesus' Challenge to Recognize Our Shared Humanity

1. Matthew 22:34-40 - Jesus' Parable of the Good Samaritan

2. Mark 12:28-31 - Jesus' Commandment to Love God and Neighbor

Matthew 12:49 And he stretched forth his hand toward his disciples, and said, Behold my mother and my brethren!

Jesus proclaimed that his disciples were his family.

1: The family we choose can be just as important as the family we are born into.

2: Following God's commands can bring us closer to Him, and make us members of the same family.

1: John 15:13 - "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his

friends."

2: Galatians 6:10 - "As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith."

Matthew 12:50 For whosoever shall do the will of my Father which is in heaven, the same is my brother, and sister, and mother.

This passage teaches us the importance of fulfilling the will of God.

1: We are all unified in Christ when we obey God’s will.

2: Following God’s will brings us into fellowship with Him and with one another.

1: John 15:14 - "You are my friends if you do what I command."

2: Acts 10:34-35 - “Then Peter opened his mouth and said: “Truly I understand that God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him.”

Matthew 13 is a collection of parables that Jesus uses to describe the kingdom of heaven, illustrating its value, growth, and ultimate fulfillment.

1st Paragraph: The chapter begins with the Parable of the Sower (Matthew 13:1-9), where seed sown on different types of ground represents various responses to God's word. When His disciples ask Him about His use of parables, Jesus explains that He uses them to reveal truths to those who are open and hide them from those who are not (Matthew 13:10-17). He then interprets the Parable of the Sower for His disciples (Matthew 13:18-23).

2nd Paragraph: Jesus shares more parables about the kingdom - The Parable of Weeds among Wheat explaining coexistence of good and evil until end times when God will separate them (Matthew 13:24-30), The Parables of Mustard Seed and Yeast emphasizing how kingdom starts small but grows significantly (Matthew 13:31-33). After telling these parables, Jesus explains privately to His disciples the meaning behind Parable of Weeds (Matthew 13:36-43).

3rd Paragraph: In this final section, Jesus tells three more short parables – Hidden Treasure, Pearl Merchant and Fishing Net - all emphasizing immense value of kingdom and how it demands total commitment from those who seek it (Matthew 13:44-50). When

He finishes these teachings in his hometown Nazareth people are astonished but also take offense because they know his family. Thus despite his wisdom and miraculous deeds they do not believe in him leading Jesus to remark that a prophet is without honor only in his hometown and among his relatives.

Matthew 13:1 The same day went Jesus out of the house, and sat by the sea side.

Jesus went to the sea side to teach.

1: Jesus went to the sea side to teach us that He is always ready to share His wisdom and knowledge with us.

2: Jesus went to the sea side to show us that He is willing to go out of His way to spread the Good News.

1: Mark 4:1-2 - And again he began to teach by the sea side: and there was gathered unto him a great multitude, so that he entered into a ship, and sat in the sea; and the whole multitude was by the sea on the land.

2: John 21:25 - And there are also many other things which Jesus did, the which, if they should be written every one, I suppose that even the world itself could not contain the books that should be written. Amen.

Matthew 13:2 And great multitudes were gathered together unto him, so that he went into a ship, and sat; and the whole multitude stood on the shore.

The multitudes gathered around Jesus so he got into a ship and spoke to them from there.

1. Jesus was willing to go the extra mile to reach out to the people.

2. We should always be open to reaching out to others.

1. John 4:7-8 – “Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love.”

2. Mark 12:29-31 – “Jesus answered, ‘The most important is, ‘Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.’ The second is this: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no other commandment greater than these.’”

Matthew 13:3 And he spake many things unto them in parables, saying, Behold, a sower went forth to sow;

Jesus teaches a lesson on the importance of spreading the gospel through the parable of the sower.

1: "The Parable of the Sower: The Power of God's Word"

2: "The Parable of the Sower: Reaping What We Sow"

1: Romans 10:17 - "So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ."

2: Matthew 28:19-20 - "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you."

Matthew 13:4 And when he sowed, some seeds fell by the way side, and the fowls came and devoured them up:

The parable of the sower explains how the Word of God is spread.

1. "Sowing in Faith: Reaping a Harvest of Blessing"

2. "The Fowls and the Sower: Understanding the Power of the Enemy"

1. Mark 4:14-20

2. Psalm 126:5-6

Matthew 13:5 Some fell upon stony places, where they had not much earth: and forthwith they sprung up, because they had no deepness of earth:

The parable of the sower teaches us that a seed must have deep roots in order to grow.

1. The Deeper the Root, the Greater the Harvest

2. Cultivating the Heart of Faith

1. Colossians 2:7 - Rooted and built up in him, and stablished in the faith, as ye have been taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving.

2. Psalm 1:3 - He shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.

Matthew 13:6 And when the sun was up, they were scorched; and because they had no root, they withered away.

The parable of the sower shows the difference between those who have roots and those without.

1. The Value of Having a Firm Foundation in Faith

2. The Danger of Having a Surface-Level Faith

1. Colossians 2:7 - "Rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving."

2. Hebrews 11:1 - "Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen."

Matthew 13:7 And some fell among thorns; and the thorns sprung up, and choked them:

The parable of the sower teaches that some people's faith is choked by the world's temptations.

1: True faith is rooted in God's word and protected from the world's temptations.

2: To have a strong faith, we must invest in hearing and understanding God's word.

1: Colossians 3:2 - Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth.

2: Hebrews 12:1 - Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us.

Matthew 13:8 But other fell into good ground, and brought forth fruit, some an hundredfold, some sixtyfold, some thirtyfold.

Good soil brings forth a great harvest.

1: A Good Harvest Depends on Good Soil

2: Good Soil Brings Abundance

1: 2 Corinthians 9:6-8 - "But this I say: He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound toward you, that you, always having all sufficiency in all things, may have an abundance for every good work."

2: John 4:35-38 - "Do you not say, ‘There are still four months and then comes the harvest’? Behold, I say to you, lift up your eyes and look at the fields, for they are already white for harvest! And he who reaps receives wages, and gathers fruit for eternal life, that both he who sows and he who reaps may rejoice together. For in this the saying is true: ‘One sows and another reaps.’ I sent you to reap that for which you have not labored; others have labored, and you have entered into their labors.”

Matthew 13:9 Who hath ears to hear, let him hear.

This passage is a reminder to listen to God's word with open hearts and minds.

1. "Let Us Listen to God's Word"

2. "Open Your Heart and Mind to Hear God's Word"

1. Isaiah 50:4-5 - “The Lord God has given me the tongue of those who are taught, that I may know how to sustain with a word him who is weary. Morning by morning he awakens; he awakens my ear to hear as those who are taught.”

2. James 1:19-21 - “Know this, my beloved brothers: let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger; for the anger of man does not produce the righteousness of God. Therefore put away all filthiness and rampant wickedness and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls.”

Matthew 13:10 And the disciples came, and said unto him, Why speakest thou unto them in parables?

The disciples asked Jesus why he was speaking to the people in parables.

1: God speaks to us in ways that challenge us to seek deeper understanding.

2: God speaks to us in parables to help us draw closer to Him and to understand spiritual truths.

1: Psalm 78:2 - I will open my mouth in a parable: I will utter dark sayings of old:

2: Luke 8:9-10 - And his disciples asked him, saying, What might this parable be? And he said, Unto you it is given to know the mysteries of the kingdom of God: but to others in parables; that seeing they might not see, and hearing they might not understand.

Matthew 13:11 He answered and said unto them, Because it is given unto you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it is not given.

Jesus explains the mystery of the Kingdom of Heaven to his disciples.

1. Understanding the Mysteries of the Kingdom of Heaven

2. Seeking the Wisdom of God to Unlock the Mysteries of the Kingdom of Heaven

1. James 1:5 "If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given to him."

2. Psalm 25:14 "The secret of the Lord is with those who fear him, and he will show them

his covenant."

Matthew 13:12 For whosoever hath, to him shall be given, and he shall have more abundance: but whosoever hath not, from him shall be taken away even that he hath.

Those who have will be given more, and those who do not have will be deprived of what they have.

1. God's Abundance for His People: Understanding the Blessings of Prosperity

2. The Blessing of Contentment: Finding Peace in the Midst of Adversity

1. James 1:2-4 - Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.

2. Psalm 37:25 - I was young and now I am old, yet I have never seen the righteous forsaken or their children begging bread.

Matthew 13:13 Therefore speak I to them in parables: because they seeing see not; and hearing they hear not, neither do they understand.

Jesus teaches the people about the kingdom of heaven through parables because they are unable to comprehend it.

1. Understanding the Kingdom of Heaven: Exploring Jesus' Parables

2. Discernment: Faithfully Hearing and Seeing What God is Showing Us

1. Proverbs 4:7 - Wisdom is the principal thing; therefore get wisdom: and with all thy getting get understanding.

2. John 8:31-32 - Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.

Matthew 13:14 And in them is fulfilled the prophecy of Esaias, which saith, By hearing ye

shall hear, and shall not understand; and seeing ye shall see, and shall not perceive:

The prophecy of Isaiah is fulfilled in the people who do not understand what they hear and do not perceive what they see.

1. "Seeing and Hearing but Not Understanding: The Fulfillment of Isaiah's Prophecy"

2. "Choosing Not to Understand: Overcoming the Fulfillment of Isaiah's Prophecy"

1. Isaiah 6:9-10 - "And he said, Go, and tell this people, Hear ye indeed, but understand not; and see ye indeed, but perceive not. Make the heart of this people fat, and make their ears heavy, and shut their eyes; lest they see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and understand with their heart, and convert, and be healed."

2. Romans 11:8-10 - "According as it is written, God hath given them the spirit of slumber, eyes that they should not see, and ears that they should not hear; unto this day. And David saith, Let their table be made a snare, and a trap, and a stumbling block, and a recompence unto them: Let their eyes be darkened, that they may not see, and bow down their back alway."

Matthew 13:15 For this people's heart is waxed gross, and their ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes they have closed; lest at any time they should see with their eyes and hear with their ears, and should understand with their heart, and should be converted, and I should heal them.

This passage talks about how people can be spiritually blind and deaf to God's word.

1: Don't Close Your Eyes to God's Word

2: Hearing and Seeing God's Word with an Open Heart

1: Isaiah 6:9-10 - Go, and tell this people, Hear ye indeed, but understand not; and see ye indeed, but perceive not. Make the heart of this people fat, and make their ears heavy, and shut their eyes; lest they see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and understand with their heart, and convert, and be healed.

2: John 12:37-40 - But though he had done so many miracles before them, yet they believed not on him: That the saying of Esaias the prophet might be fulfilled, which he spake, Lord, who hath believed our report? and to whom hath the arm of the Lord been revealed? Therefore they could not believe, because that Esaias said again, He hath

blinded their eyes, and hardened their heart; that they should not see with their eyes, nor understand with their heart, and be converted, and I should heal them.

Matthew 13:16 But blessed are your eyes, for they see: and your ears, for they hear.

Jesus blesses those who can see and hear His teachings.

1. The Gift of Sight and Hearing: Seeing and Hearing God's Message.

2. Rejoice in the Blessings of Seeing and Hearing the Word of God.

1. Romans 10:17 - So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.

2. Psalm 119:18 - Open my eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of your law.

Matthew 13:17 For verily I say unto you, That many prophets and righteous men have desired to see those things which ye see, and have not seen them; and to hear those things which ye hear, and have not heard them.

The prophets and righteous men of the past longed to experience the blessings that the current generation has been given.

1: Let us be thankful for the privileges we have been given and use them to glorify God.

2: We should strive to live lives of righteousness so that we experience the same blessings as the prophets and righteous men of the past.

1: Ephesians 5:20- “Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

2: Psalm 112:1- “Praise ye the Lord. Blessed is the man that feareth the Lord, that delighteth greatly in his commandments.”

Matthew 13:18 Hear ye therefore the parable of the sower.

The parable of the sower is a lesson about the importance of understanding God's word.

1: The Sower and the Seed: What the Parable of the Sower Teaches Us about God's Word

2: The Power of Parables: How Parables Can Help Us Understand God's Word

1: Isaiah 55:10-11 - “For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven and do not return there but water the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

2: 2 Timothy 3:16-17 - “All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be competent, equipped for every good work.”

Matthew 13:19 When any one heareth the word of the kingdom, and understandeth it not, then cometh the wicked one, and catcheth away that which was sown in his heart. This is he which received seed by the way side.

Passage When someone hears the word of the Kingdom but fails to understand it, the wicked one comes and takes away the seed that was planted in his heart.

1. Let Us Not Allow the Wicked One to Steal Our Hearts

2. Understanding the Word of the Kingdom is Essential for Spiritual Growth

1. Luke 8:11-15 - The Parable of the Sower

2. Ephesians 6:11-12 - Put on the Whole Armor of God

Matthew 13:20 But he that received the seed into stony places, the same is he that heareth the word, and anon with joy receiveth it;

The person who hears the word of God and joyfully accepts it is the one who planted his seed in stony ground.

1. The Joy of Accepting the Word of God

2. Planting the Seed of the Gospel in Stony Ground

1. Psalm 119:162 - I rejoice at your word like one who finds great spoil.

2. Romans 10:17 - So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

Matthew 13:21 Yet hath he not root in himself, but dureth for a while: for when tribulation or persecution ariseth because of the word, by and by he is offended.

Rootlessness leads to fickleness in the face of hardship.

1: Persevere in Faith despite Persecution

2: The Necessity of Having a Firm Foundation in Christ

1: Romans 5:3-5 "Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. And hope does not put us to shame, because God’s love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us."

2: James 1:2-4 "Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything."

Matthew 13:22 He also that received seed among the thorns is he that heareth the word; and the care of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, choke the word, and he becometh unfruitful.

The care of the world and deceitfulness of riches can choke the word of God and render it unfruitful.

1: We need to focus on God, not worldly possessions, to be truly fruitful.

2: The love of money can be a hindrance to hearing God's word.

1: Luke 12:15 - "And He said to them, “Take heed and beware of covetousness, for one’s life does not consist in the abundance of the things he possesses.”

2: 1 Timothy 6:10 - “For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.”

Matthew 13:23 But he that received seed into the good ground is he that heareth the word, and understandeth it; which also beareth fruit, and bringeth forth, some an hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.

The parable of the sower illustrates that those who hear the word of God and understand it will bear much fruit.

1. Bearing Fruit: The Power of Obedience

2. Growing in Faith: The Rewards of Hearing and Understanding God's Word

1. Galatians 5:22-23 - But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.

2. Psalm 19:7-8 - The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul; the testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple; the precepts of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes.

Matthew 13:24 Another parable put he forth unto them, saying, The kingdom of heaven is likened unto a man which sowed good seed in his field:

Jesus told a parable of a man who sowed good seed in his field to illustrate the Kingdom of Heaven.

1. God's harvest: the good seed of His Kingdom

2. The parable of the sower: How to sow good seed into the Kingdom of Heaven

1. Galatians 6:7-8 - "Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap. For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life."

2. Matthew 7:15-20 - "Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing but

inwardly are ravenous wolves. You will recognize them by their fruits. Are grapes gathered from thornbushes, or figs from thistles? So, every healthy tree bears good fruit, but the diseased tree bears bad fruit. A healthy tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a diseased tree bear good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. Thus you will recognize them by their fruits."

Matthew 13:25 But while men slept, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat, and went his way.

The enemy of God's people sowed tares among the wheat while people were asleep.

1. The Danger of Complacency in Spiritual Life

2. Staying Vigilant in a World of Temptation

1. Ephesians 6:10-18 (Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil)

2. 1 Peter 5:8 (Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour).

Matthew 13:26 But when the blade was sprung up, and brought forth fruit, then appeared the tares also.

The parable of the wheat and the tares reveals that even in the midst of the good, the bad can appear.

1. The Parable of the Wheat and the Tares: Recognizing the Good and the Bad in Life

2. The Value of Patience: Learning from the Parable of the Wheat and the Tares

1. Romans 12:2 - "Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect."

2. James 1:2-4 - "Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing."

Matthew 13:27 So the servants of the householder came and said unto him, Sir, didst not thou sow good seed in thy field? from whence then hath it tares?

The servants questioned the householder about the presence of weeds in the field that had been sown with good seed.

1. God uses our imperfections to bring about his perfect will.

2. We can trust God even when we don't understand what he is doing.

1. Romans 8:28 - "And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose."

2. Isaiah 55:8-9 - "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts."

Matthew 13:28 He said unto them, An enemy hath done this. The servants said unto him, Wilt thou then that we go and gather them up?

The master of a household notices that weeds have been planted in his wheat field. His servants ask if they should go and remove the weeds, but the master tells them an enemy has done this.

1. The enemy of our soul seeks to sow weeds of doubt and fear in our lives.

2. We can never truly ignore the work of the enemy, but instead must be vigilant and remain focused on God's plan for our lives.

1. Ephesians 6:10-13 - Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil.

2. James 4:7 - Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

Matthew 13:29 But he said, Nay; lest while ye gather up the tares, ye root up also the

wheat with them.

The parable of the Wheat and the Tares teaches us that we must be careful when separating good from evil as we may unintentionally cause harm in the process.

1. "The Lord's Discernment: Separating Good from Evil"

2. "The Parable of the Wheat and the Tares: A Lesson on Discernment"

1. James 1:5 - "If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him."

2. Proverbs 3:5-6 - "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths."

Matthew 13:30 Let both grow together until the harvest: and in the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, Gather ye together first the tares, and bind them in bundles to burn them: but gather the wheat into my barn.

Jesus tells the parable of the wheat and the tares, in which the wheat and tares are allowed to grow together until the harvest. At the time of harvest, the reapers will be instructed to gather the tares into bundles to burn them, and store the wheat in the barn.

1. The Parable of the Wheat and the Tares: Preparing for the Harvest

2. Cultivating Faithfulness: A Study of Matthew 13:30

1. Galatians 6:7-9 - Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap.

2. James 3:18 - And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.

Matthew 13:31 Another parable put he forth unto them, saying, The kingdom of heaven is like to a grain of mustard seed, which a man took, and sowed in his field:

The Kingdom of Heaven is compared to a tiny mustard seed.

1. The Mustard Seed: A Symbol of Faith

2. The Power of a Small Act of Obedience

1. Luke 17:6 - “And the Lord said, If ye had faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye might say unto this sycamine tree, Be thou plucked up by the root, and be thou planted in the sea; and it should obey you.”

2. Mark 4:31 - “It is like a grain of mustard seed, which, when it is sown in the earth, is less than all the seeds that be in the earth:”

Matthew 13:32 Which indeed is the least of all seeds: but when it is grown, it is the greatest among herbs, and becometh a tree, so that the birds of the air come and lodge in the branches thereof.

This passage illustrates the greatness of a seemingly small beginning.

1. “The Power of Small Beginnings”

2. “Harnessing the Potential in the Smallest of Things”

1. 1 Corinthians 1:27-29 - “But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; 28 God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, 29 so that no human being might boast in the presence of God.”

2. Isaiah 40:31 - “But they who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint.”

Matthew 13:33 Another parable spake he unto them; The kingdom of heaven is like unto leaven, which a woman took, and hid in three measures of meal, till the whole was leavened.

The Kingdom of Heaven is like yeast that a woman hid in three measures of flour until it was fully leavened.

1. "The Power of a Little Bit of Faith"

2. "The Miraculous Work of God's Kingdom"

1. Matthew 16:17, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by flesh and blood, but by my Father in heaven."

2. Galatians 5:9, "A little yeast works through the whole batch of dough."

Matthew 13:34 All these things spake Jesus unto the multitude in parables; and without a parable spake he not unto them:

Jesus taught the multitude through parables.

1: Jesus was a master teacher, using parables to convey his message.

2: Parables are an effective way to communicate deep spiritual truths.

1: Proverbs 1:5-7 - A wise man will hear and increase learning, and a man of understanding will attain wise counsel.

2: Proverbs 9:9 - Give instruction to a wise man and he will be still wiser, teach a righteous man and he will increase in learning.

Matthew 13:35 That it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, saying, I will open my mouth in parables; I will utter things which have been kept secret from the foundation of the world.

God reveals His secrets to those who listen.

1: Listening to the Voice of God.

2: The Power of Parables.

1: Isaiah 28:9-10, “Whom shall He teach knowledge? And whom shall He make to understand doctrine? Them that are weaned from the milk, and drawn from the breasts.

For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little.”

2: Psalm 25:14, “The secret of the Lord is with them that fear Him; and He will shew them His covenant.”

Matthew 13:36 Then Jesus sent the multitude away, and went into the house: and his disciples came unto him, saying, Declare unto us the parable of the tares of the field.

Jesus sent the multitude away and went into the house. His disciples asked him to explain the parable of the tares of the field.

1. Nurturing Faithfulness in the Field of Life

2. Practicing Patience and Perseverance in the Field of Faith

1. Galatians 6:9 - And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.

2. James 5:7 - Be patient therefore, brethren, unto the coming of the Lord. Behold, the husbandman waiteth for the precious fruit of the earth, and hath long patience for it, until he receive the early and latter rain.

Matthew 13:37 He answered and said unto them, He that soweth the good seed is the Son of man;

The Son of Man is the one who sows the good seed.

1. The Son of Man: Our Savior and Sower of the Good Seed

2. The Significance of the Son of Man and His Good Seed

1. Luke 8:11 - "Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God."

2. John 15:5 - "I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing."

Matthew 13:38 The field is the world; the good seed are the children of the kingdom; but the tares are the children of the wicked one;

This verse speaks of the world as a field with both good and bad seeds, representing the children of God and the children of the wicked one.

1: We must be vigilant in our walk with God, for the world is filled with good and bad influences.

2: We must be sure to sow good seeds into our lives, for the harvest we reap is the product of the seeds we plant.

1: Galatians 6:7-8 - "Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap. For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life."

2: Ephesians 6:11 - "Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil."

Matthew 13:39 The enemy that sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the world; and the reapers are the angels.

The devil sows lies and falsehood in the world, but God will bring truth and justice at the end of time through his angels.

1. Our struggle against lies and deception will ultimately be rewarded by God.

2. We can trust that God's angels will bring justice in the end.

1. John 8:44 - "You belong to your father, the devil, and you want to carry out your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies."

2. Revelation 20:10- "And the devil, who deceived them, was thrown into the lake of burning sulfur, where the beast and the false prophet had been thrown. They will be tormented day and night for ever and ever."

Matthew 13:40 As therefore the tares are gathered and burned in the fire; so shall it be in

the end of this world.

The parable of the tares teaches us that there will be a separation at the end of the world.

1. The Parable of the Tares: Understanding the Final Judgment

2. How the Parable of the Tares Can Help Us Live Righteous Lives

1. Matthew 25:31-46 - The Parable of the Sheep and Goats

2. 2 Corinthians 5:10 - We must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ

Matthew 13:41 The Son of man shall send forth his angels, and they shall gather out of his kingdom all things that offend, and them which do iniquity;

The Son of Man will send forth His angels to remove all those who cause offense or do wrong from His Kingdom.

1: We must strive to always live in righteousness and humility in order to remain in God’s Kingdom.

2: We must always be vigilant and strive to remove all wickedness from our lives and our communities.

1: 1 Corinthians 6:9-10 - “Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who practice homosexuality, nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God.”

2: Galatians 5:19-21 - “Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.”

Matthew 13:42 And shall cast them into a furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth.

Jesus teaches that those who do not bear fruit in their lives will be cast into a furnace of fire, where there will be much sorrow and anguish.

1. Bearing Fruit: The Necessity of Doing Good

2. The Consequences of Not Bearing Fruit

1. Galatians 5:22-23 - But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.

2. Matthew 7:21-23 - Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven.

Matthew 13:43 Then shall the righteous shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Who hath ears to hear, let him hear.

The righteous will shine with God's glory in His kingdom.

1: Listen to the Lord's teachings and be ready to experience His glory in the Kingdom.

2: Rejoice in being righteous so that you may be part of the Kingdom of God.

1: Philippians 3:20-21 - But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself.

2: 1 Corinthians 15:51-53 - Behold! I tell you a mystery. We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed. For this perishable body must put on the imperishable, and this mortal body must put on immortality.

Matthew 13:44 Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto treasure hid in a field; the which when a man hath found, he hideth, and for joy thereof goeth and selleth all that he hath, and buyeth that field.

Jesus tells the parable of a man who finds a hidden treasure in a field, and in his joy, he sells all that he has in order to buy the field.

1. The Joy of Finding the Kingdom of Heaven

2. The Cost of Finding the Kingdom of Heaven

1. Psalm 37:4 - Delight yourself in the Lord, and he will give you the desires of your heart.

2. Colossians 3:12-14 - Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.

Matthew 13:45 Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto a merchant man, seeking goodly pearls:

The kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of valuable pearls.

1. The Value of the Kingdom of Heaven

2. The Search for Goodly Pearls

1. Matthew 6:33 - “But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.”

2. Proverbs 8:10-11 - “Choose my instruction instead of silver, knowledge rather than choice gold, for wisdom is more precious than rubies, and nothing you desire can compare with her.”

Matthew 13:46 Who, when he had found one pearl of great price, went and sold all that he had, and bought it.

This passage from Matthew 13:46 speaks of a man who found a pearl of great value and was willing to give up all he had to own it.

1. "The Value of a Soul" - Exploring the worth of a human life and how we should be willing to give up all we have to reach others with the gospel.

2. "The Sacrifice of Love" - Focusing on how Jesus gave up all He had to save us and how we should be willing to sacrifice for the sake of love.

1. John 3:16 - For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

2. Philippians 2:5-8 - Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

Matthew 13:47 Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto a net, that was cast into the sea, and gathered of every kind:

The kingdom of heaven is like a net that catches all kinds of fish.

1. The Inclusivity of God's Kingdom - God's Kingdom welcomes all kinds of people.

2. The Wisdom of God's Kingdom - God's Kingdom is wise and always has a plan.

1. Luke 15:3-7 - Parables of the Lost Sheep and the Lost Coin.

2. Isaiah 11:6-9 - The wolf will live with the lamb and lion will eat straw like an ox.

Matthew 13:48 Which, when it was full, they drew to shore, and sat down, and gathered the good into vessels, but cast the bad away.

The parable of the net teaches us that God will separate the good from the bad at the end times.

1: We must be ready for the day of judgement, when God will separate the righteous from the wicked.

2: God's judgement is fair and just, so we must strive to live good lives and be worthy of His mercy.

1: Matthew 25:31-46 - Jesus' parable of the sheep and the goats.

2: 2 Corinthians 5:10 - We must all appear before the judgement seat of Christ.

Matthew 13:49 So shall it be at the end of the world: the angels shall come forth, and sever the wicked from among the just,

At the end of the world, the angels will separate the righteous from the wicked.

1: We must strive to be righteous and follow the will of God, for at the end of the world, He will separate the righteous from the wicked.

2: In the end, the righteous will be rewarded for their faithfulness, while the wicked will be punished for their disobedience.

1: Matthew 25:31-46 - Jesus' Parable of the Sheep and Goats.

2: Romans 2:6-10 - God's Judgment of Righteousness.

Matthew 13:50 And shall cast them into the furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth.

Jesus speaks of the fate of the wicked, wherein they will be cast into the furnace of fire, where they will experience wailing and gnashing of teeth.

1. The Reality of Hell: Recognizing the Consequences of Sin

2. The Urgency of Repentance: Time is of the Essence

1. Revelation 14:10-11 - The wicked will be tormented with fire and sulfur in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb.

2. Jude 1:7 - Similarly, Sodom and Gomorrah and the surrounding cities, which likewise indulged in sexual immorality and pursued unnatural desire, serve as an example by undergoing a punishment of eternal fire.

Matthew 13:51 Jesus saith unto them, Have ye understood all these things? They say unto him, Yea, Lord.

Jesus asked the disciples if they understood the parables, to which they answered in the affirmative.

1: Walk in Understanding Through Faith

2: Pursue Deeper Understanding Through Jesus

1: Proverbs 4:5–7 - Get wisdom, get understanding: forget it not; neither decline from the words of my mouth. Forsake her not, and she shall preserve thee: love her, and she shall keep thee. Wisdom is the principal thing; therefore get wisdom: and with all thy getting get understanding.

2: Colossians 1:9–10 - For this cause we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to desire that ye might be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God.

Matthew 13:52 Then said he unto them, Therefore every scribe which is instructed unto the kingdom of heaven is like unto a man that is an householder, which bringeth forth out of his treasure things new and old.

Jesus compares the scribes who are instructed in the kingdom of heaven to a householder who brings forth new and old things from his treasure.

1. The Kingdom of Heaven and the Scribe: Exploring the Parable of the Householder.

2. New and Old Treasures: Rediscovering What Matters in the Kingdom of Heaven.

1. Colossians 3:1-2, “If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth.”

2. Luke 12:33, “Sell your possessions, and give to the needy. Provide yourselves with moneybags that do not grow old, with a treasure in the heavens that does not fail, where no thief approaches and no moth destroys.”

Matthew 13:53 And it came to pass, that when Jesus had finished these parables, he departed thence.

Jesus taught a series of parables to the crowds before departing.

1. Jesus' parables teach us valuable lessons about God's kingdom and our lives.

2. Jesus used parables to illustrate the power of faith and obedience.

1. Matthew 7:24-27 - Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock:

2. Luke 18:15-17 - And they brought unto him also infants, that he would touch them: but when his disciples saw it, they rebuked them.

Matthew 13:54 And when he was come into his own country, he taught them in their synagogue, insomuch that they were astonished, and said, Whence hath this man this wisdom, and these mighty works?

Jesus amazed people with his wisdom and mighty works.

1: Jesus is the embodiment of wisdom and power.

2: Jesus is a source of hope and strength.

1: Proverbs 2:6-7 "For the Lord gives wisdom; from his mouth come knowledge and understanding. He stores up sound wisdom for the upright; he is a shield to those who walk in integrity."

2: Acts 10:38 "How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power. He went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him."

Matthew 13:55 Is not this the carpenter's son? is not his mother called Mary? and his brethren, James, and Joses, and Simon, and Judas?

This passage is about Jesus' family members being identified.

1. Jesus was a carpenter's son, but He was also so much more.

2. God works through ordinary people to accomplish extraordinary things.

1. Philippians 2:7-8 - "but made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross."

2. Matthew 12:46-47 - "While he yet talked to the people, behold, his mother and his brethren stood without, desiring to speak with him. Then one said unto him, Behold, thy mother and thy brethren stand without, desiring to speak with thee."

Matthew 13:56 And his sisters, are they not all with us? Whence then hath this man all these things?

This passage is about Jesus' family questioning his ability to perform miraculous works.

1. Jesus was able to perform miracles because He was sent from God.

2. Jesus was an example of faith and trust in God for followers of Him.

1. Isaiah 9:6 - For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

2. John 3:16-17 - For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

Matthew 13:57 And they were offended in him. But Jesus said unto them, A prophet is not without honour, save in his own country, and in his own house.

Jesus taught that prophets are not accepted in their own hometowns.

1. The Unrecognized Prophet: Knowing When to Push Through Opposition

2. Knowing Your Worth: Rejecting the Unfavorable Perception of Others

1. Jeremiah 1:5-7 - “Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations.”

2. Matthew 5:13-14 - “You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled under people's feet.”

Matthew 13:58 And he did not many mighty works there because of their unbelief.

Jesus did not perform many miracles in a certain place because the people did not believe in Him.

1. Believing is Seeing: How Faith Changes Our Lives

2. Unbelief: What Happens When We Don't Believe

1. Hebrews 11:6 - "And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him."

2. James 1:6-8 - "But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea that is driven and tossed by the wind. For that person must not suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways."

Matthew 14 is the fourteenth chapter of the Gospel of Matthew, which includes significant events such as the death of John the Baptist, Jesus feeding the five thousand, and Jesus walking on water.

1st Paragraph: The chapter begins with the account of Herod's reaction to Jesus' ministry and his mistaken belief that Jesus was John the Baptist raised from the dead (Matthew 14:1-12). Herod had imprisoned John due to his condemnation of Herod's unlawful marriage. However, during a birthday celebration, Herod made a rash promise to grant any request made by his stepdaughter. Prompted by her mother, she asked for John's head on a platter. Reluctantly, Herod fulfilled her request and had John executed.

2nd Paragraph: The narrative then shifts to Jesus feeding a large crowd with just five loaves of bread and two fish (Matthew 14:13-21). When Jesus learned about John's death, He withdrew to a solitary place. However, multitudes followed Him on foot. Seeing their need for food, Jesus had compassion on them and miraculously multiplied the loaves and fish to feed around five thousand men plus women and children. After everyone was satisfied, twelve baskets full of leftovers were collected.

3rd Paragraph: The chapter concludes with an extraordinary event where Jesus walks on water (Matthew 14:22-36). While His disciples were crossing the Sea of Galilee in a boat during a stormy night, they saw what they thought was a ghost walking toward them. But it was actually Jesus who reassured them not to be afraid. Peter requested permission to walk on water too but began sinking when he doubted. Jesus rescued him and calmed the storm as they reached their destination in Gennesaret. Upon arrival, many people recognized Him as "the Son of God" and brought their sick for healing.

In summary,

Chapter fourteen of Matthew recounts the death of John the Baptist at the hands of Herod, followed by Jesus' miraculous feeding of the five thousand with a few loaves and fish.

It also includes the extraordinary event of Jesus walking on water and rescuing Peter during a stormy night on the Sea of Galilee.

The chapter highlights Jesus' compassion for the multitudes, His divine power to perform miracles, and His authority over nature. It demonstrates His willingness to provide for physical needs and offers reassurance in times of fear. This chapter showcases both Jesus' humanity and His divine attributes as people recognize Him as "the Son of God" and seek healing from Him.

Matthew 14:1 At that time Herod the tetrarch heard of the fame of Jesus,

Herod hears of the fame of Jesus.

1. God's fame is far reaching and impacts all people, regardless of their beliefs or backgrounds.

2. Jesus' fame can be a light to those in darkness, allowing them to see their own potential.

1. Matthew 5:14-16 – “You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.”

2. Luke 4:18-19 – “The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.”

Matthew 14:2 And said unto his servants, This is John the Baptist; he is risen from the dead; and therefore mighty works do shew forth themselves in him.

John the Baptist is revealed as having risen from the dead, and his presence is manifested in mighty works.

1. The Power of Hope: John the Baptist's Resurrection

2. Living a Life of Miracles: Exploring John the Baptist's Legacy

1. Romans 4:17 - As it is written, “I have made you the father of many nations”—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

2. Mark 16:19 - So then the Lord Jesus, after he had spoken to them, was taken up into heaven and sat down at the right hand of God.

Matthew 14:3 For Herod had laid hold on John, and bound him, and put him in prison for Herodias' sake, his brother Philip's wife.

John the Baptist was arrested and imprisoned for opposing Herod's unlawful marriage.

1. The importance of standing up for what is right, even when it is difficult.

2. God can use our obedience to accomplish His will, even when it results in difficult consequences.

1. Acts 5:29 - “But Peter and the apostles answered, ‘We must obey God rather than men.’”

2. Matthew 10:28 - “And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell.”

Matthew 14:4 For John said unto him, It is not lawful for thee to have her.

John the Baptist warned Herod Antipas that it was not lawful to have his brother's wife, Herodias, as his own.

1: We must not be tempted to break God’s laws even when it is convenient.

2: We must remember that our actions have repercussions which can affect others.

1: Ephesians 5:3 – “But among you there must not be even a hint of sexual immorality, or of any kind of impurity, or of greed, because these are improper for God’s holy people.”

2: James 4:17 – “So whoever knows the right thing to do and fails to do it, for him it is sin.”

Matthew 14:5 And when he would have put him to death, he feared the multitude, because they counted him as a prophet.

Herod wanted to kill John the Baptist, but he was afraid to do so because the people viewed him as a prophet.

1. God's protection even in the face of danger

2. The power of public opinion

1. Psalm 23:4 - Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

2. Proverbs 29:25 - Fear of man will prove to be a snare, but whoever trusts in the Lord is kept safe.

Matthew 14:6 But when Herod's birthday was kept, the daughter of Herodias danced before them, and pleased Herod.

On Herod's birthday, his daughter danced and pleased him.

1. The Danger of Giving into Temptation

2. The Power of Pleasing Others

1. Colossians 3:17 - And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

2. James 4:7 - Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

Matthew 14:7 Whereupon he promised with an oath to give her whatsoever she would ask.

This passage explains how Herod promised to give Salome whatever she asked for, with an oath.

1. The Power of Vows - how an oath can bind us to do something and the importance of keeping our promises.

2. The Danger of Flattery - the consequences of giving in to temptation and how it can lead to impulsive decisions.

1. Ecclesiastes 5:5 - "Better not to vow than to vow and not fulfill it".

2. Psalm 15:4 - "He who swears to his own hurt and does not change".

Matthew 14:8 And she, being before instructed of her mother, said, Give me here John Baptist's head in a charger.

This passage describes Herodias' daughter's request to Herod for John the Baptist's head.

1. Even when faced with a difficult task or request, we must still strive for righteousness and wisdom.

2. We must be mindful of our decisions and how our actions can have lasting effects on those around us.

1. James 1:5-8 - “If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him. But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea that is driven and tossed by the wind. For that person must not suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.”

2. Proverbs 3:5-7 - “Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths. Be not wise in your own eyes; fear the Lord, and turn away from evil.”

Matthew 14:9 And the king was sorry: nevertheless for the oath's sake, and them which sat with him at meat, he commanded it to be given her.

The king kept his oath even though it caused him sorrow.

1: Keeping our word even when it is difficult.

2: Keeping promises, even when it is hard.

1: Psalm 15:4, "He who swears to his own hurt and does not change."

2: James 5:12, "But above all, my brothers, do not swear—not by heaven or by earth or by anything else. Let your “Yes” be yes, and your “No,” no, or you will be condemned."

Matthew 14:10 And he sent, and beheaded John in the prison.

John the Baptist's martyrdom: John the Baptist was beheaded as a result of King Herod's orders.

1. God's plan is greater than our own, and sometimes we must accept and endure suffering for him.

2. Our lives are transient, and our true reward lies in heaven.

1. Romans 8:18, "For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us."

2. 2 Corinthians 4:17-18, "For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal."

Matthew 14:11 And his head was brought in a charger, and given to the damsel: and she brought it to her mother.

John the Baptist was beheaded and his head was sent to the daughter of Herod, who then brought it to her mother.

1. The Power of Perseverance in the Face of Adversity

2. The Importance of Loyalty to One's Family

1. Psalm 118:6 - "The LORD is on my side; I will not fear. What can man do to me?"

2. Proverbs 17:17 - "A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for adversity."

Matthew 14:12 And his disciples came, and took up the body, and buried it, and went and told Jesus.

The disciples of Jesus took his body and buried it after he had died, and then told Jesus.

1. The Power of Love: How Jesus' Disciples Demonstrated Their Devotion Even After His Death

2. Caring for the Dead: The Example of Jesus' Disciples

1. Romans 12:15 - "Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn."

2. 1 Corinthians 13:13 - "And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love."

Matthew 14:13 When Jesus heard of it, he departed thence by ship into a desert place apart: and when the people had heard thereof, they followed him on foot out of the cities.

Jesus received news of a situation and decided to go to a remote place by boat. People heard of it and followed Him on foot from the cities.

1. "Trust in Jesus: When Life Gets Tough"

2. "God's Providence: Following Jesus in Faith"

1. Romans 8:28 - And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.

2. 1 Peter 5:7 - Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.

Matthew 14:14 And Jesus went forth, and saw a great multitude, and was moved with compassion toward them, and he healed their sick.

Jesus showed compassion to the sick and healed them.

1: Jesus calls us to show compassion and love to all, even those who are suffering.

2: Jesus shows us how to live our lives with unconditional love and care.

1: Luke 10:25-37 - The parable of the Good Samaritan.

2: 1 John 3:16-18 - God's love for us and His call for us to love one another.

Matthew 14:15 And when it was evening, his disciples came to him, saying, This is a desert place, and the time is now past; send the multitude away, that they may go into the villages, and buy themselves victuals.

The disciples of Jesus asked him to send the multitude away to buy food as it was evening and they were in a desert place.

1. God will provide for all our needs if we trust in Him.

2. We should take care of our brothers and sisters in need.

1. Philippians 4:19 - And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus.

2. James 2:15-17 - If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food, and

one of you says to them, “Go in peace, be warmed and filled,” without giving them the things needed for the body, what good is that?

Matthew 14:16 But Jesus said unto them, They need not depart; give ye them to eat.

Jesus showed compassion to the people by instructing his disciples to feed them.

1: Jesus teaches us to be compassionate and generous to those in need.

2: Jesus shows us that there is enough to go around when we share what we have.

1: Matthew 25:35-40 - For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat; I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink; I was a stranger and you invited me in.

2: 1 John 3:17-18 - If anyone has material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need but has no pity on them, how can the love of God be in that person? Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth.

Matthew 14:17 And they say unto him, We have here but five loaves, and two fishes.

Jesus feeds the 5,000 with five loaves and two fish.

1: Jesus is capable of providing for any need we have - no matter how small the resources.

2: Jesus' miracles show us His power and authority to provide for us.

1: Philippians 4:19 - And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus.

2: Isaiah 40:28-31 - Do you not know? Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable. He gives power to the faint, and to him who has no might he increases strength. Even youths shall faint and be weary, and young men shall fall exhausted; but they who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint.

Matthew 14:18 He said, Bring them hither to me.

Jesus asked the disciples to bring the people to Him so He could feed them.

1: Jesus demonstrates His love and care for us by providing for our needs.

2: We can trust in Jesus to provide for us even when we feel overwhelmed.

1: Philippians 4:19 - And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus.

2: Matthew 6:31-33 - Therefore do not be anxious, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ For the Gentiles seek after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.

Matthew 14:19 And he commanded the multitude to sit down on the grass, and took the five loaves, and the two fishes, and looking up to heaven, he blessed, and brake, and gave the loaves to his disciples, and the disciples to the multitude.

Jesus blessed the five loaves and two fish, broke them, and gave them to his disciples to give to the multitude.

1. Jesus' example of generosity and care for others.

2. The power of faith and blessing.

1. Philippians 4:19 - And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus.

2. Luke 12:22-34 - Then Jesus said to his disciples: “Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat; or about your body, what you will wear.

Matthew 14:20 And they did all eat, and were filled: and they took up of the fragments that remained twelve baskets full.

The disciples were able to feed a large crowd with a small amount of food.

1: God's provision is enough for all of our needs.

2: Trust in the Lord to provide.

1: Philippians 4:19 "And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus."

2: Proverbs 3:5-6 "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight."

Matthew 14:21 And they that had eaten were about five thousand men, beside women and children.

This passage speaks of the miraculous feeding of five thousand people with only five loaves of bread and two fish.

1. The Power of Faith: How Jesus Miraculously Fed Five Thousand People With Five Loaves and Two Fish

2. The Bread of Life: How Jesus Used Bread to Symbolize His Love for Mankind

1. John 6:1-14 – Jesus Feeds the Five Thousand

2. Luke 9:10-17 – Jesus Feeds the Four Thousand

Matthew 14:22 And straightway Jesus constrained his disciples to get into a ship, and to go before him unto the other side, while he sent the multitudes away.

Jesus instructed His disciples to enter a ship and set sail for the other side while He sent the multitudes away.

1: We should be obedient to the instructions of Jesus, even when we do not understand why.

2: We should be ready to follow Jesus wherever He leads us.

1: Luke 5:4-5 - "And when he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, “Put out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch.” And Simon answered, “Master, we toiled all night and took nothing! But at your word I will let down the nets.”

2: John 21:22 - Jesus said to him, “If it is my will that he remain until I come, what is that to you? You follow me!”

Matthew 14:23 And when he had sent the multitudes away, he went up into a mountain apart to pray: and when the evening was come, he was there alone.

Jesus sent away the multitudes and went up a mountain alone to pray in the evening.

1. Learning to be still and find time for prayer.

2. Growing closer to God through spending time with Him.

1. Philippians 4:6-7 - “Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.”

2. Psalm 63:1 - “O God, you are my God; earnestly I seek you; my soul thirsts for you; my flesh faints for you, as in a dry and weary land where there is no water.”

Matthew 14:24 But the ship was now in the midst of the sea, tossed with waves: for the wind was contrary.

The disciples were in a boat in the middle of the sea, being tossed by the waves due to strong winds.

1. Overcoming Adversity - Finding Strength in the Storms of Life

2. Faith in the Face of Fear - Learning to Trust in God's Plan

1. Isaiah 43:2 - “When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you.”

2. Psalm 46:1-3 - “God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear though the earth gives way, though the mountains be moved into the heart of the sea, though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble at its swelling.”

Matthew 14:25 And in the fourth watch of the night Jesus went unto them, walking on the sea.

In the fourth watch of the night, Jesus demonstrated His power by walking on the sea to the disciples.

1. Jesus' Power and Authority Over Nature

2. The Miraculous Provision of Jesus

1. Mark 6:45-51 - Jesus walking on water

2. Psalm 18:30 - God's power to save and protect

Matthew 14:26 And when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were troubled, saying, It is a spirit; and they cried out for fear.

The disciples were afraid when they saw Jesus walking on the sea.

1. Fear Not: Trust in the Lord's Power

2. Don't be Afraid to Take the Leap of Faith

1. Isaiah 41:10 - "So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand."

2. Psalm 46:1-3 - "God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea, though its waters roar and foam and the mountains quake with their surging."

Matthew 14:27 But straightway Jesus spake unto them, saying, Be of good cheer; it is I; be not afraid.

Jesus encourages his disciples to have courage and not be afraid.

1. "God is With Us: Overcoming Fear Through Faith"

2. "Be of Good Cheer: Relying on the Promise of Jesus"

1. Isaiah 41:10 - "Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand."

2. Hebrews 13:5-6 - "Keep your life free from love of money, and be content with what you have, for he has said, “I will never leave you nor forsake you.” So we can confidently say, “The Lord is my helper; I will not fear; what can man do to me?”

Matthew 14:28 And Peter answered him and said, Lord, if it be thou, bid me come unto thee on the water.

Peter answered Jesus when he called out to him, asking if it was truly Jesus speaking, and if it was, asking Jesus to bid him to come to him on the water.

1. The Power of Faith - How trusting in Jesus, like Peter, can bring us to places we never thought possible.

2. Taking Risks for Jesus - How taking risks to show our faithfulness to Jesus can lead to great rewards.

1. Ephesians 3:20 - Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us.

2. Romans 10:17 - So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.

Matthew 14:29 And he said, Come. And when Peter was come down out of the ship, he walked on the water, to go to Jesus.

Peter was instructed by Jesus to come to Him, and Peter did so by walking on water.

1. God's Power and Faith: How Peter Walked on Water.

2. Taking the Impossible Step of Faith with Jesus.

1. Hebrews 11:6 - "And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him."

2. John 14:6 - "Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."

Matthew 14:30 But when he saw the wind boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink, he cried, saying, Lord, save me.

Peter began to sink in the sea when he saw the strong wind and he cried out to the Lord to save him.

1. Overcoming Fear by Trusting in the Lord

2. Never Give Up Hope in Troubled Times

1. Matthew 8:25-26 - And his disciples came to him, and awoke him, saying, Lord, save us: we perish. And he saith unto them, Why are ye fearful, O ye of little faith?

2. Psalm 34:17-19 - The righteous cry, and the LORD heareth, and delivereth them out of all their troubles. The LORD is nigh unto them that are of a broken heart; and saveth such as be of a contrite spirit. Many are the afflictions of the righteous: but the LORD delivereth him out of them all.

Matthew 14:31 And immediately Jesus stretched forth his hand, and caught him, and said unto him, O thou of little faith, wherefore didst thou doubt?

Jesus saved Peter from drowning in the sea and rebuked him for having little faith.

1. The Power of Faith: How Jesus Can Help In Times of Doubt

2. The Love of Jesus: He Always Stands Ready to Help

1. Isaiah 41:10 - "Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand."

2. Hebrews 11:6 - "And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him."

Matthew 14:32 And when they were come into the ship, the wind ceased.

Jesus and his disciples get into a ship, and the wind immediately stops.

1. We can learn from Jesus' example of faith and trust in God.

2. We can find peace and comfort in God, even in turbulent times.

1. Psalm 56:3 “When I am afraid, I put my trust in you.”

2. Romans 8:28 “And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.”

Matthew 14:33 Then they that were in the ship came and worshipped him, saying, Of a truth thou art the Son of God.

The people in the boat were so amazed by Jesus's power that they worshipped Him, proclaiming Him to be the Son of God.

1. The Power of Jesus: How Jesus's Miraculous Acts Demonstrate His Divinity

2. Worship of Jesus: How We Proclaim the Truth of Jesus's Sonship

1. Isaiah 9:6 - For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.

2. John 3:16-17 - For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.

Matthew 14:34 And when they were gone over, they came into the land of Gennesaret.

Jesus and his disciples crossed the Sea of Galilee and arrived in the land of Gennesaret.

1. God provides us with the resources to reach our destination.

2. Even when it seems impossible, God can guide us to our desired place.

1. Isaiah 43:2 - "When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you."

2. Psalm 23:2 - "He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters."

Matthew 14:35 And when the men of that place had knowledge of him, they sent out into all that country round about, and brought unto him all that were diseased;

Jesus healed the sick in the region.

1: Jesus' Healing Miracles: How His Power Transcends Time and Space

2: Undeniable Miracles: Jesus' Power to Heal

1: Isaiah 53:5, "But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed."

2: Psalm 103:3, "Who forgiveth all thine iniquities; who healeth all thy diseases."

Matthew 14:36 And besought him that they might only touch the hem of his garment: and as many as touched were made perfectly whole.

The people of the crowd besought Jesus to allow them to touch the hem of His garment, and those who did were made whole.

1. The Power of Faith: Learning from the Crowd's Encounter with Jesus

2. The Miraculous Touch of Jesus: Experiencing Deliverance and Healing

1. Hebrews 11:1 - Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

2. Isaiah 53:5 - But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.

Matthew 15 presents Jesus' teachings on true purity, His healing miracles, and the feeding of the four thousand.

1st Paragraph: The chapter begins with Pharisees and teachers of the law accusing Jesus' disciples of breaking tradition by not washing their hands before eating (Matthew 15:1-2). Jesus counters them, criticizing their hypocrisy as they themselves break God's commandments for sake of tradition. He teaches that what defiles a person is not what goes into mouth but what comes out from heart - indicating moral impurity is more serious than ritual impurity (Matthew 15:10-20).

2nd Paragraph: Leaving Galilee for region of Tyre and Sidon, Jesus encounters a Canaanite woman who pleads for her demon-possessed daughter's healing (Matthew 15:21-28). Initially, Jesus responds that He was sent only to lost sheep of Israel. But moved by her faith expressed in persistent pleading and recognition of Him as Lord, He grants her request.

3rd Paragraph: Returning to Sea of Galilee, Jesus heals many people who are brought to Him - lame, blind, mute etc., causing crowd to marvel (Matthew 15:29-31). Finally in this chapter is miracle of feeding four thousand men besides women and children with seven loaves and few small fish (Matthew 15:32-39). Like earlier feeding five thousand miracle this too underscores His compassion towards needy and His divine power.

Matthew 15:1 Then came to Jesus scribes and Pharisees, which were of Jerusalem, saying,

This passage shows that the scribes and Pharisees from Jerusalem came to Jesus.

1. We should always strive to emulate Jesus and his teachings.

2. No matter our differences, Jesus loves and welcomes us all.

1. John 13:34-35 - "A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another."

2. Romans 12:10 - "Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another."

Matthew 15:2 Why do thy disciples transgress the tradition of the elders? for they wash not their hands when they eat bread.

This passage discusses the disciples of Jesus transgressing the tradition of the elders by not washing their hands when they eat bread.

1. The importance of following traditions and respecting authority.

2. Understanding why we do the things we do, instead of just following rules blindly.

1. Proverbs 3:5-6 "Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make straight your paths."

2. Colossians 3:17 "And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him."

Matthew 15:3 But he answered and said unto them, Why do ye also transgress the commandment of God by your tradition?

This passage speaks to the importance of following God’s commands rather than human traditions.

1. The Importance of Obedience to God's Commands

2. Don't Let Traditions Get in the Way of Doing What is Right

1. John 14:15 - “If you love me, you will keep my commandments.”

2. Deuteronomy 11:26-28 - “See, I am setting before you today a blessing and a curse: the blessing, if you obey the commandments of the LORD your God, which I command you today; and the curse, if you do not obey the commandments of the LORD your God.”

Matthew 15:4 For God commanded, saying, Honour thy father and mother: and, He that curseth father or mother, let him die the death.

God commands us to honor our parents and those who curse their parents will be punished.

1. A Call to Honor Our Parents - Respect and obedience to parents is the foundation of God's order.

2. The Consequences of Disrespect - Cursing one's parents is a serious offense that will have serious consequences.

1. Ephesians 6:1-3 - Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. “Honor your father and mother”—which is the first commandment with a promise— “so that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth.”

2. Proverbs 23:22 - Listen to your father, who gave you life, and do not despise your mother when she is old.

Matthew 15:5 But ye say, Whosoever shall say to his father or his mother, It is a gift, by whatsoever thou mightest be profited by me;

Jesus condemns the practice of offering a gift to God instead of honoring one's parents.

1. Honoring our parents is a commandment from God and a sign of our faith.

2. We should strive to put God's commandments above all else in our lives.

1. Ephesians 6:1-3 - "Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. Honor your father and mother—which is the first commandment with a promise—that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth."

2. Exodus 20:12 - "Honor your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the Lord your God is giving you."

Matthew 15:6 And honour not his father or his mother, he shall be free. Thus have ye made the commandment of God of none effect by your tradition.

This passage is a warning against disregarding the commands of God in favor of man-made traditions.

1: We must always remember to honor the Lord's commands above all else.

2: We must not neglect or substitute God's commands for our own traditions.

1: Deuteronomy 10:12-13 - "And now, Israel, what does the Lord your God require of you, but to fear the Lord your God, to walk in all his ways, to love him, to serve the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul, and to keep the commandments and statutes of the Lord, which I command you today for your good?"

2: Romans 12:2 - "Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect."

Matthew 15:7 Ye hypocrites, well did Esaias prophesy of you, saying,

This passage from Matthew 15:7 states that Jesus is accusing the Pharisees of hypocrisy and cites a prophecy from Isaiah about them.

1. "Hypocrisy in the Church"

2. "God's Judgment on the Unrighteous"

1. Isaiah 29:13 - “And the Lord said: “Because this people draw near with their mouth and honor me with their lips, while their hearts are far from me, and their fear of me is a commandment taught by men.”

2. James 2:10 - “For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become accountable for all of it.”

Matthew 15:8 This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with their lips; but their heart is far from me.

This passage speaks of people who outwardly show reverence to God, but their hearts are far from Him.

1: We must be careful not to just give lip service to God but to make sure that our hearts are truly devoted to Him.

2: It is easy to get caught up in outward appearances of religion, but we must make sure to have a heart full of reverence and love for God.

1: James 1:22 - Be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.

2: Luke 6:45 - A good man out of the good treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is good; and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is evil.

Matthew 15:9 But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men.

Jesus declares that it is vain to worship God if one is teaching doctrines that are based on the commandments of men instead of God's Word.

1. We Must Follow God’s Word and Not Our Own Desires

2. Worship God in Spirit and in Truth

1. John 4:24 - “God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.”

2. Psalm 119:172 - “My tongue shall speak of thy word: for all thy commandments are righteousness.”

Matthew 15:10 And he called the multitude, and said unto them, Hear, and understand:

Jesus teaches the importance of understanding the word of God.

1: We must strive to understand the word of God so that we can live according to His will.

2: It is essential to listen to and comprehend the teachings of Jesus in order to benefit from His love and grace.

1: Psalm 119:105 - "Your word is a lamp to guide my feet and a light for my path."

2: 2 Timothy 3:16-17 - "All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right."

Matthew 15:11 Not that which goeth into the mouth defileth a man; but that which cometh out of the mouth, this defileth a man.

This verse emphasizes that it's not what we consume that makes us impure, but what we say and how we act.

1: Our words have power. We must use them carefully and wisely.

2: We can't rely on external forces to make us holy; it's our inner thoughts and actions that matter.

1: James 3:8-10 - The tongue is a small part of the body, but it makes great boasts. Consider what a great forest is set on fire by a small spark.

2: Ephesians 4:29 - Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear.

Matthew 15:12 Then came his disciples, and said unto him, Knowest thou that the Pharisees were offended, after they heard this saying?

The Pharisees were greatly offended when Jesus spoke a certain saying.

1. Jesus' words were powerful and caused people to be offended. We must be careful in how we speak and act to avoid offending others.

2. Jesus spoke with authority and conviction, teaching us to stand up for what we believe in despite the consequences.

1. Colossians 4:6 - Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer everyone.

2. James 1:19-20 - Know this, my beloved brothers: let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger; for the anger of man does not produce the righteousness of God.

Matthew 15:13 But he answered and said, Every plant, which my heavenly Father hath not planted, shall be rooted up.

Jesus warns that anything not planted by God will eventually be uprooted.

1. "The Enduring Nature of God's Planting"

2. "Rooted in God's Love"

1. Isaiah 61:3 - To all who mourn in Israel, he will give a crown of beauty for ashes, a joyous blessing instead of mourning, festive praise instead of despair. In their righteousness, they will be like great oaks that the LORD has planted for his own glory.

2. Psalm 92:13 - They will still bear fruit in old age, they will stay fresh and green, proclaiming, “The LORD is upright; he is my Rock, and there is no wickedness in him.”

Matthew 15:14 Let them alone: they be blind leaders of the blind. And if the blind lead the blind, both shall fall into the ditch.

Blind leaders will lead those who follow them into danger.

1: We must be careful who we choose to follow.

2: God wants us to be wise in our decisions and to turn to Him for guidance.

1: Proverbs 3:5-6 - "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight."

2: Isaiah 30:21 - "Your ears will hear a word behind you, 'This is the way, walk in it,' whenever you turn to the right or to the left."

Matthew 15:15 Then answered Peter and said unto him, Declare unto us this parable.

Jesus teaches the importance of the heart in worship.

1: God Wants Our Heart

God desires our hearts first and foremost in worship. When we come before Him, our hearts should be the most important offering we give.

2: Honoring God With Our Lives

God desires us to honor Him with our lives. We should strive to do all things for His glory, not just the things we do in Church.

1: Matthew 22:37 - Jesus said to him, “‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.’

2: Proverbs 4:23 - Keep your heart with all diligence, for out of it spring the issues of life.

Matthew 15:16 And Jesus said, Are ye also yet without understanding?

Jesus expresses his disbelief at the lack of understanding of the people around him.

1: Even Jesus, the wisest of us all, was sometimes frustrated with the lack of understanding of his teachings.

2: We must seek to understand the teachings of Jesus before we can truly follow him.

1: James 1:5 - If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him.

2: Proverbs 2:6-9 - For the Lord giveth wisdom: out of his mouth cometh knowledge and

understanding. He layeth up sound wisdom for the righteous: he is a buckler to them that walk uprightly. He keepeth the paths of judgment, and preserveth the way of his saints. Then shalt thou understand righteousness, and judgment, and equity; yea, every good path.

Matthew 15:17 Do not ye yet understand, that whatsoever entereth in at the mouth goeth into the belly, and is cast out into the draught?

This passage from Matthew 15:17 explains that whatever goes into one's mouth eventually passes through and is expelled.

1: We must be careful about what we put into our bodies, as it will eventually be expelled.

2: We should be mindful of what we consume, as our bodies will eventually reject it.

1: Proverbs 4:23 - "Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life."

2: Philippians 4:8 - "Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things."

Matthew 15:18 But those things which proceed out of the mouth come forth from the heart; and they defile the man.

This passage speaks about the words we speak coming from our hearts, and how they can defile a person.

1. The Power of Words: How Our Words Can Defile Us

2. Speak Life: Letting Our Words Build Up Rather Than Tear Down

1. Proverbs 18:21 - Death and life are in the power of the tongue.

2. James 3:1-12 - A look at the power of the tongue and how it can deceive and cause great harm.

Matthew 15:19 For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies:

The passage speaks about the evil that originates in the human heart.

1: God calls us to turn away from our hearts of evil and turn to Him for righteousness.

2: We should strive to keep our hearts pure and free of evil thoughts and actions.

1: Proverbs 4:23 - Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life.

2: Jeremiah 17:9 - The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?

Matthew 15:20 These are the things which defile a man: but to eat with unwashen hands defileth not a man.

This passage speaks of how external actions do not necessarily define a person's spiritual state, emphasizing that it is not what goes into a person's body that matters, but rather what comes out of it.

1. "The Heart of the Matter: What's Inside Matters Most"

2. "Clean Hands or Clean Heart: The True Measure of Purity"

1. James 3:12 - "Can a fig tree, my brothers, bear olives, or a grapevine produce figs? Neither can a salt pond yield fresh water."

2. Proverbs 4:23 - "Above all else, guard your heart, for it is the wellspring of life."

Matthew 15:21 Then Jesus went thence, and departed into the coasts of Tyre and Sidon.

Jesus traveled to the coasts of Tyre and Sidon.

1. Jesus's willingness to go out of his way to reach all people.

2. The power of faith and how it can help us through difficult times.

1. Jeremiah 29:11 “For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope.”

2. Hebrews 11:1 “Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.”

Matthew 15:22 And, behold, a woman of Canaan came out of the same coasts, and cried unto him, saying, Have mercy on me, O Lord, thou son of David; my daughter is grievously vexed with a devil.

The woman of Canaan cried out to Jesus for mercy for her daughter who was grievously vexed with a devil.

1. The Power of Faith: Trusting in God's Ability to Heal

2. Overcoming Adversity: Relying on Jesus in Difficult Times

1. 1 Peter 5:7 - "Casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you."

2. James 4:6 - "But he gives more grace. Therefore it says, “God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble.”

Matthew 15:23 But he answered her not a word. And his disciples came and besought him, saying, Send her away; for she crieth after us.

Jesus refused to answer the Canaanite woman's request for healing, but his disciples implored him to send her away.

1. "The Power of Persistence: Trusting God in the Face of Difficulty"

2. "The Power of Intercession: How Jesus Responds to Our Prayers"

1. James 5:16 - "Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working."

2. 1 John 5:14-15 - "And this is the confidence that we have toward him, that if we ask anything according to his will he hears us. And if we know that he hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests that we have asked of him."

Matthew 15:24 But he answered and said, I am not sent but unto the lost sheep of the house of Israel.

Jesus' mission to the lost sheep of Israel.

1: Jesus' love and care for the lost sheep of Israel.

2: The importance of Jesus' mission to the lost sheep of Israel.

1: Isaiah 53:6 - "All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the Lord hath laid on him the iniquity of us all."

2: Psalm 23:1 - "The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want."

Matthew 15:25 Then came she and worshipped him, saying, Lord, help me.

A woman comes to Jesus and pleads for help.

1. Recognizing Jesus as Lord: A Study of Matthew 15:25

2. Overcoming Struggles and Finding Strength in Jesus Christ

1. Matthew 11:28-30 - Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

2. Isaiah 55:6-7 - Seek the Lord while he may be found; call upon him while he is near.

Matthew 15:26 But he answered and said, It is not meet to take the children's bread, and to cast it to dogs.

Jesus teaches us to prioritize those in need before ourselves.

1: We should always be willing to help those in need before ourselves.

2: Jesus teaches us to put the needs of others before our own.

1: Philippians 2:3-4 “Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves.”

2: James 2:15-17 “Suppose a brother or a sister is without clothes and daily food. If one of you says to them, ‘Go in peace; keep warm and well fed,’ but does nothing about their physical needs, what good is it?”

Matthew 15:27 And she said, Truth, Lord: yet the dogs eat of the crumbs which fall from their masters' table.

Jesus reveals God's love for all people, even those considered outsiders.

1: God's Love for the Outsiders - Luke 15:1-2

2: God's Mercy for All - Ephesians 2:4-7

1: Luke 15:1-2 "Now the tax collectors and sinners were all gathering around to hear Jesus. But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law muttered, “This man welcomes sinners and eats with them.”

2: Ephesians 2:4-7 “But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved. And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus.”

Matthew 15:28 Then Jesus answered and said unto her, O woman, great is thy faith: be it unto thee even as thou wilt. And her daughter was made whole from that very hour.

This passage describes Jesus praising a woman's great faith and healing her daughter from that same moment.

1. “The Power of Faith”

2. “The Blessing of Believing in Jesus”

1. Hebrews 11:6 - “And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.”

2. James 5:15 - “And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise them up. If they have sinned, they will be forgiven.”

Matthew 15:29 And Jesus departed from thence, and came nigh unto the sea of Galilee; and went up into a mountain, and sat down there.

Jesus departs from a place and goes to the sea of Galilee, then He ascends a mountain and sits there.

1. Jesus' Pattern of Prayer: How His Example Can Guide Us Today

2. The Power of Solitude: How Christ Connected with God in Isolation

1. Isaiah 55:8-9 “For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.”

2. Mark 1:35 “And in the morning, rising up a great while before day, he went out, and departed into a solitary place, and there prayed.”

Matthew 15:30 And great multitudes came unto him, having with them those that were lame, blind, dumb, maimed, and many others, and cast them down at Jesus' feet; and he healed them:

Jesus healed many people who had physical ailments, including the lame, blind, dumb, and maimed, when great multitudes of people gathered around Him.

1. Jesus is Our Healer - How God's Grace Provides Hope and Healing for All

2. The Power of Compassion - How God's Love Heals Physical and Spiritual Illness

1. Isaiah 53:4-5 - Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.

2. James 5:14-15 - Is any sick among you? let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord: And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him.

Matthew 15:31 Insomuch that the multitude wondered, when they saw the dumb to speak, the maimed to be whole, the lame to walk, and the blind to see: and they glorified the God of Israel.

The multitude had been amazed to witness the miraculous healing of the sick and infirm, praising God for His goodness.

1. God's Mercy and Compassion: Celebrating the Miracles of Jesus

2. The Power of Faith: How God's Love Transforms Us

1. Isaiah 35:5-6 - "Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then shall the lame man leap like a deer, and the tongue of the mute sing for joy."

2. Psalm 103:3-5 - "Who forgives all your iniquity, who heals all your diseases, who redeems your life from the pit, who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy."

Matthew 15:32 Then Jesus called his disciples unto him, and said, I have compassion on the multitude, because they continue with me now three days, and have nothing to eat: and I will not send them away fasting, lest they faint in the way.

Jesus showed compassion to a large crowd who had followed him for three days and were in need of food.

1. Compassion in Action: Jesus and His Followers

2. The Power of Faith: Jesus and the Multitude

1. James 2:15-16 - “If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food, and one of you says to them, “Go in peace, be warmed and filled,” without giving them the things needed for the body, what good is that?”

2. Romans 12:15 - “Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep.”

Matthew 15:33 And his disciples say unto him, Whence should we have so much bread in the wilderness, as to fill so great a multitude?

The disciples asked Jesus where they could find enough bread to feed a large crowd in the wilderness.

1. The Power of Provision: Trusting in God's Abundance

2. Overcoming Doubt: Finding Strength in the Lord

1. Philippians 4:19 - “And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus.”

2. Isaiah 41:10 - “So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.”

Matthew 15:34 And Jesus saith unto them, How many loaves have ye? And they said, Seven, and a few little fishes.

Jesus asked the disciples how many loaves and fishes they had, and they replied with seven loaves and a few fishes.

1. Jesus Cares for Our Needs - Taking what little the disciples had and multiplying it to feed the multitude demonstrates Jesus' willingness to provide for our needs.

2. Abundance in Scarcity - Jesus shows us that we can find abundance even in situations that seem to lack resources.

1. 2 Corinthians 9:8 - And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work.

2. Philippians 4:19 - But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory

by Christ Jesus.

Matthew 15:35 And he commanded the multitude to sit down on the ground.

Jesus fed the multitude with a few loaves of bread and some fish.

1. God provides for our needs despite our lack.

2. We are blessed to be able to be a blessing to others.

1. Philippians 4:19 - “And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus.”

2. Luke 6:38 - “Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.”

Matthew 15:36 And he took the seven loaves and the fishes, and gave thanks, and brake them, and gave to his disciples, and the disciples to the multitude.

The disciples gave the seven loaves and fishes to the multitude after Jesus gave thanks and broke them.

1. Jesus is a source of provision and blessing.

2. The power of gratitude.

1. Philippians 4:6-7 “Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.”

2. Ephesians 5:20 “giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

Matthew 15:37 And they did all eat, and were filled: and they took up of the broken meat that was left seven baskets full.

This passage describes the large number of people who were fed by Jesus and his disciples with seven loaves and two fish. After all of the people had eaten and were full, there were still seven baskets of broken pieces left over.

1. God can do unimaginable things with limited resources.

2. God’s abundance can feed us all.

1. John 6:12-13 – When they were filled, he said unto his disciples, Gather up the fragments that remain, that nothing be lost. Therefore they gathered them together, and filled twelve baskets with the fragments of the five barley loaves, which remained over and above unto them that had eaten.

2. Luke 9:16-17 – Then he took the five loaves and the two fishes, and looking up to heaven, he blessed them, and brake, and gave to the disciples to set before the multitude. And they did eat, and were all filled: and there was taken up of fragments that remained to them twelve baskets.

Matthew 15:38 And they that did eat were four thousand men, beside women and children.

This passage tells of Jesus feeding four thousand people, not including women and children.

1. "God's Abundance: The Miracle of Feeding the Multitudes"

2. "The Power of Jesus: Supernatural Provision for His People"

1. Isaiah 55:1 - "Come, all you who are thirsty, come to the waters; and you who have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without cost."

2. 2 Kings 4:42-44 - A man came from Baal Shalishah, bringing food from the firstfruits to the man of God: twenty loaves of barley and fresh ears of grain in his sack. Elisha said, “Give it to the people and let them eat.” But his servant said, “How can I set this before a hundred men?” He repeated, “Give it to the people and let them eat, for this is what the Lord says: ‘They will eat and have some left over.’” So he set it before them, and they ate and had some left over, according to the word of the Lord.

Matthew 15:39 And he sent away the multitude, and took ship, and came into the coasts of Magdala.

Jesus sent the crowd away and took a boat to the city of Magdala.

1. The Power of Jesus' Example: Jesus shows us how to be ready to serve others in humility and grace.

2. The Strength of Compassion: Jesus demonstrates his love for others by going out of his way to help them.

1. Philippians 2:3-4 “Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.”

2. Matthew 11:28-29 “Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.”

Matthew 16 presents Jesus' warnings about the teachings of the Pharisees and Sadducees, Peter's confession of Jesus as the Messiah, and Jesus' prediction of His death and resurrection.

1st Paragraph: The chapter begins with Pharisees and Sadducees testing Jesus by asking Him to show them a sign from heaven (Matthew 16:1-4). He rebukes them for their inability to interpret spiritual signs despite being able to interpret weather patterns. He tells them that no sign will be given except the "sign of Jonah," referring to His upcoming death and resurrection. Later, He warns His disciples about the leaven (teaching) of Pharisees and Sadducees which they understand as a warning against their doctrine.

2nd Paragraph: When asked about who people say He is, disciples give various answers – John the Baptist, Elijah or one of prophets. But when asked who they think He is, Peter confesses that Jesus is "the Christ, Son of living God" (Matthew 16:13-20). In response to this revelation given by Father in heaven not by flesh and blood, Jesus declares Peter blessed and upon this rock (Peter’s faith or his confession) He will build His church which gates of Hades will not overcome.

3rd Paragraph: After this high point comes first explicit prediction of His suffering - that he must go to Jerusalem where he will suffer many things at hands of elders chief priests scribes be killed but on third day raised up (Matthew 16:21-28). When Peter tries to dissuade Him from such path, Jesus sternly rebukes him for setting mind on human things rather than divine things. Then teaching about costliness yet worthiness following Him He states whoever wants save life will lose it but loses life for his sake find it

emphasizing eternal over temporal perspective.

Matthew 16:1 The Pharisees also with the Sadducees came, and tempting desired him that he would shew them a sign from heaven.

The Pharisees and Sadducees asked Jesus for a sign from heaven.

1. The Danger of Testing God

2. The Importance of Faith

1. Deuteronomy 6:16 – “Do not put the Lord your God to the test”

2. Hebrews 11:1 – “Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.”

Matthew 16:2 He answered and said unto them, When it is evening, ye say, It will be fair weather: for the sky is red.

Jesus teaches the crowd about their ability to predict the weather based on the sky's appearance.

1. God's Creation: Using the Natural World to Understand His Plan

2. The Power of Discernment: Knowing What God is Saying

1. Psalm 19:1-2 - "The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands."

2. 1 Corinthians 2:13-14 - "This is what we speak, not in words taught us by human wisdom but in words taught by the Spirit, explaining spiritual realities with Spirit-taught words. The person without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God but considers them foolishness, and cannot understand them because they are discerned only through the Spirit."

Matthew 16:3 And in the morning, It will be foul weather to day: for the sky is red and

lowring. O ye hypocrites, ye can discern the face of the sky; but can ye not discern the signs of the times?

Jesus rebukes the Pharisees and Sadducees for their lack of spiritual discernment, instead of recognizing the signs of the times.

1. Discernment in the Face of Trying Times

2. The Need for Spiritual Awareness in Modern Times

1. Jeremiah 6:16 – “Thus says the Lord: ‘Stand by the roads, and look, and ask for the ancient paths, where the good way is; and walk in it, and find rest for your souls.’”

2. Isaiah 5:20 – “Woe to those who call evil good and good evil, who put darkness for light and light for darkness, who put bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter!”

Matthew 16:4 A wicked and adulterous generation seeketh after a sign; and there shall no sign be given unto it, but the sign of the prophet Jonas. And he left them, and departed.

A wicked and adulterous generation is seeking signs, but the only sign they will be given is the sign of the prophet Jonas.

1. God knows the heart and will not be tested by the wicked.

2. The sign of the prophet Jonas shows us the power of God's grace.

1. Jonah 1:17 - Now the Lord had prepared a great fish to swallow up Jonah. And Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights.

2. Ezekiel 18:31 - Cast away from you all the transgressions which you have committed, and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit.

Matthew 16:5 And when his disciples were come to the other side, they had forgotten to take bread.

The disciples of Jesus had forgotten to take bread when they came to the other side.

1. The Need for Preparation: Lessons from the Disciples of Jesus

2. The Power of Faith: Overcoming Challenges with Jesus

1. Romans 12:12 - Rejoicing in hope; patient in tribulation; continuing instant in prayer.

2. Philippians 4:6-7 - Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

Matthew 16:6 Then Jesus said unto them, Take heed and beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and of the Sadducees.

Jesus warned his disciples to be aware of the teachings of the Pharisees and Sadducees.

1. Beware of False Teachings

2. Jesus' Warning to His Disciples

1. Ephesians 4:14 - That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine.

2. Acts 20:29-31 - For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock. Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them. Therefore watch, and remember, that by the space of three years I ceased not to warn every one night and day with tears.

Matthew 16:7 And they reasoned among themselves, saying, It is because we have taken no bread.

They were having false assumptions due to their hunger.

1: Our faith should not be swayed by our physical needs.

2: Seeking the Lord should be done wholeheartedly and with no ulterior motives.

1: Philippians 4:13 "I can do all things through Him who strengthens me."

2: Proverbs 3:5-6 "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths."

Matthew 16:8 Which when Jesus perceived, he said unto them, O ye of little faith, why reason ye among yourselves, because ye have brought no bread?

Jesus noticed that the disciples were worrying about not bringing bread and chastised them for their lack of faith.

1. "God's Provision: Focusing on Faith Instead of Fear"

2. "Worrying: What's the Point?"

1. Philippians 4:6-7 - “Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.”

2. Isaiah 41:10 - “Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.”

Matthew 16:9 Do ye not yet understand, neither remember the five loaves of the five thousand, and how many baskets ye took up?

Jesus reminds the disciples of the miraculous feeding of the 5,000 with five loaves and two fishes and how many baskets were taken up afterwards.

1. The Power of a Little Faith: Jesus shows us that a little faith can move mountains.

2. The Miracles of Jesus: How Jesus performed a miraculous feeding of the 5,000 with only five loaves and two fishes.

1. Mark 8:17-21 - Jesus feeds the 4,000 with seven loaves and a few small fish.

2. Luke 9:10-17 - Jesus feeds the 5,000 with five loaves and two fish.

Matthew 16:10 Neither the seven loaves of the four thousand, and how many baskets ye took up?

Jesus was teaching his disciples the importance of remembering what God has done in the past.

1: We should always remember the blessings God has given us in the past and how He has worked in our lives.

2: We should never forget how God has provided for us and how He has worked in our lives.

1: Matthew 6:31-33 - Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed? ... But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.

2: Psalm 103:2 - Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits.

Matthew 16:11 How is it that ye do not understand that I spake it not to you concerning bread, that ye should beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and of the Sadducees?

This passage highlights Jesus' warning to his disciples to be wary of the teachings of the Pharisees and Sadducees.

1. The Danger of False Teaching

2. Wisdom in Discernment

1. Ephesians 4:14 - That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive.

2. Acts 20:28-30 - Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood. For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock. Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them.

Matthew 16:12 Then understood they how that he bade them not beware of the leaven of bread, but of the doctrine of the Pharisees and of the Sadducees.

Jesus warned the disciples to beware of the teachings of the Pharisees and Sadducees, not the leaven of bread.

1. The Danger of False Doctrines

2. The Necessity of Biblical Discernment

1. Proverbs 4:7 - "Wisdom is the principal thing; therefore get wisdom: and with all thy getting get understanding."

2. Colossians 2:8 - "Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ."

Matthew 16:13 When Jesus came into the coasts of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, saying, Whom do men say that I the Son of man am?

Jesus asked his disciples who people thought he was.

1. "Who Do You Say Jesus Is?"

2. "The Importance of Knowing Jesus"

1. John 8:12 - Jesus said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

2. Colossians 2:9-10 - For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form, and in Christ you have been brought to fullness. He is the head over every power and authority.

Matthew 16:14 And they said, Some say that thou art John the Baptist: some, Elias; and others, Jeremias, or one of the prophets.

The people of Bethsaida and Caesarea Philippi asked Jesus if He was a prophet.

1. In times of uncertainty, we must turn to Jesus for guidance and answers.

2. We can learn from the people of Bethsaida and Caesarea Philippi to never waver in our faith in Jesus.

1. Isaiah 9:6 - For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.

2. John 14:6 - Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

Matthew 16:15 He saith unto them, But whom say ye that I am?

Jesus asked his disciples to declare who he was.

1: "Declare Who Jesus Is"

2: "Seeking to Know Our Lord"

1: Mark 8:29 - And he saith unto them, But whom say ye that I am?

2: Luke 9:20 - He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?"

Matthew 16:16 And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God.

Simon Peter declares that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God.

1. Jesus, the Son of God - Exploring the Divinity of Jesus

2. Knowing God - Experiencing the Living God in Our Lives

1. Isaiah 9:6 - For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The

mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.

2. John 1:1-5 - In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not anything made that was made. In him was life; and the life was the light of men. And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not.

Matthew 16:17 And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven.

God reveals the truth to us, and blesses us for accepting it.

1: We should be open to the truth that God reveals to us.

2: We should be thankful for God's blessings in our lives.

1: Isaiah 6:8 - “Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, “Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?” And I said, “Here am I. Send me!”

2: John 14:6 - Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

Matthew 16:18 And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

Jesus tells Peter that He will build His church upon him, and that no force of hell will be able to overcome it.

1. The Strength of the Church - focusing on Jesus' promise that the Church will never be overcome by the forces of hell.

2. The Foundation of the Church - exploring the importance of Peter and the role of faith in building the Church.

1. Isaiah 54:17 - No weapon formed against thee shall prosper; and every tongue that shall rise against thee in judgment thou shalt condemn.

2. Ephesians 6:11-12 - Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand

against the wiles of the devil. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.

Matthew 16:19 And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.

This passage discusses the authority given to Jesus over the kingdom of heaven.

1. The Power of Jesus: Understanding the Authority of the Keys to the Kingdom

2. Living a Life of Obedience: Embracing What Jesus Binds or Looses on Earth

1. Colossians 3:17 - And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

2. Matthew 7:21 - Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven.

Matthew 16:20 Then charged he his disciples that they should tell no man that he was Jesus the Christ.

This passage discusses Jesus instructing his disciples to not reveal his identity as the Christ.

1. A Life of Secrecy: Why Jesus Chose to Remain Unknown

2. A Call to Discretion: The Weight of Keeping the Lord's Secrets

1. Matthew 6:3-4 - "But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your giving may be in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you."

2. Proverbs 11:13 - "Whoever goes about slandering reveals secrets, but he who is trustworthy in spirit keeps a thing covered."

Matthew 16:21 From that time forth began Jesus to shew unto his disciples, how that he

must go unto Jerusalem, and suffer many things of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised again the third day.

Jesus begins to show his disciples that he is destined to suffer and be killed in Jerusalem, and that he will be resurrected three days later.

1. Jesus' Suffering and Resurrection: Understanding the Ultimate Sacrifice

2. The Power of Faith: How Jesus Demonstrated Courage and Perseverance

1. Romans 4:25 - "He was delivered up for our trespasses and raised for our justification."

2. 1 Corinthians 15:3-4 - "For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures."

Matthew 16:22 Then Peter took him, and began to rebuke him, saying, Be it far from thee, Lord: this shall not be unto thee.

Peter rebukes Jesus when he predicts his own death.

1. The Power of Discipleship: How to Follow Jesus, Even When It Hurts

2. The Cost of Commitment: Living a Life of Sacrifice for the Lord

1. Luke 9:23-25 - “And he said to all, ‘If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will save it. For what does it profit a man if he gains the whole world and loses or forfeits himself?’”

2. John 12:23-26 - “And Jesus answered them, ‘The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. Whoever loves his life loses it, and whoever hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life. If anyone serves me, he must follow me; and where I am, there will my servant be also. If anyone serves me, the Father will honor him.’”

Matthew 16:23 But he turned, and said unto Peter, Get thee behind me, Satan: thou art an offence unto me: for thou savourest not the things that be of God, but those that be of

men.

Jesus reprimanded Peter for not understanding the will of God.

1: We must seek to understand the will of God, not the will of men.

2: We must be willing to accept correction when we are not living up to God's standards.

1: Colossians 3:1-3 - "If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth. For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God."

2: Proverbs 3:5-6 - "Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths."

Matthew 16:24 Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.

Jesus instructs his disciples to deny themselves, take up their cross, and follow him.

1. The Power of Sacrifice: How Denying Yourself Can Bring You Closer to God

2. The Cross in Focus: How Taking Up Your Cross Can Lead to a Life of Faith

1. Philippians 3:7-8 - "But whatever were gains to me I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. What is more, I consider everything a loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them garbage, that I may gain Christ"

2. Mark 8:34-35 - "Then he called the crowd to him along with his disciples and said: “Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me and for the gospel will save it."

Matthew 16:25 For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it.

Whoever puts their trust in Jesus will find true life.

1: We must be willing to give up our lives in order to gain true life in Jesus.

2: We must put our trust in Jesus and be willing to sacrifice our lives in order to find true life.

1: Luke 9:23-24 - “And he said to them all, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me. For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: but whosoever will lose his life for my sake, the same shall save it.”

2: John 12:24-25 - “Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone: but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit. He that loveth his life shall lose it; and he that hateth his life in this world shall keep it unto life eternal.”

Matthew 16:26 For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?

This passage highlights the importance of prioritizing spiritual matters over worldly gains.

1. Our souls are of greater value than any earthly possession

2. Gain the world but not at the cost of your soul

1. Mark 8:36-37 - “For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?”

2. Luke 12:15 - “And He said to them, ‘Take heed and beware of covetousness, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of the things he possesses.’”

Matthew 16:27 For the Son of man shall come in the glory of his Father with his angels; and then he shall reward every man according to his works.

The Son of Man will come in glory with his angels to judge every person according to their deeds.

1. Living a Life of Righteousness: The Judgment of the Son of Man

2. Preparing for the Coming of the Son of Man: Seeking a Righteous Judgment

1. Ecclesiastes 12:14 “For God will bring every deed into judgment, with every secret thing, whether good or evil.”

2. Romans 2:6–8 “He will render to each one according to his works: to those who by patience in well-doing seek for glory and honor and immortality, he will give eternal life; but for those who are self-seeking and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, there will be wrath and fury.”

Matthew 16:28 Verily I say unto you, There be some standing here, which shall not taste of death, till they see the Son of man coming in his kingdom.

Jesus predicted that some of His disciples would see the Son of man coming in His kingdom before they died.

1: Jesus offers us hope in His promise of His return.

2: Be prepared for the coming of the Lord.

1: Revelation 22:12 - “Behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to give to every one according to his work.”

2: Acts 1:11 - “Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven.”

Matthew 17 narrates the Transfiguration of Jesus, His healing of a demon-possessed boy, and a lesson about faith and taxes.

1st Paragraph: The chapter begins with the Transfiguration of Jesus (Matthew 17:1-13). Jesus takes Peter, James, and John up a high mountain where He is transfigured before them - His face shines like the sun and His clothes become as white as light. Moses and Elijah appear talking with Him. Peter suggests making three shelters for them but while he is still speaking a bright cloud envelops them and voice from cloud says "This is my Son whom I love; with him I am well pleased. Listen to him!" When disciples hear this they fall facedown terrified but Jesus touches them saying not to be afraid. As they come down from mountain He instructs them not to tell anyone what they have seen until after He has been raised from dead.

2nd Paragraph: Upon their descent, they are met by a crowd including a man who pleads for his epileptic son who suffers terribly because of demon possession (Matthew 17:14-20). Disciples had tried to heal boy but failed so Jesus rebukes them for their lack of faith heals boy instantly demonstrating power that comes from faith even if it's as small as mustard seed.

3rd Paragraph: In private Jesus predicts His death and resurrection again causing disciples distress (Matthew 17:22-23). Then in Capernaum when collectors of two-drachma temple tax ask Peter whether his teacher pays tax, Peter answers yes (Matthew 17:24-27). But when he enters house before he speaks about it Jesus brings up matter himself explaining that though sons are exempt yet not to offend anyone He will pay it. To provide for this payment He tells Peter go fish in lake open first fish caught take coin found in its mouth which will be enough for both their taxes showing His supernatural knowledge provision respect for civil obligations.

Matthew 17:1 And after six days Jesus taketh Peter, James, and John his brother, and bringeth them up into an high mountain apart,

Jesus took three of his disciples to a mountain to receive a special revelation from God.

1. The Power of the Transfiguration: How Jesus Revealed His True Nature

2. The Three Disciples: How Jesus Called His Followers to a Special Mission

1. 2 Peter 1:16-18 - For we did not follow cleverly devised stories when we told you about the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ in power, but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty.

2. Mark 9:2-8 - After six days Jesus took Peter, James and John with him and led them up a high mountain, where they were all alone. There he was transfigured before them. His clothes became dazzling white, whiter than anyone in the world could bleach them.

Matthew 17:2 And was transfigured before them: and his face did shine as the sun, and his raiment was white as the light.

Jesus was transfigured before his disciples, his face shone like the sun and his clothing was white as light.

1. The Transfiguration of Jesus: A Call to Holiness

2. The Brilliance of Jesus: The Light of the World

1. 2 Corinthians 3:18 - “And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.”

2. Isaiah 6:1-3 - “In the year that King Uzziah died I saw the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up; and the train of his robe filled the temple. Above him stood the seraphim. Each had six wings: with two he covered his face, and with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. And one called to another and said: “Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory!”

Matthew 17:3 And, behold, there appeared unto them Moses and Elias talking with him.

This passage describes the appearance of Moses and Elijah to Jesus and the three of them talking together.

1: God honors those who honor Him by blessing them with special encounters.

2: We can learn much from Jesus' interactions with Moses and Elijah.

1: Hebrews 11:6 - For without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.

2: James 4:8 - Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded.

Matthew 17:4 Then answered Peter, and said unto Jesus, Lord, it is good for us to be here: if thou wilt, let us make here three tabernacles; one for thee, and one for Moses, and one for Elias.

Peter recognizes the glory of being in the presence of Jesus, Moses, and Elijah and wants to create a lasting memory of this special moment.

1. The Importance of Recognizing the Glory of Jesus

2. The Value of Creating Lasting Memories

1. John 1:14 - And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.

2. Ecclesiastes 3:11 - He hath made every thing beautiful in his time: also he hath set the world in their heart, so that no man can find out the work that God maketh from the beginning to the end.

Matthew 17:5 While he yet spake, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them: and behold a voice out of the cloud, which said, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear ye him.

This passage reveals God's approval of Jesus and emphasizes the importance of listening to Jesus.

1: We should listen to Jesus and follow his teachings.

2: We should be devoted to Jesus and trust in his words.

1: John 14:15, "If you love me, keep my commandments."

2: Acts 4:12, "Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved."

Matthew 17:6 And when the disciples heard it, they fell on their face, and were sore afraid.

This passage describes the disciples' reaction to Jesus' divine identity revealed to them.

1: We should respond to Jesus' divine identity with humility, awe, and reverence.

2: We should be willing to lay down our pride and fears in order to come to a greater understanding of who Jesus is.

1: Philippians 2:5-11 - Jesus humbled himself and submitted to God's will despite His divine identity.

2: Isaiah 6:5 - Isaiah's response of awe and reverence when he saw a vision of the Lord.

Matthew 17:7 And Jesus came and touched them, and said, Arise, and be not afraid.

This passage reveals Jesus comforting His disciples with a reassuring touch and gentle words.

1: "God's Love: Comforting in Times of Fear"

2: "The Power of Jesus: Overcoming Fear"

1: Isaiah 41:10 - "Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand."

2: 2 Timothy 1:7 - "For God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control."

Matthew 17:8 And when they had lifted up their eyes, they saw no man, save Jesus only.

The disciples saw only Jesus when they looked up.

1. God is Always with Us - No Matter What

2. Seeing Jesus in Everything We Do

1. Genesis 28:15 - "Behold, I am with you and will keep you wherever you go."

2. Colossians 3:17 - "And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him."

Matthew 17:9 And as they came down from the mountain, Jesus charged them, saying, Tell the vision to no man, until the Son of man be risen again from the dead.

The disciples were commanded by Jesus not to tell anyone about the vision they had seen until after He had risen from the dead.

1. Living with the Hope of the Resurrection

2. Preparing for the Day of the Lord

1. Job 19:25-27 - For I know that my Redeemer lives, and at the last he will stand upon the earth. And after my skin has been thus destroyed, yet in my flesh I shall see God, whom I shall see for myself, and my eyes shall behold, and not another.

2. Romans 8:18-25 - For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God.

Matthew 17:10 And his disciples asked him, saying, Why then say the scribes that Elias must first come?

Jesus' disciples asked him why the scribes taught that Elijah had to come first.

1. How the Teachings of Jesus Differ from the Teachings of the Scribes

2. The Importance of Asking Questions in Faith

1. Malachi 4:5-6 - "Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord."

2. James 1:5-6 - "If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him."

Matthew 17:11 And Jesus answered and said unto them, Elias truly shall first come, and restore all things.

Jesus tells the disciples that Elijah must come first to restore all things.

1. God's Perfect Timing: Preparing the Way for Redemption

2. The Power of Restoration: How God Can Transform Brokenness

1. Malachi 4:5-6 - "Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD: And he shall turn the heart of the fathers to the

children, and the heart of the children to their fathers, lest I come and smite the earth with a curse.”

2. Isaiah 40:3-5 - “The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain and hill shall be made low: and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough places plain: And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together: for the mouth of the LORD hath spoken it.”

Matthew 17:12 But I say unto you, That Elias is come already, and they knew him not, but have done unto him whatsoever they listed. Likewise shall also the Son of man suffer of them.

Jesus reveals that Elijah has already come and yet the people did not recognize him, and they treated him as they pleased. Jesus also states that the same will happen to the Son of Man.

1. Recognizing God's Presence in Unexpected Ways

2. Preparing for Suffering in Following God

1. Isaiah 53:3 - He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not.

2. Matthew 5:10-12 - Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake. Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you.

Matthew 17:13 Then the disciples understood that he spake unto them of John the Baptist.

The disciples came to understand that Jesus was referring to John the Baptist when He spoke to them.

1. We all have a purpose to fulfill in God's plan.

2. The importance of listening to the words of Jesus.

1. John 1:6-8, "There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. This man came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all through him might believe. He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light."

2. Matthew 4:17, "From that time Jesus began to preach, and to say, Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

Matthew 17:14 And when they were come to the multitude, there came to him a certain man, kneeling down to him, and saying,

This passage describes a man coming to Jesus to seek healing for his son.

1: We can turn to Jesus in our time of need and He will provide us with the healing we seek.

2: Even when we feel like we cannot turn to anyone else, Jesus is always ready to hear us and be our source of comfort.

1: Psalm 34:18 - The Lord is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit.

2: Hebrews 4:15-16 - For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet he did not sin. Let us then approach God’s throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.

Matthew 17:15 Lord, have mercy on my son: for he is lunatick, and sore vexed: for ofttimes he falleth into the fire, and oft into the water.

Jesus heals a boy who is possessed by a demon.

1: God's mercy is so great that he can bring healing to even the most dire of situations.

2: We should always turn to God in our time of need, trusting in his power to save us.

1: Psalm 107:19-20 - Then they cried to the LORD in their trouble and he saved them from their distress. He sent out his word and healed them; he rescued them from the

grave.

2: James 5:15-16 - And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise them up. If they have sinned, they will be forgiven. Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed.

Matthew 17:16 And I brought him to thy disciples, and they could not cure him.

This passage describes the disciples' inability to heal a boy with an evil spirit.

1: No matter how hard we try, we can't do it on our own. We must turn to Jesus for help.

2: We are limited in our power and capability, but God is greater than all of us combined.

1: John 15:5 - "I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing."

2: Philippians 4:13 - "I can do all this through him who gives me strength."

Matthew 17:17 Then Jesus answered and said, O faithless and perverse generation, how long shall I be with you? how long shall I suffer you? bring him hither to me.

Jesus rebuked the people for their lack of faith and patience.

1: Jesus calls us to have faith and patience in Him.

2: Jesus is patient and willing to forgive us, no matter how often we fail Him.

1: Hebrews 11:1 - "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen."

2: Romans 5:8 - "But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us."

Matthew 17:18 And Jesus rebuked the devil; and he departed out of him: and the child was cured from that very hour.

The devil was rebuked and the child was healed immediately.

1. The Power of Rebuke: A Study on Matthew 17:18

2. Healing Through Faith: A Look at Matthew 17:18

1. James 4:7 - "So submit yourselves to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you."

2. Isaiah 53:4-5 - "Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his stripes we are healed."

Matthew 17:19 Then came the disciples to Jesus apart, and said, Why could not we cast him out?

Jesus teaches his disciples the power of faith.

1: Trust in the Lord, and He will show you His strength!

2: Have faith even in the midst of the most trying times.

1: Hebrews 11:1 - Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.

2: Matthew 21:21-22 - And Jesus answered them, “Truly, I say to you, if you have faith and do not doubt, you will not only do what has been done to the fig tree, but even if you say to this mountain, ‘Be taken up and thrown into the sea,’ it will happen.

Matthew 17:20 And Jesus said unto them, Because of your unbelief: for verily I say unto you, If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, Remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible unto you.

The power of faith is emphasized as Jesus encourages believers to have faith as small as a mustard seed to move mountains.

1. "The Power of Faith"

2. "Moving Mountains with Faith"

1. Mark 11:22-24 - And Jesus answering saith unto them, Have faith in God. For verily I say unto you, That whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith.

2. Hebrews 11:1- Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

Matthew 17:21 Howbeit this kind goeth not out but by prayer and fasting.

This passage explains that prayer and fasting are necessary for spiritual strength and power.

1: We must be dedicated in prayer and fasting in order to experience the power of God.

2: Fasting and prayer bring us closer to God and open up spiritual power.

1: Philippians 4:6-7 - Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

2: James 5:16 - Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.

Matthew 17:22 And while they abode in Galilee, Jesus said unto them, The Son of man shall be betrayed into the hands of men:

Answer:

The Son of Man will be betrayed into the hands of men.

1. God's Faithfulness in the Face of Betrayal

2. Knowing God's Plan in the Midst of Persecution

1. Isaiah 53:7-12

2. John 13:21-30

Matthew 17:23 And they shall kill him, and the third day he shall be raised again. And they were exceeding sorry.

Jesus tells his disciples that he will be killed and will be raised again on the third day, and his disciples are saddened by the news.

1. “The Power of Faith in the Face of Adversity”

2. “Trusting in Jesus even in the Most Difficult Times”

1. Romans 8:28 - And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.

2. Hebrews 11:1 - Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

Matthew 17:24 And when they were come to Capernaum, they that received tribute money came to Peter, and said, Doth not your master pay tribute?

Tax collectors approached Peter in Capernaum and asked if Jesus paid his taxes.

1. The Power of Obedience: Understanding the Benefits of Submitting to Authority

2. Giving to Caesar: Our Responsibility to Pay Taxes

1. Romans 13:1-7 - Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God.

2. Philippians 4:4-9 - Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice. Let your

reasonableness be known to everyone.

Matthew 17:25 He saith, Yes. And when he was come into the house, Jesus prevented him, saying, What thinkest thou, Simon? of whom do the kings of the earth take custom or tribute? of their own children, or of strangers?

Jesus asked Simon if kings of the earth take taxes from their own children or strangers.

1. God's Love for His Children: How Jesus Cares for Us

2. The Nature of Taxes: Who Bears the Burden?

1. Romans 8:15-17 - For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, “Abba! Father!”

2. Hebrews 13:5-6 - Keep your life free from love of money, and be content with what you have, for he has said, “I will never leave you nor forsake you.”

Matthew 17:26 Peter saith unto him, Of strangers. Jesus saith unto him, Then are the children free.

Jesus teaches that children are exempt from paying temple tax.

1. God's grace and mercy for children

2. What it means to be "free" in Christ

1. Galatians 3:26-27 - In Christ, there is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free.

2. Romans 8:15-17 - We are heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ if we suffer with Him.

Matthew 17:27 Notwithstanding, lest we should offend them, go thou to the sea, and cast an hook, and take up the fish that first cometh up; and when thou hast opened his mouth, thou shalt find a piece of money: that take, and give unto them for me and thee.

Jesus teaches to be respectful towards others, even if it requires a sacrifice.

1: Jesus calls us to put others before ourselves.

2: We must always strive to be respectful, no matter the cost.

1: Philippians 2:3-4 “Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.”

2: 1 Peter 4:8-9 “Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins. Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling. Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God’s grace in its various forms.”

Matthew 18 discusses the nature of true greatness in the kingdom of heaven, the parable of the lost sheep, guidelines for church discipline, and the parable of the unmerciful servant.

1st Paragraph: The chapter begins with Jesus' disciples asking who is greatest in kingdom of heaven (Matthew 18:1-5). In response, Jesus places a little child among them and says that unless they change and become like children - humble and trusting - they will never enter kingdom. He also warns against causing one of these little ones who believe in Him to stumble.

2nd Paragraph: Next comes Parable of Lost Sheep where Jesus illustrates God's love for each individual and His desire not to lose any (Matthew 18:10-14). Then Jesus gives instructions on how to deal with sin within community. If a brother sins against you go show him his fault just between two if he listens you have won your brother over but if he does not listen take one or two others along then if he refuses to listen tell it to church if he refuses even then treat him as pagan or tax collector emphasizing importance reconciliation restoration accountability within body Christ (Matthew 18:15-20).

3rd Paragraph: Peter asks how many times should we forgive someone who sins against us. Seven times? Jesus replies not seven but seventy-seven times illustrating this point with Parable Unmerciful Servant (Matthew 18:21-35). In this story a king forgives enormous debt his servant owes but same servant refuses forgive small debt another servant owes him when king hears about it he calls first servant back in throws him jail until can pay all his debt So will my heavenly Father do you unless each forgives brother from heart showing importance forgiveness Christian life.

Matthew 18:1 At the same time came the disciples unto Jesus, saying, Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?

The disciples asked Jesus who was the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.

1. Our worth is not measured by rank, but by faith in Jesus.

2. We should strive to be the least in the kingdom of heaven.

1. Matthew 20:26-27 - "But it shall not be so among you: but whosoever will be great among you, let him be your minister; And whosoever will be chief among you, let him be your servant."

2. Matthew 23:11-12 - "But he that is greatest among you shall be your servant. And whosoever shall exalt himself shall be abased; and he that shall humble himself shall be exalted."

Matthew 18:2 And Jesus called a little child unto him, and set him in the midst of them,

Jesus teaches on humility and childlike faith by using a little child as an example.

1: The Power of Humility - Having a humble attitude and learning from children can bring us closer to God.

2: The Importance of Childlike Faith - We must embrace the simple faith of a child in order to have a relationship with God.

1: Matthew 18:3 - "And said, Verily I say unto you, Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven."

2: James 4:6-10 - "But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble. Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded. Be afflicted, and mourn, and weep: let your laughter be turned to mourning, and your joy to heaviness. Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up."

Matthew 18:3 And said, Verily I say unto you, Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven.

This passage is about Jesus telling his disciples that one must be converted and become like a child in order to enter the kingdom of heaven.

1. The Power of Humility: The Path to Heaven Through Child-Like Faith

2. The Importance of Conversion: Becoming a Child of God

1. James 4:10 - "Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you."

2. Ephesians 2:8-9 - "For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast."

Matthew 18:4 Whosoever therefore shall humble himself as this little child, the same is greatest in the kingdom of heaven.

This verse encourages humility and teaches that this is the greatest virtue to possess in the kingdom of heaven.

1. ?□he Virtue of Humility: A Model for Kingdom Living??

2. ?□he Blessing of Humbling Yourself: A Study of Matthew 18:4??

1. Philippians 2:3-8 - ?□o nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others. In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death??even death on a cross!??

2. James 4:6 - ?□ut he gives us more grace. That is why Scripture says: ?□od opposes the proud but shows favor to the humble.?□□?

Matthew 18:5 And whoso shall receive one such little child in my name receiveth me.

Jesus teaches that receiving a child in His name is to receive Him.

1. "The Makeup of a True Believer: Reception of Children"

2. "The Nature of the Kingdom: Receiving Jesus Through a Child"

1. James 1:27 - "Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unstained from the world."

2. Luke 18:15-17 - "Now they were bringing even infants to him that he might touch them. And when the disciples saw it, they rebuked them. But Jesus called them to him, saying, ?□et the children come to me, and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of God. Truly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child shall not enter it.??

Matthew 18:6 But whoso shall offend one of these little ones which believe in me, it were better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and that he were drowned in the depth of the sea.

Jesus warns that those who cause harm to one of his followers should be punished severely.

1. The Consequences of Offending God's Children

2. The Power of Jesus' Words

1. Psalm 34:18 ?□he Lord is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit.??

2. Proverbs 14:31 ?□hoever oppresses the poor shows contempt for their Maker, but whoever is kind to the needy honors God.??

Matthew 18:7 Woe unto the world because of offences! for it must needs be that offences come; but woe to that man by whom the offence cometh!

Offences are unavoidable but woe to those who cause them.

1. "The Danger of Offenses"

2. "The Responsibility of Offending Others"

1. Luke 17:1-2 - Jesus instructs us to take heed and watch ourselves, so that we do not become a stumbling block to others.

2. James 3:2 - We must be careful in our words and actions so that we do not cause offences.

Matthew 18:8 Wherefore if thy hand or thy foot offend thee, cut them off, and cast them from thee: it is better for thee to enter into life halt or maimed, rather than having two hands or two feet to be cast into everlasting fire.

Jesus instructs us to remove anything that causes us to sin, even if it means sacrificing physical comforts, as it is better to suffer temporal loss than eternal punishment.

1. "The Cost of Committing Sin"

2. "The Benefit of Removing Temptations"

1. James 1:14-15 - "But each person is tempted when he is drawn away and enticed by his own evil desires. Then after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death."

2. Romans 6:23 - "For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."

Matthew 18:9 And if thine eye offend thee, pluck it out, and cast it from thee: it is better for thee to enter into life with one eye, rather than having two eyes to be cast into hell fire.

Jesus encourages us to take extreme measures to stay away from sin, even if it means blindness, for the consequences of sin are much worse than physical disability.

1: The Greater the Sacrifice, the Greater the Reward

2: The Consequences of Sin are Grave

1: 1 Corinthians 6:18, "Flee from sexual immorality. Every other sin a person commits is outside the body, but the sexually immoral person sins against their own body."

2: Romans 12:1-2, "I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect."

Matthew 18:10 Take heed that ye despise not one of these little ones; for I say unto you, That in heaven their angels do always behold the face of my Father which is in heaven.

God warns us to be careful not to mistreat the vulnerable members of society, as they are constantly watched over by angels in heaven.

1. The Power of Compassion: How to Treat the Vulnerable with Dignity.

2. Living with Love: Understanding the Value of the Little Ones.

1. James 1:27 - "Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world."

2. Matthew 25:40 - "The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.?□□?

Matthew 18:11 For the Son of man is come to save that which was lost.

Jesus has come to save the lost.

1. The Power of Redemption - How Jesus Saves the Lost

2. A Call to Action - Taking Up the Mission to Reach the Lost

1. Luke 19:10 - ?□or the Son of Man has come to seek and to save the lost.??

2. Romans 5:8 - ?□ut God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.??

Matthew 18:12 How think ye? if a man have an hundred sheep, and one of them be gone astray, doth he not leave the ninety and nine, and goeth into the mountains, and seeketh that which is gone astray?

Jesus tells a parable of a shepherd who leaves his ninety-nine sheep in search of the one that is lost.

1. God's Love for the Lost - Reflecting on the Parable of the Lost Sheep

2. The Joy of Finding the Lost - Celebrating the Shepherd's Faithfulness

1. Luke 15:3-7 - Parable of the Lost Sheep

2. Ezekiel 34:11-16 - God's Care for His Sheep

Matthew 18:13 And if so be that he find it, verily I say unto you, he rejoiceth more of that sheep, than of the ninety and nine which went not astray.

Jesus teaches that when one lost sheep is found, there is more rejoicing than from the ninety-nine who had not gone astray.

1. The Joy of Finding Lost Sheep

2. The Power of One: Impact of One Person's Actions

1. Luke 15:3-7, Parable of the Lost Sheep

2. Luke 15:11-32, Parable of the Prodigal Son

Matthew 18:14 Even so it is not the will of your Father which is in heaven, that one of these little ones should perish.

God's will is that no child should perish.

1: We should all strive to protect the young and innocent, that God's will may be done on earth.

2: We should all strive to love and be kind to one another, as God loves us all.

1: 1 John 4:7-8 Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God. He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love.

2: Matthew 7:12 Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them: for this is the law and the prophets.

Matthew 18:15 Moreover if thy brother shall trespass against thee, go and tell him his fault between thee and him alone: if he shall hear thee, thou hast gained thy brother.

This passage encourages us to go to our brother, who has wronged us, in private and try to resolve the issue.

1. The Power of Reconciliation: How to Restore Relationships with Others

2. Forgiveness: Loving Our Enemies

1. Ephesians 4:32 - "Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you."

2. Luke 6:37 - "Do not judge, and you will not be judged. Do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven."

Matthew 18:16 But if he will not hear thee, then take with thee one or two more, that in the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established.

Jesus instructs his followers to take one or two others with them when confronting someone who has sinned, so that the truth may be established.

1. The Power of Community: Finding Strength Through Unity

2. The Blessing of Accountability: the Support of Testimony

1. Galatians 6:1-2 - Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual,

restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted.

2. Ephesians 4:32 - And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.

Matthew 18:17 And if he shall neglect to hear them, tell it unto the church: but if he neglect to hear the church, let him be unto thee as an heathen man and a publican.

This passage teaches that if someone does not listen to the church's counsel, they should be treated as an outsider.

1. The Importance of Obeying God's Commands

2. The Power of the Church to Transform Lives

1. Hebrews 13:17 - Obey your leaders and submit to their authority. They keep watch over you as men who must give an account. Obey them so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no advantage to you.

2. 1 Timothy 3:15 - if I am delayed, you will know how people ought to conduct themselves in God's household, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and foundation of the truth.

Matthew 18:18 Verily I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever ye shall loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.

This verse is a reminder that our words and actions have the power to make a difference in the spiritual realm.

1. The Power of Our Words: How We Can Make an Impact in the Spiritual Realm

2. The Authority and Responsibility of Believers: Understanding What We Can Do on Earth and in Heaven

1. James 3:2-5 - "For we all stumble in many ways. And if anyone does not stumble in what he says, he is a perfect man, able also to bridle his whole body. If we put bits into the mouths of horses so that they obey us, we guide their whole bodies as well. Look at the ships also: though they are so large and are driven by strong winds, they are guided

by a very small rudder wherever the will of the pilot directs. So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great things."

2. Proverbs 18:21 - "Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and those who love it will eat its fruits."

Matthew 18:19 Again I say unto you, That if two of you shall agree on earth as touching any thing that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father which is in heaven.

This passage speaks of the power of agreement and unity among believers.

1: The Power of Unity - Matthew 18:19

2: The Strength of Agreement - Matthew 18:19

1: Ecclesiastes 4:9-12 - Two are better than one; because they have a good reward for their labour.

2: Philippians 2:2 - Fulfill ye my joy, that ye be likeminded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind.

Matthew 18:20 For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.

Jesus encourages us to come together in his name, as wherever two or three are gathered in his name, he is in their midst.

1. The Power of Togetherness: How Jesus Unites Us

2. Drawing Strength from Jesus: How We Can Rely on Him

1. Philippians 4:13: ?□ can do all things through him who strengthens me.??

2. 1 John 4:4: ?□ittle children, you are from God and have overcome them, for he who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.??

Matthew 18:21 Then came Peter to him, and said, Lord, how oft shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? till seven times?

Jesus teaches that we should forgive unlimited times.

1. Unconditional Forgiveness: God's Example of Grace

2. The Power of Grace: Understanding the Unconditional Forgiveness of Christ

1. Ephesians 4:32 - "Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you."

2. Colossians 3:13 - "Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you."

Matthew 18:22 Jesus saith unto him, I say not unto thee, Until seven times: but, Until seventy times seven.

Jesus tells a parable in which he advises to forgive someone not only seven times, but seventy times seven.

1. The Power of Forgiveness: Exploring the Depth of God's Grace.

2. How to Love Unconditionally: Understanding the Boundless Mercy of Jesus.

1. Colossians 3:13 - "Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you."

2. Ephesians 4:32 - "Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you."

Matthew 18:23 Therefore is the kingdom of heaven likened unto a certain king, which would take account of his servants.

A parable is given to illustrate a comparison between the kingdom of heaven and a king who wants to keep a record of his servants.

1. The Parable of the King and His Servants: Understanding the Mercy of God

2. The Parable of the King and His Servants: The Importance of Humility

1. Luke 16:1-13, The Parable of the Unjust Steward

2. Psalm 103:8-14, God's Unfailing Love and Mercy

Matthew 18:24 And when he had begun to reckon, one was brought unto him, which owed him ten thousand talents.

This passage describes a man who owes a large sum of money to someone else.

1: God's forgiveness is greater than our debts.

2: The importance of understanding how we are forgiven by God.

1: Isaiah 43:25 - "I, even I, am he who blots out your transgressions, for my own sake, and remembers your sins no more."

2: Psalm 103:12 - "As far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us."

Matthew 18:25 But forasmuch as he had not to pay, his lord commanded him to be sold, and his wife, and children, and all that he had, and payment to be made.

A man fails to repay a debt to his lord, so the lord orders him to be sold along with his family and possessions.

1. The consequences of not paying debt.

2. The importance of being honest and responsible with finances.

1. Proverbs 22:7 ?he rich rules over the poor, and the borrower is servant to the lender.??

2. Matthew 6:19-21 ?□o not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.??

Matthew 18:26 The servant therefore fell down, and worshipped him, saying, Lord, have patience with me, and I will pay thee all.

The servant humbly begged for patience and promised to pay his debt in full.

1: We should humbly ask for patience when we are in debt and take responsibility for our actions.

2: We should not be prideful but instead humble ourselves and ask for mercy in times of need.

1: Luke 18:13-14, ?□ut the tax collector stood at a distance. He would not even look up to heaven, but beat his breast and said, ?□od, have mercy on me, a sinner.??I tell you that this man, rather than the other, went home justified before God.??

2: James 4:6-7, ?□ut he gives us more grace. That is why Scripture says: ?□od opposes the proud but shows favor to the humble.??Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.??

Matthew 18:27 Then the lord of that servant was moved with compassion, and loosed him, and forgave him the debt.

The lord showed compassion and forgave the servant's debt.

1. The Power of Compassion - How Compassion Can Lead to Forgiveness

2. Forgiveness is a Choice - Choosing to Forgive Despite the Circumstances

1. Colossians 3:13 - "bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive."

2. Matthew 6:14-15 - "For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you, but if you do not forgive others their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.??

Matthew 18:28 But the same servant went out, and found one of his fellowservants, which owed him an hundred pence: and he laid hands on him, and took him by the throat, saying, Pay me that thou owest.

A servant was owed money by another and attempted to force payment by taking his fellow servant by the throat.

1. The Power of Forgiveness

2. The Price of Greed

1. Luke 6:37 - "Judge not, and ye shall not be judged: condemn not, and ye shall not be condemned: forgive, and ye shall be forgiven."

2. Ezekiel 18:20 - "The soul that sinneth, it shall die. The son shall not bear the iniquity of the father, neither shall the father bear the iniquity of the son: the righteousness of the righteous shall be upon him, and the wickedness of the wicked shall be upon him."

Matthew 18:29 And his fellowservant fell down at his feet, and besought him, saying, Have patience with me, and I will pay thee all.

The servant asked for patience in paying his debt.

1: God's patience is a blessing for us and should be applied in our lives.

2: We should show appreciation for the patience of others and not take advantage of it.

1: Ephesians 4:2 - ?□ith all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love.??

2: Colossians 3:13 - ?□earing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive.??

Matthew 18:30 And he would not: but went and cast him into prison, till he should pay the debt.

A man refused to pay his debt, so he was thrown in prison until the debt was paid.

1. The Consequence of Unpaid Debts: Matthew 18:30

2. The Spiritual Cost of Financial Debt: Matthew 18:30

1. Proverbs 22:7 - The rich ruleth over the poor, and the borrower is servant to the lender.

2. Romans 13:8 - Owe no man any thing, but to love one another.

Matthew 18:31 So when his fellowservants saw what was done, they were very sorry, and came and told unto their lord all that was done.

The master's servants were very sorry when they saw the master's harshness towards the debtor.

1. The importance of showing mercy and compassion instead of judgement and anger.

2. Recognizing the consequences of our actions and being willing to take responsibility for them.

1. Luke 6:36-37 ?□e merciful, just as your Father is merciful. Do not judge, and you will not be judged. Do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven.??

2. Galatians 6:7-8 ?□o not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows. Whoever sows to please their flesh, from the flesh will reap destruction; whoever sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life.??

Matthew 18:32 Then his lord, after that he had called him, said unto him, O thou wicked servant, I forgave thee all that debt, because thou desiredst me:

The master forgave the servant?□ debt due to his request.

1: God is always willing to forgive our sins no matter how great the debt we owe Him.

2: We should always ask God for forgiveness, no matter how great our sins are.

1: Ephesians 1:7 ?In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace.??

2: Psalm 103:12 ?As far as the east is from the west, so far does he remove our transgressions from us.??

Matthew 18:33 Shouldest not thou also have had compassion on thy fellowservant, even as I had pity on thee?

Jesus teaches us to have compassion and forgive others just as God forgave us.

1. God's Mercy: The Power of Forgiveness

2. Understanding Compassion: A Study of Jesus' Teaching in Matthew 18:33

1. Ephesians 4:32 - "Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you."

2. Luke 6:36 - "Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful."

Matthew 18:34 And his lord was wroth, and delivered him to the tormentors, till he should pay all that was due unto him.

A servant owes a debt to his lord, but is unable to pay. In his anger, the lord delivers him to the tormentors until the debt is paid in full.

1. The Cost of Disobedience: Understanding the Consequences of Sin

2. The Power of Grace: How God's Mercy Can Overcome our Debt

1. Romans 6:23, "For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord".

2. Colossians 2:13-14, "And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the

uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross".

Matthew 18:35 So likewise shall my heavenly Father do also unto you, if ye from your hearts forgive not every one his brother their trespasses.

This verse speaks of the importance of forgiving our brothers from the heart for their transgressions.

1. The Power of Forgiveness - How our willingness to forgive can bring us closer to God.

2. The Mercy of God - Exploring God's grace and His willingness to forgive us.

1. Colossians 3:13 - Bearing with one another and forgiving each other if anyone has a complaint against another.

2. Ephesians 4:32 - Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.

Matthew 19 discusses Jesus' teachings on divorce, the blessing of the children, the rich young man's encounter with Jesus, and a discourse on rewards in the kingdom of heaven.

1st Paragraph: The chapter begins with Pharisees testing Jesus about whether it is lawful for a man to divorce his wife for any cause (Matthew 19:1-9). Jesus refers them back to creation order where God made them male and female and instituted marriage as a lifelong union. He asserts that what God has joined together, no human should separate. He acknowledges Moses allowed divorce because of their hard hearts but clarifies it was not so from beginning and anyone who divorces his wife except for sexual immorality and marries another commits adultery.

2nd Paragraph: Next, people bring little children to Him for His blessing. When disciples try to rebuke them, Jesus insists on letting children come to Him saying kingdom of heaven belongs such as these (Matthew 19:13-15), highlighting childlike faith as model for discipleship.

3rd Paragraph: Then comes encounter with rich young man who asks what good thing he must do to get eternal life (Matthew 19:16-30). After initial discussion about commandments which young man claims he has kept all from youth, Jesus tells him one thing he lacks - sell possessions give poor have treasure in heaven follow me. But hearing this man goes away sad because he had great wealth showing difficulty riches

pose in entering kingdom. This leads into teaching that it is easier camel go through eye needle than rich person enter kingdom but what is impossible humans possible God Peter then asks about reward those who have left everything follow him which prompts assurance they will receive hundredfold inherit eternal life but also cautionary note first will be last last first indicating divine standards are different from worldly ones.

Matthew 19:1 And it came to pass, that when Jesus had finished these sayings, he departed from Galilee, and came into the coasts of Judaea beyond Jordan;

Jesus departs Galilee and arrives in Judaea.

1: Jesus intended to bring hope and peace to all people, and he started his journey in Galilee.

2: Our lives should be like Jesus, continually journeying to bring hope and peace to those around us.

1: Matthew 28:19-20 – “Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.”

2: John 14:27 – “Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.”

Matthew 19:2 And great multitudes followed him; and he healed them there.

This passage describes Jesus healing many people as a large crowd followed Him.

1. Jesus heals the sick and loves all people.

2. Come to Jesus for spiritual and physical healing.

1. Isaiah 53:5 - "But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, And by His stripes we are healed."

2. James 5:14-15 - "Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven."

Matthew 19:3 The Pharisees also came unto him, tempting him, and saying unto him, Is it lawful for a man to put away his wife for every cause?

The Pharisees tested Jesus by asking Him if it was lawful for a man to divorce his wife for any reason.

1. The Sanctity of Marriage: A Biblical Perspective

2. Divorce: How to Care for the Hurting

1. 1 Corinthians 7:10-11 - "To the married I give this charge (not I, but the Lord): the wife should not separate from her husband (but if she does, she should remain unmarried or else be reconciled to her husband), and the husband should not divorce his wife."

2. Hebrews 13:4 - "Let marriage be held in honor among all, and let the marriage bed be undefiled, for God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterous."

Matthew 19:4 And he answered and said unto them, Have ye not read, that he which made them at the beginning made them male and female,

Jesus taught that God created humans as male and female.

1. God's Design in Creation: The Beauty of Diversity

2. The Sacred Institution of Marriage: The Foundation of Family

1. Genesis 1:27 So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.

2. Ephesians 5:31 “For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh.”

Matthew 19:5 And said, For this cause shall a man leave father and mother, and shall

cleave to his wife: and they twain shall be one flesh?

This passage describes the importance of a man and a woman's relationship to each other as a married couple.

1. The Commitment of Marriage: A Covenant of Love

2. Rekindling the Flame of Marital Commitment

1. Genesis 2:24 - Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh.

2. Ephesians 5:22-33 - Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body. Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in every thing.

Matthew 19:6 Wherefore they are no more twain, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder.

God's plan for marriage is one of unity, not separation.

1. "Love is Uniting: God's Plan for Marriage"

2. "The Strength of Unity: God's Blessing in Marriage"

1. Ephesians 5:21-33

2. Genesis 2:24

Matthew 19:7 They say unto him, Why did Moses then command to give a writing of divorcement, and to put her away?

Jesus answers the Pharisees' question about why Moses commanded divorce with the reminder that it was due to the hardness of people's hearts.

1. Jesus' Love Transcends Human Laws

2. The Power of God's Grace to Overcome Human Brokenness

1. Romans 3:23-24 - "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus."

2. Jeremiah 31:3 - "The Lord appeared to him from afar, saying, 'I have loved you with an everlasting love; Therefore I have drawn you with lovingkindness.'"

Matthew 19:8 He saith unto them, Moses because of the hardness of your hearts suffered you to put away your wives: but from the beginning it was not so.

Jesus emphasizes the importance of marriage, pointing out that it was not always easy to divorce in the past.

1. Marriage is a gift from God and should be celebrated and nurtured.

2. Divorce should not be an easy option and should be avoided when possible.

1. Ephesians 5:22-33 - Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church, his body, and is himself its Savior.

2. 1 Corinthians 7:10-11 - To the married I give this charge (not I, but the Lord): the wife should not separate from her husband (but if she does, she should remain unmarried or else be reconciled to her husband), and the husband should not divorce his wife.

Matthew 19:9 And I say unto you, Whosoever shall put away his wife, except it be for fornication, and shall marry another, committeth adultery: and whoso marrieth her which is put away doth commit adultery.

In Matthew 19:9, Jesus states that anyone who divorces their spouse, except in cases of sexual immorality, and remarries commits adultery.

1. The Sanctity of Marriage: A Biblical Perspective

2. Divorce and Remarriage: God's Word on the Subject

1. Ephesians 5:22-33 - Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church, his body, and is himself its Savior.

2. Hebrews 13:4 - Let marriage be held in honor among all, and let the marriage bed be undefiled, for God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterous.

Matthew 19:10 His disciples say unto him, If the case of the man be so with his wife, it is not good to marry.

Jesus' disciples express their concern about marriage based on the case of a man and his wife.

1. The Blessings of Marriage: Appreciating the Gift of a God-Honoring Union

2. The Challenge of Marriage: Facing Difficulties in a God-Honoring Way

1. Ephesians 5:21-33 - Submission and Mutual Respect in Marriage

2. 1 Corinthians 13:4-8 - Love and Sacrifice in Marriage

Matthew 19:11 But he said unto them, All men cannot receive this saying, save they to whom it is given.

Jesus taught that not everyone is able to accept his teachings, but that it is only given to those who are chosen.

1. The Power of Choice: Exploring the Choice to Accept Jesus' Teachings

2. God's Gift: Exploring the Gift of Accepting Jesus' Teachings

1. John 6:44-45 - No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws them, and I will raise them up at the last day.

2. Acts 16:14 - The Lord opened her heart to pay attention to what was said by Paul.

Matthew 19:12 For there are some eunuchs, which were so born from their mother's womb: and there are some eunuchs, which were made eunuchs of men: and there be eunuchs, which have made themselves eunuchs for the kingdom of heaven's sake. He that is able to receive it, let him receive it.

In this passage, Jesus is teaching about eunuchs and the different ways in which they can become such. He encourages those who are able to understand to receive the teaching.

1. The Kingdom of Heaven: Making Sacrifices to Follow Jesus

2. The Inclusive Love of Jesus: No One is Left Behind

1. Luke 14:25-33 - The parable of the great supper

2. Galatians 5:1-6 - Freedom in Christ from the law of Moses

Matthew 19:13 Then were there brought unto him little children, that he should put his hands on them, and pray: and the disciples rebuked them.

Jesus welcomed children with open arms and showed love to them.

1: Jesus showed us the importance of welcoming children and loving them.

2: Jesus demonstrated the power of showing compassion to those who need it the most.

1: Luke 18:15-17 - Jesus said, "Let the children come to me; do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of God."

2: Matthew 18:1-5 - Jesus said, "Whoever receives one such child in my name receives me, and whoever receives me, receives not me but him who sent me."

Matthew 19:14 But Jesus said, Suffer little children, and forbid them not, to come unto me: for of such is the kingdom of heaven.

Jesus encourages us to embrace and include children in our faith journey, as they are a part of the Kingdom of Heaven.

1. Embracing the Children of the Kingdom - How to create an inclusive faith community

2. Little but Mighty - Understanding the power of children in the Kingdom of Heaven

1. Mark 10:14-16 - Jesus' teaching on welcoming children

2. Psalm 8:2 - The wonder of children in the eyes of God

Matthew 19:15 And he laid his hands on them, and departed thence.

Jesus blessed the children and then departed.

1. Jesus showed us the importance of blessing children.

2. We must follow Jesus' example of love and compassion for all.

1. Mark 10:16 - “And he took them in his arms and blessed them, laying his hands upon them.”

2. Luke 18:15-17 - “And they brought unto him also infants, that he would touch them: but when his disciples saw it, they rebuked them. But Jesus called them unto him, and said, Suffer little children to come unto me, and forbid them not: for of such is the kingdom of God. Verily I say unto you, Whosoever shall not receive the kingdom of God as a little child shall in no wise enter therein.”

Matthew 19:16 And, behold, one came and said unto him, Good Master, what good thing shall I do, that I may have eternal life?

This passage describes a man asking Jesus what he must do to obtain eternal life.

1. The importance of seeking after eternal life through Jesus Christ.

2. The power of the obedience to God's will and commands in order to gain eternal life.

1. John 3:16 - "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever

believes in him should not perish but have eternal life."

2. Romans 6:23 - "For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."

Matthew 19:17 And he said unto him, Why callest thou me good? there is none good but one, that is, God: but if thou wilt enter into life, keep the commandments.

Jesus is teaching that in order to enter into life, one must keep the commandments. He also states that only God is good.

1. Goodness in the Eyes of God - Understanding our need to obey God's command in order to receive eternal life.

2. The Source of Goodness - Recognizing that only God is truly good, and learning to live in accordance with His will.

1. Romans 6:23 - For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

2. Psalm 119:172 - My tongue shall speak of thy word: for all thy commandments are righteousness.

Matthew 19:18 He saith unto him, Which? Jesus said, Thou shalt do no murder, Thou shalt not commit adultery, Thou shalt not steal, Thou shalt not bear false witness,

This passage describes the command given by Jesus to the rich young ruler to keep the commandments.

1. The Power of the Commandments: How Keeping God's Laws Can Change Our Lives

2. The Rich Young Ruler: A Study in Obedience

1. Exodus 20:1-17 - The Ten Commandments

2. Mark 12:28-34 - The Greatest Commandment

Matthew 19:19 Honour thy father and thy mother: and, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.

This passage emphasizes the importance of honoring parents and loving one's neighbor as oneself.

1. The Power of Loving Our Neighbors: How Christ Teaches Us to Show Compassion and Kindness

2. Honoring Our Parents: A Biblical Perspective

1. Ephesians 6:1-3 - Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. "Honor your father and mother"--which is the first commandment with a promise--"so that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth."

2. Leviticus 19:18 - "Do not seek revenge or bear a grudge against anyone among your people, but love your neighbor as yourself. I am the Lord.

Matthew 19:20 The young man saith unto him, All these things have I kept from my youth up: what lack I yet?

This passage is about a young man who claims to have kept the commandments from his youth and is wondering what else he needs to do.

1. The Need to Go Beyond the Law: Exploring the Depths of Discipleship

2. Living a Life of Integrity: The Commitment of the Fully Devoted Follower

1. Luke 10:25-37 - The Parable of the Good Samaritan

2. James 1:22-25 - Doers of the Word, Not Hearers Only

Matthew 19:21 Jesus said unto him, If thou wilt be perfect, go and sell that thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come and follow me.

Jesus encourages us to put aside our material possessions and put our trust in Him.

1: We must put our faith in Jesus by letting go of our earthly possessions.

2: Living for Jesus means investing our lives in Him, not material things.

1: Matthew 6:19-21 “Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

2: Colossians 3:1-2 “If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth.”

Matthew 19:22 But when the young man heard that saying, he went away sorrowful: for he had great possessions.

This passage speaks of a young man who, upon hearing a saying from Jesus, left sorrowfully due to his great possessions.

1. The Rich Young Man: What Possessions Can Cost Us

2. The Power of Journeying Toward God: Leaving Behind What We Cling To

1. Luke 12:15 (NIV): “Then he said to them, ‘Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; life does not consist in an abundance of possessions.’”

2. Ecclesiastes 5:10 (NIV): “Whoever loves money never has money enough; whoever loves wealth is never satisfied with his income. This too is meaningless.”

Matthew 19:23 Then said Jesus unto his disciples, Verily I say unto you, That a rich man shall hardly enter into the kingdom of heaven.

The rich have a difficult time entering the kingdom of Heaven.

1: Money cannot buy salvation, the love of God is priceless.

2: Although money is a powerful force in the world, it cannot buy a way into the kingdom of Heaven.

1: Mark 10:25 "It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle, than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God."

2: James 2:5-7 "Listen, my dear brothers and sisters: Has not God chosen those who are poor in the eyes of the world to be rich in faith and to inherit the kingdom he promised those who love him?"

Matthew 19:24 And again I say unto you, It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle, than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God.

It is difficult for a wealthy person to enter the kingdom of God.

1: Wealth is not an obstacle to entering the Kingdom of God.

2: True riches are found in following Christ.

1: Luke 16:13 No servant can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.

2: Matthew 6:19-21 Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

Matthew 19:25 When his disciples heard it, they were exceedingly amazed, saying, Who then can be saved?

The disciples were amazed when Jesus said it is hard for a rich man to enter the Kingdom of Heaven, and asked who then can be saved.

1. "The Difficulty of Riches"

2. "What Does It Take To Be Saved?"

1. Luke 18:24-25 - "And when Jesus saw that he was very sorrowful, he said, How hardly shall they that have riches enter into the kingdom of God! For it is easier for a camel to

go through a needle's eye, than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God."

2. Acts 4:12 - "Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved."

Matthew 19:26 But Jesus beheld them, and said unto them, With men this is impossible; but with God all things are possible.

This verse emphasizes that with God, all things are possible, even when it seems impossible for humans.

1. God is greater than our doubts and can help us in our struggles.

2. Nothing is too difficult for God and we should trust in His power.

1. Jeremiah 32:17 - Ah, Lord God! Behold, You have made the heavens and the earth by Your great power and outstretched arm. There is nothing too hard for You.

2. Luke 1:37 - For with God nothing will be impossible.

Matthew 19:27 Then answered Peter and said unto him, Behold, we have forsaken all, and followed thee; what shall we have therefore?

Peter asks Jesus what reward they will receive for following Him and leaving everything behind.

1. The Rewards for Faithful Service

2. The Cost of Discipleship

1. Hebrews 11:24-26 - By faith Moses, when he was come to years, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter; Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season; Esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt: for he had respect unto the recompence of the reward.

2. Matthew 19:29 - And every one that hath forsaken houses, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my name's sake, shall receive an

hundredfold, and shall inherit everlasting life.

Matthew 19:28 And Jesus said unto them, Verily I say unto you, That ye which have followed me, in the regeneration when the Son of man shall sit in the throne of his glory, ye also shall sit upon twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.

Jesus promises his disciples that they will receive a reward for following him, which is the opportunity to judge the twelve tribes of Israel when the Son of Man sits on the throne of glory.

1. Jesus Promises Rewards for Faithful Disciples

2. The Regeneration: The Throne of God's Glory

1. 1 Corinthians 3:10-15 - The rewards believers will receive for faithful service

2. Psalm 45:6 - The throne of God's glory and majesty

Matthew 19:29 And every one that hath forsaken houses, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my name's sake, shall receive an hundredfold, and shall inherit everlasting life.

Jesus encourages his followers to forsake material possessions and family for his name's sake, promising that they will receive a hundredfold in return and will inherit everlasting life.

1. The Power of Sacrifice: Learning to Let Go of What We Love for the Sake of the Kingdom

2. A Life of Abundance: Reaping the Rewards of Faithfulness and Obedience

1. John 15:13 - "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends."

2. 1 Corinthians 13:3 - "And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, and have not charity, it profiteth me nothing."

Matthew 19:30 But many that are first shall be last; and the last shall be first.

Jesus teaches that those who are first may end up being last, while those who are last may end up being first.

1. "Turning the Tables: How Jesus Ranks Us Differently"

2. "Seeking the Lowest Place: Why Humility Matters"

1. Luke 14:7-11 - Jesus teaches the parable of the wedding banquet

2. Philippians 2:3-8 - Paul's teaching on humility and selflessness

Matthew 20 presents the parable of the workers in the vineyard, Jesus' third prediction of His death and resurrection, a request for positions of honor in His kingdom, and the healing of two blind men.

1st Paragraph: The chapter begins with the Parable of Workers in Vineyard (Matthew 20:1-16). In this story, a landowner hires laborers at different times throughout day but at end pays them all same wage - one denarius. Those hired first complain about this seeming injustice but landowner insists he is not being unfair because he paid them what they agreed upon. The parable illustrates that God's grace does not operate on human ideas of fairness and that "the last will be first, and the first will be last."

2nd Paragraph: As they are going up to Jerusalem, Jesus takes twelve disciples aside predicts his death resurrection third time (Matthew 20:17-19). He says He will be betrayed to chief priests and teachers law who will condemn Him to death hand Him over Gentiles mock flog crucify Him but on third day He will be raised life again.

3rd Paragraph: Then mother Zebedee’s sons James John comes asking Jesus place her sons right left His kingdom but Jesus says those places are for those prepared by Father (Matthew 20:20-28). This leads into teaching about greatness in kingdom which is not about lording over others like rulers Gentiles do but serving just as Son Man did not come served serve give His life ransom many. Finally chapter ends with healing two blind men near Jericho who cry out for mercy recognizing Him as Son David demonstrating faith persistence receiving sight following Him (Matthew 20:29-34).

Matthew 20:1 For the kingdom of heaven is like unto a man that is an householder, which went out early in the morning to hire labourers into his vineyard.

The parable of the householder who hires workers for his vineyard illustrates the kingdom of heaven.

1. God's love and grace is extended to all, regardless of their works or time of faith.

2. We are all called to serve God with whatever gifts and abilities He has given us.

1. Ephesians 2:8-9 - For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.

2. 1 Peter 4:10 - As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace.

Matthew 20:2 And when he had agreed with the labourers for a penny a day, he sent them into his vineyard.

A landowner hired laborers to work in his vineyard and agreed to pay them a penny a day.

1. God's Generosity - How God is Generous and shows us that we are all worthy of His grace.

2. The Importance of Work - Understanding the importance of hard work and how it can bless us.

1. Psalm 37:4 - Delight yourself in the Lord, and he will give you the desires of your heart.

2. Ephesians 2:10 - For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

Matthew 20:3 And he went out about the third hour, and saw others standing idle in the marketplace,

This passage describes a time when Jesus observed people standing idle in the marketplace at the third hour.

1. God desires us to strive for meaningful work and productive living.

2. We should use our time wisely and not wait until the last minute to do what is important.

1. Proverbs 6:6-11

2. Ephesians 5:15-17

Matthew 20:4 And said unto them; Go ye also into the vineyard, and whatsoever is right I will give you. And they went their way.

Jesus invited his followers to join him in his work in the vineyard, and promised to reward them fairly for whatever they did.

1. The Invitation of Jesus: Working Together for God's Kingdom

2. The Blessings of Obedience: Rewarded for Doing What is Right

1. Colossians 3:23-24 - Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters.

2. Proverbs 16:3 - Commit to the Lord whatever you do, and your plans will succeed.

Matthew 20:5 Again he went out about the sixth and ninth hour, and did likewise.

The passage tells of Jesus visiting the marketplace twice more at the sixth and ninth hour and doing the same as the first time.

1. God is always available to us, no matter how many times we call upon Him.

2. Jesus teaches us to put others before ourselves and to put our trust in God.

1. 1 John 1:9 - If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

2. Matthew 6:33 - But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these

things will be added to you.

Matthew 20:6 And about the eleventh hour he went out, and found others standing idle, and saith unto them, Why stand ye here all the day idle?

Jesus noticed some people standing idle and asked them why they were not working.

1: We should always seek ways to use our time productively and purposefully.

2: We should not be idle, but be diligent in our efforts and use our time wisely.

1: Ecclesiastes 9:10 "Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with all your might."

2: Colossians 3:23-24 "Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ."

Matthew 20:7 They say unto him, Because no man hath hired us. He saith unto them, Go ye also into the vineyard; and whatsoever is right, that shall ye receive.

The parable of the laborers in the vineyard teaches that everyone will be rewarded for their labor, regardless of when they join the work.

1. God's Generosity - Learning to Receive God's Unmerited Favor

2. God's Grace - How to Reap the Benefits of God's Goodness

1. Ephesians 2:8-9, For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast.

2. Philippians 4:19, But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

Matthew 20:8 So when even was come, the lord of the vineyard saith unto his steward, Call the labourers, and give them their hire, beginning from the last unto the first.

Passage The lord of the vineyard commanded his steward to pay the workers from last to first when evening came.

1. God cares for the least of us: A on Matthew 20:8

2. The importance of fairness: A on Matthew 20:8

1. Ephesians 6:9 - And, ye masters, do the same things unto them, forbearing threatening: knowing that your Master also is in heaven; neither is there respect of persons with him.

2. Galatians 6:7 - Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.

Matthew 20:9 And when they came that were hired about the eleventh hour, they received every man a penny.

The parable of the laborers in the vineyard speaks of God's generous grace and justice.

1. God's Justice and Grace: Not Being Too Late for God's Blessings

2. God's Generosity: Receiving More than We Deserve

1. Ephesians 2:8-10 For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, 9 not a result of works, so that no one may boast. 10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

2. Luke 6:36 Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful.

Matthew 20:10 But when the first came, they supposed that they should have received more; and they likewise received every man a penny.

The workers in a vineyard received the same pay regardless of when they were hired.

1. God is generous and fair in all his dealings.

2. We should not compare ourselves to others, but be content with what is given to us.

1. Ephesians 4:2-3 - "Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace."

2. Philippians 4:11-12 - "I am not saying this because I am in need, for I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want."

Matthew 20:11 And when they had received it, they murmured against the goodman of the house,

Passage The workers in the field received their wages, but they grumbled against the master of the house.

1. "God's Grace: Overflowing Generosity"

2. "Respecting the Authority of God's Anointed"

1. Ephesians 6:5-9 - Slaves, obey your earthly masters with respect and fear, and with sincerity of heart, just as you would obey Christ.

2. James 2:1-7 - My brothers and sisters, do you with your acts of favoritism really believe in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ?

Matthew 20:12 Saying, These last have wrought but one hour, and thou hast made them equal unto us, which have borne the burden and heat of the day.

The laborers who worked only one hour were given the same wage as those who worked all day.

1. God is a God of justice, no matter how long you work, everyone will be rewarded for their efforts.

2. God rewards us with his grace, even when we don't deserve it.

1. Colossians 3:23-24 - Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving.

2. Ephesians 6:7-8 - Serve wholeheartedly, as if you were serving the Lord, not people, because you know that the Lord will reward each one for whatever good they do, whether they are slave or free.

Matthew 20:13 But he answered one of them, and said, Friend, I do thee no wrong: didst not thou agree with me for a penny?

This passage speaks of Jesus teaching a lesson on fairness and justice.

1. The Power of Fairness: Jesus' Teaching on Justice

2. The Parable of the Workers in the Vineyard: A Lesson in Paying What is Fair

1. Ephesians 4:25-32 - Putting on the New Self and Living in Righteousness

2. Proverbs 16:11 - A Just Balance and Scales are the Lord's

Matthew 20:14 Take that thine is, and go thy way: I will give unto this last, even as unto thee.

Jesus instructs his followers to accept what they have been given and to not be envious of others' blessings.

1. "Contentment in the Lord: Learning to Be Satisfied with What We Have"

2. "Do Not Covet: The Danger of Envy"

1. Philippians 4:11-13 - "Not that I am speaking of being in need, for I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content. I know how to be brought low, and I know how to abound. In any and every circumstance, I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need.

2. Romans 12:15 - "Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep."

Matthew 20:15 Is it not lawful for me to do what I will with mine own? Is thine eye evil, because I am good?

Jesus questions the motives of his detractors, asking if they are resentful that he is being generous.

1. The Generosity of Jesus - How Jesus' selfless acts of kindness challenged those who questioned his motives.

2. The Cost of Compassion - Examining the significance of Jesus' selfless acts and what they mean for us today.

1. Philippians 2:3-4 - "Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others."

2. John 13:12-17 - "When he had finished washing their feet, he put on his clothes and returned to his place. “Do you understand what I have done for you?” he asked them. “You call me ‘Teacher’ and ‘Lord,’ and rightly so, for that is what I am. Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another’s feet. I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you. Very truly I tell you, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them.”

Matthew 20:16 So the last shall be first, and the first last: for many be called, but few chosen.

God's plan is to bring the least likely to the top and the most likely to the bottom.

1. God's Challenges: Reversing the Status Quo

2. The Power of God's Unfailing Love

1. Isaiah 41:10 - "Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand."

2. James 2:5 - "Listen, my beloved brothers, has not God chosen those who are poor in the world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom, which he has promised to those

who love him?"

Matthew 20:17 And Jesus going up to Jerusalem took the twelve disciples apart in the way, and said unto them,

Jesus taught the twelve disciples important lessons on humility and service on the way to Jerusalem.

1: We must be humble and serve others just as Jesus served the twelve disciples.

2: Jesus is our example. We should follow His example of humility and service.

1: Philippians 2:3-4 - Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves.

2: Mark 10:42-45 - Jesus called them together and said, "You know that those who are regarded as rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant.

Matthew 20:18 Behold, we go up to Jerusalem; and the Son of man shall be betrayed unto the chief priests and unto the scribes, and they shall condemn him to death,

The passage speaks of Jesus being betrayed and condemned to death.

1: We must have faith and trust that God's plan is for our good, even when it is hard to understand.

2: Jesus's selfless love for us is an example of how we should serve each other.

1: Philippians 2:5-8 “Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.”

2: Romans 8:28 “And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.”

Matthew 20:19 And shall deliver him to the Gentiles to mock, and to scourge, and to crucify him: and the third day he shall rise again.

Jesus' crucifixion was to mock, scourge, and crucify him, yet he would rise again on the third day.

1. The Hope of the Resurrection: The Power of Jesus' Triumph

2. The Significance of Jesus' Sacrifice: The Price of Redemption

1. Isaiah 53:4-5 - Surely He has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed Him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement for our peace was upon Him, and by His stripes we are healed.

2. John 11:25 - Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live.

Matthew 20:20 Then came to him the mother of Zebedee's children with her sons, worshipping him, and desiring a certain thing of him.

The mother of Zebedee's children approached Jesus with her sons and asked Him for a favor.

1. Jesus is always ready to listen to our requests and answer them according to His will.

2. The power of faith and prayer in approaching Jesus.

1. Matthew 7:7-11 - “Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened. Or what man is there among you who, if his son asks for bread, will give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will he give him a serpent? If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask Him!

2. James 1:5-6 - If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him. But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind.

Matthew 20:21 And he said unto her, What wilt thou? She saith unto him, Grant that these my two sons may sit, the one on thy right hand, and the other on the left, in thy kingdom.

The mother of James and John asked Jesus for her two sons to be granted a special place in his kingdom, to sit on his right and left hand.

1. The Power of Faith and Persistence - Learning from the Mother of James and John

2. Sacrificing for the Sake of Loved Ones - The Mother of James and John

1. Ephesians 2:8-9 - For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, so that no one may boast.

2. 1 Peter 5:6-7 - Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time He may exalt you, casting all your anxieties on Him, because He cares for you.

Matthew 20:22 But Jesus answered and said, Ye know not what ye ask. Are ye able to drink of the cup that I shall drink of, and to be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with? They say unto him, We are able.

Jesus tests the disciples' loyalty and willingness to follow Him by asking if they can accept the same suffering He will face.

1. The Cup of Suffering: Learning to Say Yes to God

2. Being Baptized with Jesus: Becoming a Disciple of Christ

1. Philippians 3:10 - "That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death"

2. Romans 8:17 - "And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together."

Matthew 20:23 And he saith unto them, Ye shall drink indeed of my cup, and be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with: but to sit on my right hand, and on my left, is

not mine to give, but it shall be given to them for whom it is prepared of my Father.

Jesus teaches about the importance of humility and service.

1. The Power of Humility: Learning to Serve God and Others

2. Recognizing Our Place in God's Plan: The Rewards of Faithful Service

1. Philippians 2:3-4: "Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others."

2. Matthew 6:24-25: “No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money.”

Matthew 20:24 And when the ten heard it, they were moved with indignation against the two brethren.

The ten were angry with the two brethren for their request.

1. God desires humility and contentment, not envy and pride.

2. Put others before yourself and God will honor you.

1. Philippians 2:3-4 - Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves.

2. Proverbs 22:4 - Humility and the fear of the Lord bring wealth and honor and life.

Matthew 20:25 But Jesus called them unto him, and said, Ye know that the princes of the Gentiles exercise dominion over them, and they that are great exercise authority upon them.

Jesus taught his disciples that the rulers of the Gentiles dominate their people, and the powerful exercise authority over them.

1. The Power of Authority: Jesus' Teaching on Dominion and Greatness

2. Understanding the Exercise of Dominion Over Others in Light of Jesus' Teachings

1. Romans 13:1-2 - Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God.

2. 1 Peter 2:13-14 - Be subject for the Lord's sake to every human institution, whether it be to the emperor as supreme, or to governors as sent by him to punish those who do evil and to praise those who do good.

Matthew 20:26 But it shall not be so among you: but whosoever will be great among you, let him be your minister;

Jesus emphasizes the importance of humility and servitude within the church.

1: Jesus' call to serve: recognizing greatness through servitude.

2: Putting others before ourselves: humility in action.

1: Philippians 2:3-4 - “Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.”

2: 1 Peter 5:5-6 - “All of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, because, ‘God opposes the proud but shows favor to the humble.’ Humble yourselves, therefore, under God’s mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time.”

Matthew 20:27 And whosoever will be chief among you, let him be your servant:

Jesus teaches that the way to be great is to be a servant.

1. Leading by Serving: How Jesus Teaches Us to Lead Through Humility and Service

2. Submitting to Authority: The Power of Following Jesus' Example of Humility

1. Philippians 2:3-11

2. Mark 10:35-45

Matthew 20:28 Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many.

Jesus came to serve and to give his life for many.

1: Jesus showed us the ultimate example of selflessness and sacrifice.

2: We can learn to love and serve others by following Jesus' example.

1: Philippians 2:3-4 - Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.

2: Galatians 5:13 - You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh; rather, serve one another humbly in love.

Matthew 20:29 And as they departed from Jericho, a great multitude followed him.

The people of Jericho followed Jesus as he departed from their city.

1: Following Jesus - Going beyond the comfort of our own cities and finding the courage to pursue a greater purpose.

2: Serving Others - Jesus shows us how to put others before ourselves, even when it's uncomfortable.

1: Luke 9:23 – "Then he said to them all: 'Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me.'"

2: John 12:26 – "Whoever serves me must follow me; and where I am, my servant also will be. My Father will honor the one who serves me."

Matthew 20:30 And, behold, two blind men sitting by the way side, when they heard that Jesus passed by, cried out, saying, Have mercy on us, O Lord, thou son of David.

Two blind men sitting by the roadside heard that Jesus was passing by and called out to Him, asking for mercy.

1. "The Cry of the Blind: Hope in the Lord"

2. "The Call of Faith: Reaching Out to Jesus"

1. Psalm 146:8 - "The LORD opens the eyes of the blind; the LORD raises those who are bowed down;"

2. Mark 10:46-52 - "Then they came to Jericho. As Jesus and his disciples, together with a large crowd, were leaving the city, a blind man, Bartimaeus (which means “son of Timaeus”), was sitting by the roadside begging. When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to shout, “Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!” Many rebuked him and told him to be quiet, but he shouted all the more, “Son of David, have mercy on me!” Jesus stopped and said, “Call him.” So they called to the blind man, “Cheer up! On your feet! He’s calling you.” Throwing his cloak aside, he jumped to his feet and came to Jesus."

Matthew 20:31 And the multitude rebuked them, because they should hold their peace: but they cried the more, saying, Have mercy on us, O Lord, thou son of David.

The multitude rebuked two blind men who were calling out for mercy from Jesus, but the men continued to call out for help.

1. Compassion for the Outcast: An Examination of Matthew 20:31

2. Overcoming Obstacles: The Cry for Help from Matthew 20:31

1. Psalm 41:1 “Blessed is he that considereth the poor: the Lord will deliver him in time of trouble.”

2. James 2:13 “For he shall have judgment without mercy, that hath shewed no mercy; and mercy rejoiceth against judgment.”

Matthew 20:32 And Jesus stood still, and called them, and said, What will ye that I shall

do unto you?

Jesus asked the blind men what He could do to help them.

1. Jesus shows us that we should always be willing to help others in need.

2. We should never hesitate to ask God for assistance when we are facing challenges.

1. James 1:27 - "Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unstained from the world."

2. Philippians 4:6-7 - "Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."

Matthew 20:33 They say unto him, Lord, that our eyes may be opened.

Jesus answered and said, I am the light of the world: whosoever followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.

Jesus declares that He is the light of the world and that those who follow Him will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.

1. Jesus is the Light that Illuminates the Way.

2. Following Jesus Gives Us Life and Hope.

1. 2 Corinthians 4:6 For God, who said, “Let light shine out of darkness,” has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

2. John 8:12 Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.”

Matthew 20:34 So Jesus had compassion on them, and touched their eyes: and immediately their eyes received sight, and they followed him.

Jesus had compassion on the blind men and healed them.

1. Compassion: The Power of Love

2. Jesus: Our Healer

1. Mark 5:34 - Jesus said, "Daughter, your faith has healed you. Go in peace and be freed from your suffering."

2. 1 Peter 2:24 - He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed.

Matthew 21 recounts Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem, His cleansing of the temple, cursing a fig tree, and engaging in debates with religious leaders.

1st Paragraph: The chapter begins with Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem (Matthew 21:1-11). He sends two disciples to fetch a donkey and her colt. Riding these in fulfillment of prophecy, He is hailed by crowds spreading cloaks and branches on road shouting "Hosanna to Son David!" "Blessed is he who comes in name Lord!" "Hosanna highest heaven!" This causes stir in city with people asking who this is disciples replying this is prophet Jesus from Nazareth Galilee.

2nd Paragraph: Upon arrival in Jerusalem, Jesus enters temple area drives out those buying selling there overturns tables money changers benches those selling doves (Matthew 21:12-17). He accuses them turning house prayer into den robbers. Then blind lame come to Him at temple He heals them. When chief priests teachers law see wonderful things he does children shouting Hosannas they are indignant but Jesus quotes Psalm saying have you never read 'From lips children infants you Lord have called forth your praise'? After this He leaves city Bethany spends night there.

3rd Paragraph: In morning as he returns city he sees fig tree by road but finds nothing on it except leaves so says to it let no fruit ever come from you again immediately tree withers (Matthew 21:18-22). When disciples marvel at this, Jesus speaks about faith power prayer saying if they have faith do not doubt not only can they do what was done fig tree but also say mountain 'Go throw yourself sea' it will be done whatever ask prayer believing receive. Then when challenged by chief priests elders about authority behind His actions He tells parable two sons vineyard workers illustrate their hypocrisy refusal accept John Baptist's message repentance kingdom God (Matthew 21:23-46). Despite recognizing that parables are about them they look for way arrest Him but fear crowds because crowds consider Him prophet.

Matthew 21:1 And when they drew nigh unto Jerusalem, and were come to Bethphage, unto the mount of Olives, then sent Jesus two disciples,

Jesus sends two of his disciples to Bethphage on the Mount of Olives.

1. The importance of following Jesus' example of sending out disciples.

2. Obedience and trust in sending out disciples as Jesus did.

1. Luke 10:1-12 - The sending of the seventy disciples.

2. John 20:21 - Jesus' commissioning of the disciples to spread the gospel.

Matthew 21:2 Saying unto them, Go into the village over against you, and straightway ye shall find an ass tied, and a colt with her: loose them, and bring them unto me.

Jesus instructs his disciples to find and bring him a donkey and her foal.

1: The Power of Obedience - Jesus gave an instruction to his disciples, and they obeyed. We should strive to have the same obedience to the Lord that the disciples showed here.

2: Jesus Knew What He Needed - Jesus knew exactly what he wanted and needed. We should trust that He knows what is best for us, even when it may not be what we expect.

1: John 14:15 - “If you love me, you will keep my commandments.”

2: Proverbs 3:5-6 - “Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.”

Matthew 21:3 And if any man say ought unto you, ye shall say, The Lord hath need of them; and straightway he will send them.

The passage is about Jesus sending two of his disciples to find a donkey and her colt to fulfill a prophecy.

1. Trusting God's Plan: Learning to Follow Jesus' Instructions Faithfully

2. Consecrating Ourselves to the Lord: Finding Strength in the Lord's Will

1. Luke 22:42 “Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will, but yours be done.”

2. Psalm 27:14 “Wait for the Lord; be strong and take heart and wait for the Lord.”

Matthew 21:4 All this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, saying,

Jesus fulfilled the prophecy of Zechariah 9:9 when he entered Jerusalem on a donkey.

1: Jesus came to fulfill the prophecies of the Old Testament and bring salvation to the world.

2: Through Jesus' humble entrance on a donkey, we can see His fulfilling of the prophecy and power of God.

1: Zechariah 9:9 - Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion; shout, O daughter of Jerusalem: behold, thy King cometh unto thee: he is just, and having salvation; lowly, and riding upon an ass, and upon a colt the foal of an ass.

2: Matthew 11:29 - Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls.

Matthew 21:5 Tell ye the daughter of Sion, Behold, thy King cometh unto thee, meek, and sitting upon an ass, and a colt the foal of an ass.

This passage describes Jesus entering Jerusalem on a colt, which symbolizes his meekness and humility.

1. How Jesus' Humility Teaches Us to Be Humble

2. The Prophecy of Jesus Riding Into Jerusalem on a Colt

1. Philippians 2:5-8 - "Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus,

who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross."

2. Zechariah 9:9 - "Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your king is coming to you; righteous and having salvation is he, humble and mounted on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey."

Matthew 21:6 And the disciples went, and did as Jesus commanded them,

7 and brought the ass, and the colt, and put on them their clothes, and they set him thereon.

Jesus commanded his disciples to bring an ass and a colt and set him upon them.

1. The Obedience of Christ's Disciples

2. The Power of Jesus' Authority

1. John 14:15 - “If you love me, you will keep my commandments.”

2. Philippians 2:8 - “And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.”

Matthew 21:7 And brought the ass, and the colt, and put on them their clothes, and they set him thereon.

Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey and a colt, and people laid their clothes on them.

1. The Power of Humility: Jesus' demonstration of humility in riding into Jerusalem on a donkey.

2. The Power of the People: The people's willingness to lay down their cloaks as a sign of respect for Jesus.

1. Philippians 2:5-8 - Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made himself of no

reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.

2. Zechariah 9:9 - Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion; shout, O daughter of Jerusalem: behold, thy King cometh unto thee: he is just, and having salvation; lowly, and riding upon an ass, and upon a colt the foal of an ass.

Matthew 21:8 And a very great multitude spread their garments in the way; others cut down branches from the trees, and strawed them in the way.

The great multitude spread their garments and cut down branches from the trees to create a pathway for Jesus.

1. Jesus is worthy of our reverence and devotion.

2. We should celebrate Jesus with joy and enthusiasm.

1. Isaiah 40:3-5 - A voice cries: “In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.”

2. John 12:12-15 - The next day the large crowd that had come to the feast heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem. So they took branches of palm trees and went out to meet him, crying out, “Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, even the King of Israel!” And Jesus found a young donkey and sat on it, just as it is written, “Fear not, daughter of Zion; behold, your king is coming, sitting on a donkey’s colt!”

Matthew 21:9 And the multitudes that went before, and that followed, cried, saying, Hosanna to the son of David: Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord; Hosanna in the highest.

The multitudes praised Jesus as the Son of David and blessed Him for coming in the name of the Lord.

1. The Power of Praise: Exploring the Multitudes Who Celebrated Jesus

2. The Hope of Hosanna: Understanding Jesus' Role as the Son of David

1. Psalm 118:26-27 "Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. From the house of the Lord we bless you. The Lord is God, and He has made His light shine on us."

2. Isaiah 11:1-2 "A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse; from his roots a Branch will bear fruit. The Spirit of the Lord will rest on him— the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord."

Matthew 21:10 And when he was come into Jerusalem, all the city was moved, saying, Who is this?

The people of Jerusalem were filled with wonder and awe upon the arrival of Jesus into the city.

1. The Wonder of Jesus: Exploring the Impact of Jesus' Presence.

2. Awe and Believing: Rediscovering Faith Through the Example of Jesus.

1. Matthew 2:2 - "The star they had seen in the east went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was."

2. Psalm 96:9 - "Worship the Lord in the splendor of his holiness; tremble before him, all the earth."

Matthew 21:11 And the multitude said, This is Jesus the prophet of Nazareth of Galilee.

This passage describes the people's recognition of Jesus as a prophet from Nazareth of Galilee.

1. Jesus is the source of hope and salvation for all.

2. We are called to seek guidance from Jesus and His teachings.

1. Isaiah 9:6 - "For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."

2. John 14:6 - "Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."

Matthew 21:12 And Jesus went into the temple of God, and cast out all them that sold and bought in the temple, and overthrew the tables of the moneychangers, and the seats of them that sold doves,

Jesus clears the temple of money changers and sellers.

1: Jesus teaches us that God's house should be a place of prayer and worship, not a marketplace.

2: We should take Jesus' example of clearing the temple as a reminder to be vigilant in our own lives and rid ourselves of anything that distracts us from God.

1: John 2:13-17 - Jesus drove out those who were buying and selling in the temple, saying that His Father's house was to be a house of prayer.

2: Isaiah 56:7 - Even those who keep the Sabbath and choose what pleases me, and hold fast to my covenant, I will bring to my holy mountain and give them joy in my house of prayer.

Matthew 21:13 And said unto them, It is written, My house shall be called the house of prayer; but ye have made it a den of thieves.

This verse speaks of how the people had turned the house of prayer into a den of thieves.

1. "Living a Life of Faith and Prayer: The Heart of God's House"

2. "The Transformation of the House of Prayer: From Sin to Salvation"

1. Isaiah 56:7, "For my house shall be called a house of prayer for all people."

2. James 4:2-3, “You do not have, because you do not ask. You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, to spend it on your passions.”

Matthew 21:14 And the blind and the lame came to him in the temple; and he healed

them.

Jesus healed the blind and the lame who had come to Him in the temple.

1. Jesus' Healing Touch: How Jesus' Compassion Transcends All Barriers

2. A Miracle of Love: Jesus' Healing of the Blind and the Lame

1. Isaiah 35:5-7 - Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped. Then shall the lame man leap as an hart, and the tongue of the dumb sing: for in the wilderness shall waters break out, and streams in the desert.

2. Psalm 146:7-8 - He executeth judgment for the oppressed: he giveth food to the hungry. The LORD looseth the prisoners: he openeth the eyes of the blind: the LORD raiseth them that are bowed down.

Matthew 21:15 And when the chief priests and scribes saw the wonderful things that he did, and the children crying in the temple, and saying, Hosanna to the son of David; they were sore displeased,

Jesus acted with authority and openness, which greatly displeased the chief priests and scribes.

1. True Authority Is Found in Jesus, Not in Man-Made Institutions

2. Hosanna to Jesus, the Son of David

1. Matthew 21:12-17

2. Psalm 118:25-29

Matthew 21:16 And said unto him, Hearest thou what these say? And Jesus saith unto them, Yea; have ye never read, Out of the mouth of babes and sucklings thou hast perfected praise?

Jesus listened to what the children said and referred to a scripture where God used the mouths of children to perfect His praise.

1. Our Children, Our Future: How God Gives Us Hope Through Our Youngest Generation

2. A New Generation of Praise: Letting Go and Letting God Use Our Children

1. Psalm 8:2 - Out of the mouth of babes and sucklings hast thou ordained strength because of thine enemies, that thou mightest still the enemy and the avenger.

2. Proverbs 22:6 - Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.

Matthew 21:17 And he left them, and went out of the city into Bethany; and he lodged there.

Jesus left Jerusalem and went to Bethany where he stayed.

1. Jesus always put God's will before His own.

2. Even in the midst of difficulty, Jesus never gave up.

1. Isaiah 53:7 He was oppressed and afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth; he was led like a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before its shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth.

2. James 1:2-4 Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.

Matthew 21:18 Now in the morning as he returned into the city, he hungered.

Jesus returned to the city in the morning and was hungry.

1. Jesus teaches us that even He, the Son of God, experienced hunger and physical needs.

2. We should trust in God even when we experience physical hunger.

1. Psalm 34:10 - Those who seek the Lord lack no good thing.

2. Matthew 6:25-34 - Do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat and drink, or about your body, what you will wear.

Matthew 21:19 And when he saw a fig tree in the way, he came to it, and found nothing thereon, but leaves only, and said unto it, Let no fruit grow on thee henceforward for ever. And presently the fig tree withered away.

The fig tree was cursed by Jesus for bearing no fruit.

1. Bearing Fruit: The Parable of the Fig Tree

2. The Power of Words: A Lesson from the Fig Tree

1. Galatians 5:22-23 - But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.

2. James 3:17-18 - But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere. Peacemakers who sow in peace reap a harvest of righteousness.

Matthew 21:20 And when the disciples saw it, they marvelled, saying, How soon is the fig tree withered away!

The disciples were amazed to see the fig tree withered away so suddenly.

1. God's power is greater than anything we can imagine.

2. Even when something appears impossible, God can make it happen.

1. Psalm 33:9 - For he spoke, and it came to be; he commanded, and it stood firm.

2. Exodus 14:21 - Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and the LORD drove the sea back by a strong east wind all night and made the sea dry land, and the waters were divided.

Matthew 21:21 Jesus answered and said unto them, Verily I say unto you, If ye have faith, and doubt not, ye shall not only do this which is done to the fig tree, but also if ye shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; it shall be done.

Jesus teaches that faith in Him can move mountains.

1: With faith, nothing is impossible.

2: Believe in Jesus, and you can do anything.

1: Matthew 17:20 - And Jesus said unto them, Because of your unbelief: for verily I say unto you, If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, Remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible unto you.

2: Philippians 4:13 - I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.

Matthew 21:22 And all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive.

Jesus teaches that all things asked for in prayer with faith will be given.

1. The Power of Prayer: How to Unlock the Blessings of God Through Faith

2. Having Faith to Receive From God: How to Pray and Receive What You Ask For

1. James 1:6-7 - But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea that is driven and tossed by the wind.

2. Philippians 4:6-7 - Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.

Matthew 21:23 And when he was come into the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came unto him as he was teaching, and said, By what authority doest thou these things? and who gave thee this authority?

Jesus is questioned about his authority to teach in the temple.

1. Authority in the Church: The importance of having the Lord's approval.

2. The Power of Jesus' Teaching: A lesson in humility and faith.

1. Acts 4:7-12 — Peter and John's boldness in testifying of Jesus' authority.

2. 1 Peter 5:5 — Allowing God to be the ultimate authority in our lives.

Matthew 21:24 And Jesus answered and said unto them, I also will ask you one thing, which if ye tell me, I in like wise will tell you by what authority I do these things.

Jesus asked a question to the people and promised to answer them if they answered his question.

1. Jesus' Teachings - Authority & Obedience

2. The Power of Questions - How Asking Questions Gives Us Insight

1. John 7:17 - “If any man will do his will, he shall know of the doctrine, whether it be of God, or whether I speak of myself.”

2. Isaiah 1:18 - “Come now, and let us reason together, saith the Lord: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow.”

Matthew 21:25 The baptism of John, whence was it? from heaven, or of men? And they reasoned with themselves, saying, If we shall say, From heaven; he will say unto us, Why did ye not then believe him?

The people were questioning the origin of John the Baptist's baptism.

1. Believe in God's messengers and their ministry

2. Don't doubt the power of God

1. Mark 1:7 “And he preached, saying, ‘After me comes he who is mightier than I, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie.’”

2. Romans 10:17 “So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.”

Matthew 21:26 But if we shall say, Of men; we fear the people; for all hold John as a prophet.

This passage describes the dilemma of the chief priests and elders in deciding whether to answer Jesus' question of whether John the Baptist was sent from God.

1. When faced with difficult decisions, be sure to examine the evidence before making a choice.

2. We should seek God's guidance in all our decisions, no matter how difficult they may be.

1. James 1:5 - If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you.

2. Proverbs 3:5-6 - Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to Him, and He will make your paths straight.

Matthew 21:27 And they answered Jesus, and said, We cannot tell. And he said unto them, Neither tell I you by what authority I do these things.

Jesus asked the religious leaders by what authority he was doing his miracles, but they could not answer him.

1. The Power of Authority - Exploring Jesus' example of submitting to God's authority.

2. The Search for Answers - How to find truth and understanding when we may not have all the answers.

1. Isaiah 55:8-9 - For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD.

9For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways,

and my thoughts than your thoughts.

2. John 14:6 - Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

Matthew 21:28 But what think ye? A certain man had two sons; and he came to the first, and said, Son, go work to day in my vineyard.

A certain man asks his two sons to work in his vineyard.

1. The Call to Work: The Father's Invitation to His Children

2. The Power of Obedience: Following Instructions Despite Challenges

1. Matthew 6:33 - But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

2. Proverbs 3:5-6 - Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.

Matthew 21:29 He answered and said, I will not: but afterward he repented, and went.

Jesus refused to obey at first, but then changed his mind and obeyed.

1. The Power of Repentance - emphasizing the importance of changing one's mind and doing what is right.

2. The Wisdom of Obedience - highlighting the rewards of following God's will.

1. Isaiah 55:6-7 - Seek the Lord while he may be found; call upon him while he is near. Let the wicked forsake his way and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him return to the Lord, that he may have compassion on him, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.

2. 2 Corinthians 7:10 - Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation and leaves no regret, but worldly sorrow brings death.

Matthew 21:30 And he came to the second, and said likewise. And he answered and said, I go, sir: and went not.

Jesus asked two men to come with him, but only one of them followed.

1. The importance of obedience to God's call

2. The power of following through on our commitments

1. Luke 9:23 - "And he said to them all, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me."

2. 1 John 2:3-6 - "And hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep his commandments. He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. But whoso keepeth his word, in him verily is the love of God perfected: hereby know we that we are in him. He that saith he abideth in him ought himself also so to walk, even as he walked."

Matthew 21:31 Whether of them twain did the will of his father? They say unto him, The first. Jesus saith unto them, Verily I say unto you, That the publicans and the harlots go into the kingdom of God before you.

Jesus teaches that those who repent and accept God’s grace will enter the kingdom of God before the religious leaders.

1. The True Path to God: Repentance, Faith, and Grace

2. The Power of God's Mercy: Why Even Sinners are Welcome in the Kingdom

1. Romans 3:21-26 - Justification by faith in Christ

2. Luke 15:11-32 - Parable of the Prodigal Son

Matthew 21:32 For John came unto you in the way of righteousness, and ye believed him not: but the publicans and the harlots believed him: and ye, when ye had seen it, repented not afterward, that ye might believe him.

John the Baptist preached a message of righteousness, but the people of Jerusalem

rejected him. However, the publicans and harlots accepted his message and believed him. Despite seeing the truth, the people of Jerusalem still refused to repent and believe John's message.

1. The Power of Forgiveness: How God's Unconditional Love Can Help Us Overcome Our Struggles

2. The Importance of Faith: Why It's Essential To Believe in God's Word

1. Romans 5:8 But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

2. Mark 11:22-24 “Have faith in God,” Jesus answered. “Truly I tell you, if anyone says to this mountain, ‘Go, throw yourself into the sea,’ and does not doubt in their heart but believes that what they say will happen, it will be done for them. Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours.”

Matthew 21:33 Hear another parable: There was a certain householder, which planted a vineyard, and hedged it round about, and digged a winepress in it, and built a tower, and let it out to husbandmen, and went into a far country:

A householder plants a vineyard, surrounds it with a hedge, digs a winepress, builds a tower, and rents it out to farmers before leaving on a journey.

1: We should be wise stewards of our possessions, using them to bring glory to God and benefit others.

2: As we entrust our resources to others, we must be sure to remain faithful to God and to those we serve.

1: James 1:17 - Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.

2: 1 Corinthians 4:2 - Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful.

Matthew 21:34 And when the time of the fruit drew near, he sent his servants to the husbandmen, that they might receive the fruits of it.

Jesus sent his servants to the husbandmen to collect the fruits of the harvest.

1. The Importance of Obedience in Serving God

2. The Power of Sacrifice in Doing God's Will

1. Luke 10:2 - "He said to them, ‘The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore, pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.’"

2. James 1:22 - "But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves."

Matthew 21:35 And the husbandmen took his servants, and beat one, and killed another, and stoned another.

The parable of the husbandmen in Matthew 21:35 shows us that those who reject God's word will face consequences.

1. When We Reject The Word Of God, We Will Face The Consequences

2. The Parable Of The Husbandmen: A Warning To Those Who Reject God's Word

1. Galatians 6:7-8 - Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap. For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life.

2. Romans 2:5-6 - But because of your hard and impenitent heart you are storing up wrath for yourself on the day of wrath when God's righteous judgment will be revealed. He will render to each one according to his works.

Matthew 21:36 Again, he sent other servants more than the first: and they did unto them likewise.

This passage describes Jesus sending more servants after the first set of servants were ignored.

1: God is persistent in His love for us, He will continue to reach out to us even if we ignore Him.

2: We should never give up on offering love and kindness to others, no matter how many times we are rebuffed.

1: Romans 5:8 - But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

2: Luke 6:27-28 - “But I tell you who hear me: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you.

Matthew 21:37 But last of all he sent unto them his son, saying, They will reverence my son.

The passage speaks of how God sent his son to his people, expecting that they would revere him.

1: We should show our reverence and respect for God's son, Jesus Christ.

2: We must remember to honor and cherish God's gift of Jesus Christ.

1: John 3:16 - For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

2: Romans 10:9 - That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.

Matthew 21:38 But when the husbandmen saw the son, they said among themselves, This is the heir; come, let us kill him, and let us seize on his inheritance.

The husbandmen, upon seeing the son of the owner of the vineyard, conspired to kill him in order to seize his inheritance.

1. The Dangers of Greed and the Consequences of Sin

2. The Power of Love and the Hope of Redemption

1. Proverbs 28:20, "A faithful man shall abound with blessings: but he that maketh haste to be rich shall not be innocent."

2. Romans 8:18, "For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us."

Matthew 21:39 And they caught him, and cast him out of the vineyard, and slew him.

The tenants of the vineyard killed the son of the owner.

1. The importance of obedience to God's will.

2. The consequences of disobedience to God's will.

1. Proverbs 1:7 - "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and instruction."

2. John 14:15 - "If you love me, you will keep my commandments."

Matthew 21:40 When the lord therefore of the vineyard cometh, what will he do unto those husbandmen?

Passage Jesus tells a parable of a lord of a vineyard whose tenants do not give him his share of the harvest when he comes to collect it.

1. The Parable of the Tenants: Understanding Jesus' Teachings on Obedience and Sacrifice

2. The Responsibilities of a Good Steward: Following God's Plan for How We Treat Others

1. Romans 12:10 - Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves.

2. Colossians 3:23 - Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters.

Matthew 21:41 They say unto him, He will miserably destroy those wicked men, and will let out his vineyard unto other husbandmen, which shall render him the fruits in their seasons.

Jesus teaches the parable of the wicked tenants, emphasizing God's judgement and mercy.

1. God's Judgement is Justified - Matthew 21:41

2. God's Mercy is Compassionate - Matthew 21:41

1. Romans 12:19 - Do not take revenge, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," says the Lord.

2. James 4:12 - There is only one Lawgiver and Judge, the one who is able to save and destroy. But you—who are you to judge your neighbor?

Matthew 21:42 Jesus saith unto them, Did ye never read in the scriptures, The stone which the builders rejected, the same is become the head of the corner: this is the Lord's doing, and it is marvellous in our eyes?

Jesus asked the people if they had ever read in the scriptures about the stone that the builders rejected, which had become the chief cornerstone. He declared that this was the Lord's doing and was amazing to everyone.

1. The Lord's Miraculous Provision: Seeing God's Hand in Unexpected Places

2. Rejected to be Exalted: Understanding God's Redemption in the Lowest Places

1. Isaiah 28:16 - Therefore thus saith the Lord God, Behold, I lay in Zion for a foundation a stone, a tried stone, a precious corner stone, a sure foundation: he that believeth shall not make haste.

2. Psalm 118:22 - The stone which the builders refused is become the head stone of the corner.

Matthew 21:43 Therefore say I unto you, The kingdom of God shall be taken from you, and given to a nation bringing forth the fruits thereof.

The kingdom of God will be taken away from the people and given to a nation that produces its fruits.

1. The importance of bearing fruit in the Kingdom of God

2. God's graciousness and faithfulness towards those who are faithful

1. Galatians 5:22-23 - "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control."

2. James 2:17 - "In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead."

Matthew 21:44 And whosoever shall fall on this stone shall be broken: but on whomsoever it shall fall, it will grind him to powder.

Jesus is warning that those who do not accept his teaching will be crushed, but those who do accept it will be saved.

1: Accept Jesus’ teaching and be saved.

2: Reject Jesus’ teaching and be broken.

1: Isaiah 8:14-15 - "He will be a holy place; for both Israel and Judah he will be a stone that causes people to stumble and a rock that makes them fall. And for the people of Jerusalem he will be a trap and a snare. Many of them will stumble; they will fall and be broken, they will be snared and captured."

2: 1 Peter 2:6-7 - "For it stands in Scripture: “See, I lay in Zion a stone, a chosen and precious cornerstone, and the one who trusts in him will never be put to shame.” Now to you who believe, this stone is precious."

Matthew 21:45 And when the chief priests and Pharisees had heard his parables, they perceived that he spake of them.

The chief priests and Pharisees recognized Jesus's parables were about them.

1. The Danger of Ignoring God's Message

2. The Importance of Listening to God

1. Isaiah 1:18-19 - “Come now, let us reason together, says the Lord: though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall become like wool. 19 If you are willing and obedient, you shall eat the good of the land;

20 But if you refuse and rebel, you shall be eaten by the sword; for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.”

2. John 10:27-30 - “My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. 28 I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand. 29 My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand. 30 I and the Father are one.”

Matthew 21:46 But when they sought to lay hands on him, they feared the multitude, because they took him for a prophet.

Jesus was teaching in the temple when some of the chief priests and elders of the people sought to arrest him, but the multitude was so impressed by his teaching that they feared to touch him.

1. The Power of Preaching: How Jesus Used the Word of God to Change Lives

2. The Authority of Jesus: How His Teaching Challenged the Religious Leaders

1. Luke 4:31-32 - Jesus in the synagogue at Nazareth

2. Mark 11:27-33 - Jesus' Authority Challenged in the Temple

Matthew 22 is the twenty-second chapter of the Gospel of Matthew, which contains several parables and teachings by Jesus. In this chapter, Jesus engages in debates with religious leaders, addresses questions about paying taxes, and delivers the parable of the wedding feast.

1st Paragraph: The chapter begins with a parable known as the wedding feast or the parable of the king's son (Matthew 22:1-14). Jesus compares the kingdom of heaven to a king who prepared a wedding banquet for his son but found that those invited refused to come. The king then invites others from all walks of life to fill his banquet hall. However, one guest who did not have proper attire is cast out into outer darkness. This parable

illustrates God's invitation to salvation and emphasizes that many who were initially chosen may reject it while others accept it.

2nd Paragraph: Religious leaders attempt to trap Jesus with questions about paying taxes (Matthew 22:15-22). They ask whether it is lawful to pay taxes to Caesar or not. In response, Jesus astutely asks for a coin and declares that rendering to Caesar what belongs to him and giving to God what belongs to Him is appropriate. His answer avoids entrapment while highlighting both civic responsibility and spiritual devotion.

3rd Paragraph: Another group of religious leaders—the Sadducees—approach Jesus with a question about marriage in the resurrection (Matthew 22:23-33). They present a hypothetical scenario involving seven brothers who sequentially marry one woman due to levirate marriage customs. The Sadducees ask whose wife she will be in heaven. Jesus responds by explaining that marriage does not exist in heaven but affirms the reality of resurrection by referencing God's words at the burning bush when He identified Himself as "the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob." This encounter demonstrates Jesus' authority over theological matters and His ability to refute false beliefs.

In summary,

Chapter twenty-two of Matthew features the parable of the wedding feast, illustrating God's invitation to salvation and the acceptance or rejection of that invitation.

Jesus engages in debates with religious leaders regarding paying taxes and addresses questions about marriage in the resurrection.

The chapter highlights Jesus' wisdom, his ability to navigate challenging situations, and his authority over theological matters. It emphasizes the importance of accepting God's invitation to salvation and living with a proper understanding of both civic responsibility and spiritual devotion.

Matthew 22:1 And Jesus answered and spake unto them again by parables, and said,

The parable of the wedding feast: Jesus answered the religious leaders with a parable about a wedding feast.

1: Through this parable, Jesus teaches us that all are invited to join in the joy of the Kingdom of Heaven.

2: Jesus reminds us that we must accept the invitation to the wedding feast of the Kingdom of Heaven and join in its joy.

1: Revelation 19:7-9 - Let us rejoice and be glad and give him glory! For the wedding of the Lamb has come, and his bride has made herself ready.

2: Luke 14:15-24 - Then the master told his servant, ‘Go out to the roads and country lanes and compel them to come in, so that my house will be full.’

Matthew 22:2 The kingdom of heaven is like unto a certain king, which made a marriage for his son,

The parable of the marriage feast shows that God invites all people to accept his invitation to enter into his kingdom.

1. The Invitation of God: Accepting His Free Gift

2. The Marriage Feast of the Kingdom: An Opportunity for All

1. John 3:16 - "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."

2. Isaiah 55:1 - "Come, all you who are thirsty, come to the waters; and you who have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without cost."

Matthew 22:3 And sent forth his servants to call them that were bidden to the wedding: and they would not come.

The parable of the wedding feast in Matthew 22:3 is about God's invitation to salvation being rejected by many.

1. God's Invitation to Salvation: A Reflection on Matthew 22:3

2. God's Unconditional Invitation: Jesus' Parable of the Wedding Feast

1. Luke 14:23 - Then the master said to the servant, 'Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel them to come in, that my house may be filled.

2. John 6:37 - All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out.

Matthew 22:4 Again, he sent forth other servants, saying, Tell them which are bidden,

Behold, I have prepared my dinner: my oxen and my fatlings are killed, and all things are ready: come unto the marriage.

Jesus sends servants to invite people to a banquet he has prepared with oxen and fatlings as the main dishes.

1. Jesus is inviting us to feast with him and celebrate the blessings of his presence.

2. Accepting Jesus' invitation to the banquet of life leads to joy and satisfaction.

1. Matthew 11:28-30 - Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.

2. 1 Corinthians 5:7b-8 - For Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed. Let us therefore celebrate the festival, not with the old leaven, the leaven of malice and evil, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.

Matthew 22:5 But they made light of it, and went their ways, one to his farm, another to his merchandise:

This parable speaks of people who were invited to a banquet but refused the invitation.

1. God invites us to join Him in a banquet of eternal life, but many choose to ignore the invitation.

2. We must accept God's invitation to the banquet of salvation and not make light of it.

1. Luke 14:16-24 - The Parable of the Great Banquet

2. Isaiah 55:1-7 - Invitation to the Thirsty and Hungry

Matthew 22:6 And the remnant took his servants, and entreated them spitefully, and slew them.

The remnant of the guests in the parable of the wedding feast treated the servants of the king spitefully and killed them.

1. God's call to salvation is a call of love, but we must not take His love for granted.

2. We must show our gratitude to God through our obedience and loving service.

1. Romans 6:13, "Do not offer any part of yourself to sin as an instrument of wickedness, but rather offer yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life; and offer every part of yourself to him as an instrument of righteousness."

2. Ephesians 5:2, "And live in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God."

Matthew 22:7 But when the king heard thereof, he was wroth: and he sent forth his armies, and destroyed those murderers, and burned up their city.

The King was angered by the murder of his servants and destroyed the murderers and their city in response.

1. God's Justice: The King's Response to the Murder of His Servants

2. Vengeance is Mine: God's Righteous Retribution

1. Romans 12:19 - Do not take revenge, my dear friends, but leave room for God’s wrath, for it is written: “It is mine to avenge; I will repay,” says the Lord.

2. Psalm 94:1 - O Lord, the God who avenges, shine forth. Rise up, Judge of the earth; pay back to the proud what they deserve.

Matthew 22:8 Then saith he to his servants, The wedding is ready, but they which were bidden were not worthy.

Jesus tells his servants that the wedding feast is ready, despite the fact that the invited guests were not worthy to attend.

1. The Unworthiness of Man and the Generosity of God

2. Jesus' Invitation to the Wedding Feast

1. Romans 3:10-12 - "There is none righteous, no, not one: There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God. They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one."

2. Luke 14:15-24 - Parable of the Great Banquet - "And when one of them that sat at meat with him heard these things, he said unto him, Blessed is he that shall eat bread in the kingdom of God. But he said unto him, A certain man made a great supper, and bade many: And sent his servant at supper time to say to them that were bidden, Come; for all things are now ready."

Matthew 22:9 Go ye therefore into the highways, and as many as ye shall find, bid to the marriage.

Jesus instructs his followers to invite all people to the marriage feast.

1. "The Invitation to the Wedding Feast: An Invitation Everyone Should Accept"

2. "God's Invitation to All: An Inclusive Love"

1. Isaiah 55:1-7 - Come, all who are thirsty, come to the waters; and you who have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without cost.

2. Romans 5:8 - But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Matthew 22:10 So those servants went out into the highways, and gathered together all as many as they found, both bad and good: and the wedding was furnished with guests.

The servants gathered both good and bad people to fulfill the wedding feast.

1. The Invitation of God: How He Welcomes the Unworthy

2. The Power of Obedience: How it Brings Joy and Fulfillment

1. Luke 14:15-24 - Parable of the Great Banquet

2. Romans 5:8 - God's Love for the Unworthy

Matthew 22:11 And when the king came in to see the guests, he saw there a man which had not on a wedding garment:

The King saw a guest who was not wearing a wedding garment.

1. The Power of Presentation - How we choose to present ourselves in a given situation can have serious implications.

2. Wear the Right Clothes - We must always strive to present ourselves in a respectful and appropriate way.

1. Ephesians 6:11-13 - Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

2. Colossians 3:12-14 - Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering.

Matthew 22:12 And he saith unto him, Friend, how camest thou in hither not having a wedding garment? And he was speechless.

The man was not wearing the proper clothing for the wedding, and was speechless when asked about it.

1. The importance of dressing appropriately for special occasions.

2. The need to think carefully before attending any event.

1. 1 Peter 3:3-4 - "Your beauty should not come from outward adornment, such as elaborate hairstyles and the wearing of gold jewelry or fine clothes. Rather, it should be that of your inner self, the unfading beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is of great worth in God’s sight."

2. Proverbs 31:22 - "She makes coverings for her bed; she is clothed in fine linen and purple."

Matthew 22:13 Then said the king to the servants, Bind him hand and foot, and take him

away, and cast him into outer darkness; there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

The King orders his servants to punish someone by casting them into outer darkness with weeping and gnashing of teeth.

1: We should not take the Lord's punishments for granted, for they are far more serious than we can imagine.

2: We should never be so foolish as to disobey the Lord and risk His wrath.

1: Romans 6:23 - For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

2: Hebrews 10:31 - It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

Matthew 22:14 For many are called, but few are chosen.

Many are invited to the Kingdom of God, but few choose to accept the invitation.

1: We are called by God, and the choice to accept and follow His call is ultimately ours.

2: God's invitation to join His kingdom is open to all, but only those who choose to accept it will be chosen.

1: Luke 14:15-24 - The Parable of the Great Banquet.

2: John 15:16 - You did not choose me, but I chose you.

Matthew 22:15 Then went the Pharisees, and took counsel how they might entangle him in his talk.

The Pharisees plotted to ensnare Jesus in his own words.

1: God's wisdom is greater than man's schemes.

2: We must always be mindful of our words and actions.

1: Proverbs 16:9 - In their hearts humans plan their course, but the LORD establishes their steps.

2: Colossians 4:6 - Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone.

Matthew 22:16 And they sent out unto him their disciples with the Herodians, saying, Master, we know that thou art true, and teachest the way of God in truth, neither carest thou for any man: for thou regardest not the person of men.

The Herodians sent their disciples to Jesus, acknowledging that He is true and teaches the way of God in truth without favoritism.

1. The Power of Truth - How Jesus Taught Without Partiality

2. God's Unfailing Love - Recognizing Jesus as the Source of Truth

1. James 2:1-13 - The Parable of the Rich Man and Lazarus

2. Romans 2:11-16 - God's Judgment According to Truth

Matthew 22:17 Tell us therefore, What thinkest thou? Is it lawful to give tribute unto Caesar, or not?

Jesus taught that it is lawful to give taxes to Caesar.

1: Jesus taught us to obey the laws of the land.

2: Giving tribute to Caesar demonstrates our obedience to God.

1: Romans 13:1-7 - Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers.

2: Matthew 5:43-48 - Love your enemies and do good to those who hate you.

Matthew 22:18 But Jesus perceived their wickedness, and said, Why tempt ye me, ye hypocrites?

Jesus was aware of the malicious intentions of those questioning him and called them out for their hypocrisy.

1. The Danger of Hypocrisy: How to Identify and Avoid it

2. Jesus: Our Guide in Times of Temptation

1. Matthew 6:1-2 - "Beware of practicing your righteousness before other people in order to be seen by them, for then you will have no reward from your Father who is in heaven. Thus, when you give to the needy, sound no trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may be praised by others."

2. James 1:12-13 - "Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love him. Let no one say when he is tempted, “I am being tempted by God,” for God cannot be tempted with evil, and he himself tempts no one."

Matthew 22:19 Shew me the tribute money. And they brought unto him a penny.

Jesus asked the Pharisees to show him a penny as an example of tribute money.

1. The Power of a Single Penny: How Our Smallest Actions Can Make a Big Difference.

2. Jesus the Teacher: Learning What We Need to Know from the Master.

1. Proverbs 22:7 - "The rich ruleth over the poor, and the borrower is servant to the lender."

2. Luke 12:48 - "For unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall be much required: and to whom men have committed much, of him they will ask the more."

Matthew 22:20 And he saith unto them, Whose is this image and superscription?

Jesus asks the Pharisees to identify whose image and inscription is on the coin.

1. Who Do You Serve?

2. Putting God First in Life

1. Matthew 6:24 “No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money.”

2. Matthew 6:33 “But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.”

Matthew 22:21 They say unto him, Caesar's. Then saith he unto them, Render therefore unto Caesar the things which are Caesar's; and unto God the things that are God's.

Jesus teaches that we must obey both God and the governing authorities.

1: Giving to God What Is God's: Matthew 22:21

2: Living Our Lives to Glorify God: Romans 12:1-2

1: Romans 13:1-7

2: Daniel 3:16-18

Matthew 22:22 When they had heard these words, they marvelled, and left him, and went their way.

The religious leaders were amazed by Jesus' words and left without responding.

1. The Power of God's Word - How Jesus' Words Can Transform Lives

2. The Power of Questions - How Asking the Right Questions Can Bring Clarity

1. Acts 4:13 - Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated and untrained men, they marvelled. And they realized that they

had been with Jesus.

2. Luke 4:32 - And they were astonished at His teaching, for His word was with authority.

Matthew 22:23 The same day came to him the Sadducees, which say that there is no resurrection, and asked him,

The Sadducees came to Jesus and asked him whether there was a resurrection.

1. Understanding the Resurrection - How Jesus' Teachings on the Resurrection Can Change Your Life

2. Facing the Unbelievers - How to Stand Firm in Your Faith in the Resurrection

1. John 11:25-26 - Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die.

2. 1 Corinthians 15:12-19 - Now if Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? But if there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. And if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain. We are even found to be misrepresenting God, because we testified about God that he raised Christ, whom he did not raise if it is true that the dead are not raised. For if the dead are not raised, not even Christ has been raised. And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. If in Christ we have hope in this life only, we are of all people most to be pitied.

Matthew 22:24 Saying, Master, Moses said, If a man die, having no children, his brother shall marry his wife, and raise up seed unto his brother.

A question is posed to Jesus, asking whether the law of Moses applies if a man dies without any children – that his brother should marry his wife to raise up seed.

1. The importance of leaving a legacy

2. Love and family bonds in the face of loss

1. Luke 14:26-27 – “If anyone comes to me and does not hate his own father and mother

and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be my disciple. Whoever does not bear his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple.”

2. Proverbs 13:22 – “A good man leaves an inheritance to his children’s children, but the sinner’s wealth is laid up for the righteous.”

Matthew 22:25 Now there were with us seven brethren: and the first, when he had married a wife, deceased, and, having no issue, left his wife unto his brother:

A parable of Jesus illustrates how the Law of Moses allowed for the practice of levirate marriage.

1. Love and Obedience: Living Out God’s Laws in Human Relationships

2. The Power of Love: God’s Covenant of Love Through Levirate Marriage

1. Deuteronomy 25:5-6

2. Ruth 1:4-5

Matthew 22:26 Likewise the second also, and the third, unto the seventh.

The passage mentions the second to the seventh.

1. Our lives should be based on a commitment to following God's commands from the second to the seventh.

2. We should strive to be obedient to the Lord from the second to the seventh.

1. Deuteronomy 6:4-5 - "Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might."

2. Matthew 22:37-40 - "And he said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets.”

Matthew 22:27 And last of all the woman died also.

The woman in the story died last.

1: Nothing is permanent in this life, not even life itself.

2: We must live each day as if it were our last.

1: James 4:13-14 - Come now, you who say, “Today or tomorrow we will go into such and such a town and spend a year there and trade and make a profit”— 14 yet you do not know what tomorrow will bring. What is your life? For you are a mist that appears for a little time and then vanishes.

2: Ecclesiastes 3:1-2 - For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven: 2 a time to be born, and a time to die.

Matthew 22:28 Therefore in the resurrection whose wife shall she be of the seven? for they all had her.

In the resurrection, the Sadducees asked Jesus a question about a woman who had been married to seven different men. They asked whose wife she would be in the resurrection.

1. God's Love is Unconditional: What the Sadducees' Question Reveals About Jesus

2. The Power of Resurrection: Reimagining Life After Death

1. Matthew 22:37-40 - Jesus replied: “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.”

2. Romans 6:4 - We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.

Matthew 22:29 Jesus answered and said unto them, Ye do err, not knowing the scriptures, nor the power of God.

Jesus chastises the religious leaders for not knowing the scriptures or the power of God.

1. The Power of God: Understanding the Scriptures

2. Knowing the Scriptures: Revealing the Power of God

1. Isaiah 55:8-9 "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts."

2. Romans 1:16-17 "For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek. For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith."

Matthew 22:30 For in the resurrection they neither marry, nor are given in marriage, but are as the angels of God in heaven.

This verse speaks of the nature of resurrection, and how it is different from life on earth.

1: Love is Eternal - Exploring the Nature of Love Beyond the Grave

2: Becoming Like Angels - Preparing for the Resurrection

1: 1 Corinthians 15:35-49 - Paul's discussion of the nature of resurrection

2: Luke 20:27-38 - Jesus' response to the Sadducees about the afterlife.

Matthew 22:31 But as touching the resurrection of the dead, have ye not read that which was spoken unto you by God, saying,

Jesus teaches about the resurrection of the dead in Matthew 22.

1. The Hope of the Resurrection: How Jesus Upholds the Promise of Eternal Life

2. How the Resurrection Promises a New Life in Christ

1. Ephesians 2:4-6 - But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;) And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus:

2. Romans 8:11 - But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you.

Matthew 22:32 I am the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob? God is not the God of the dead, but of the living.

Jesus affirms that God is the God of the living and not of the dead.

1. The Unchanging Faithfulness of God

2. God of the Living, Not of the Dead

1. Romans 4:16-17 - “Therefore, the promise comes by faith, so that it may be by grace and may be guaranteed to all Abraham’s offspring—not only to those who are of the law but also to those who have the faith of Abraham. He is the father of us all.

2. Hebrews 11:13-16 - All these people were still living by faith when they died. They did not receive the things promised; they only saw them and welcomed them from a distance, admitting that they were foreigners and strangers on earth. People who say such things show that they are looking for a country of their own. If they had been thinking of the country they had left, they would have had opportunity to return. Instead, they were longing for a better country—a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared a city for them.

Matthew 22:33 And when the multitude heard this, they were astonished at his doctrine.

The multitude were astonished at Jesus' doctrine.

1. Understanding Jesus' Doctrine - How to Listen and Learn

2. The Impact of Jesus' Teachings - Astonishing Even the Multitude

1. Matthew 7:28-29 - And it came to pass, when Jesus had ended these sayings, the people were astonished at his doctrine: For he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes.

2. Acts 2:42 - And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.

Matthew 22:34 But when the Pharisees had heard that he had put the Sadducees to silence, they were gathered together.

The Pharisees were angered when Jesus silenced the Sadducees in a debate.

1. The Power of Knowledge: How Jesus Used His Authority to Silence the Sadducees

2. The Importance of Standing by Your Beliefs: The Pharisees' Response to Jesus' Victory

1. Proverbs 15:2 - "The tongue of the wise adorns knowledge, but the mouth of the fool gushes folly."

2. James 1:19 - "Know this, my beloved brothers: let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger."

Matthew 22:35 Then one of them, which was a lawyer, asked him a question, tempting him, and saying,

Jesus teaches on the importance of loving God and neighbor.

1: Love God and Love Your Neighbor - Matthew 22:35-40

2: Fulfilling the Greatest Commandment - Matthew 22:35-40

1: Deuteronomy 6:5 - Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength.

2: Leviticus 19:18 - Love your neighbor as yourself.

Matthew 22:36 Master, which is the great commandment in the law?

Jesus replied: Love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.

Jesus answered a question about the great commandment in the law, by saying that it was to love the Lord your God with all of one's heart, soul, and mind.

1. "Love the Lord: A Call to Complete Devotion"

2. "A Heart, a Soul, and a Mind: All for God"

1. Deuteronomy 6:5 - "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength."

2. Mark 12:30 - "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength."

Matthew 22:37 Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind.

Jesus tells us to love God with all our heart, soul, and mind.

1. "Loving God with All Your Heart, Soul, and Mind"

2. "Living Out the Greatest Commandment"

1. Deuteronomy 6:5 - "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength."

2. 1 John 4:7-8 - "Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love."

Matthew 22:38 This is the first and great commandment.

The first and greatest commandment is to love God with all your heart, soul, and mind.

1. The Power of Love: Learning to Love God with All Our Heart, Soul, and Mind

2. The Greatest Commandment: Loving God Above All Else

1. Deuteronomy 6:5 - “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength.”

2. John 14:15 - “If you love me, keep my commands.”

Matthew 22:39 And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.

Jesus teaches that the second greatest commandment is to love one's neighbor as oneself.

1. Love Your Neighbor: Living Out the Second Greatest Commandment

2. The Power of Love: Practicing Jesus' Commandment

1. 1 John 4:7-12 - Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God.

2. Romans 12:9-10 - Let love be without dissimulation. Abhor that which is evil; cleave to that which is good.

Matthew 22:40 On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.

Jesus teaches that all of the Law and the Prophets can be summed up in two commandments.

1. "The Heart of the Law: Love God and Love Your Neighbor"

2. "Living in the Fullness of the Law: A Journey of Faith"

1. Deuteronomy 6:5-6; Leviticus 19:18 - "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, and strength, and love your neighbor as yourself."

2. Romans 13:8-10 - "Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law."

Matthew 22:41 While the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them,

Jesus challenges the Pharisees with a question about the Messiah.

1: We can find wisdom in Jesus's questions and be challenged to search for answers.

2: Jesus's question to the Pharisees reminds us of the importance of understanding God's Word.

1: James 1:5 - If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him.

2: Philippians 4:6-7 - Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

Matthew 22:42 Saying, What think ye of Christ? whose son is he? They say unto him, The son of David.

Jesus challenged the religious leaders of His day to answer a question about the identity of the Messiah.

1. The Identity of the Messiah: Who is Jesus Christ?

2. Utilizing Scripture to Identify the Son of David

1. Isaiah 9:6-7 - "For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace."

2. Romans 1:3-4 - "Concerning his Son Jesus Christ our Lord, which was made of the seed

of David according to the flesh; And declared to be the Son of God with power, according to the spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead."

Matthew 22:43 He saith unto them, How then doth David in spirit call him Lord, saying,

The passage discusses how Jesus questions the Pharisees on how David, in spirit, calls him Lord.

1. The Power of Jesus - How Jesus is the Lord and how we can recognize His power.

2. The Words of David - How David's words are still relevant today and how they can teach us about Jesus.

1. Philippians 2:5-11 - Discussing the humility and exaltation of Jesus.

2. Psalm 110 - Discussing the Lordship of Jesus.

Matthew 22:44 The LORD said unto my Lord, Sit thou on my right hand, till I make thine enemies thy footstool?

Jesus quotes Psalm 110 in Matthew 22:44, referring to God's promise to give Jesus a place of honor and authority until His enemies are defeated.

1. The Power of Christ's Authority

2. The Sovereignty of God: His Promise to Reign

1. Isaiah 9:6-7 - For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore.

2. Psalm 110:1 - The LORD says to my Lord: “Sit at my right hand, until I make your enemies your footstool.”

Matthew 22:45 If David then call him Lord, how is he his son?

The passage questions the relationship between Jesus and David if Jesus is called Lord.

1. The Lordship of Jesus: How Jesus Proves He is the Son of David

2. The Mystery of Jesus: Exploring the Paradox of His Nature

1. Isaiah 7:14: “Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.”

2. Revelation 22:16: “I, Jesus, have sent my angel to testify to you about these things for the churches. I am the root and the descendant of David, the bright morning star.”

Matthew 22:46 And no man was able to answer him a word, neither durst any man from that day forth ask him any more questions.

Jesus was asked a question, and He answered it in such a way that no one could answer back or even ask Him another question afterwards.

1. The Power of Jesus' Words: How His Answers Lead to Unanswered Questions

2. The Importance of Listening to Jesus: How His Answers Set the Standard for All

1. Proverbs 18:13 - "He who gives an answer before he hears, It is folly and shame to him."

2. James 1:19 - "So then, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath."

Matthew 23 contains Jesus' critique of the scribes and Pharisees, warning against hypocrisy, and His lament over Jerusalem.

1st Paragraph: The chapter begins with Jesus speaking to crowds and disciples about scribes Pharisees (Matthew 23:1-12). He acknowledges their authority but criticizes their hypocrisy and self-promotion. They tie up heavy burdens hard to bear lay them on people's shoulders but they themselves are not willing to lift a finger to move them. They do all their deeds to be seen by others. In contrast, He encourages His followers to practice humility saying "Whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and whoever humbles

himself will be exalted."

2nd Paragraph: Jesus then pronounces seven woes against scribes Pharisees (Matthew 23:13-36). He condemns them for blocking kingdom heaven not entering themselves nor allowing others enter; for focusing on minor issues law neglecting more important matters like justice mercy faithfulness; for presenting clean outward appearance while being full greed self-indulgence inside; for building tombs prophets claiming they would not have participated in killing prophets implying they are just as guilty as ancestors who killed prophets.

3rd Paragraph: Finally, Jesus laments over Jerusalem city that kills prophets stones those sent it expressing desire gather children together as hen gathers her brood under wings but unwillingness city partake in this protection (Matthew 23:37-39). He predicts desolation temple says they will not see Him again until say 'Blessed is he who comes in name Lord.' This shows deep sorrow over impending judgment yet hope future reconciliation when they acknowledge Him Messiah.

Matthew 23:1 Then spake Jesus to the multitude, and to his disciples,

Jesus speaks to the multitude and disciples about humility and importance of obedience to God.

1. The Humility of Obedience: Why We Must Follow God's Will

2. The Importance of Listening to the Words of Jesus

1. Philippians 2:5-8 - Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men.

2. 1 John 5:3 - For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome.

Matthew 23:2 Saying, The scribes and the Pharisees sit in Moses' seat:

Jesus warns about the hypocrisy of the religious leaders of his time.

1. The Danger of Hypocrisy in the Church

2. The Power of Humility in Spiritual Leadership

1. James 4:6 - "But he gives more grace. Therefore it says, “God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.”

2. Matthew 5:3-5 - “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted. Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.”

Matthew 23:3 All therefore whatsoever they bid you observe, that observe and do; but do not ye after their works: for they say, and do not.

1. Obeying the Law vs. Following Examples of Faith

2. Keeping God's Commands Despite Bad Examples

1. James 1:22-25 - But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks intently at his natural face in a mirror. For he looks at himself and goes away and at once forgets what he was like. But the one who looks into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and perseveres, being no hearer who forgets but a doer who acts, he will be blessed in his doing.

2. Philippians 3:17 - Brothers, join in imitating me, and keep your eyes on those who walk according to the example you have in us.

Matthew 23:4 For they bind heavy burdens and grievous to be borne, and lay them on men's shoulders; but they themselves will not move them with one of their fingers.

The religious leaders of Jesus' day were hypocrites, placing impossible burdens on others while refusing to lift a finger to help.

1. "The Burden of Hypocrisy: Learning from Jesus' Words"

2. "The Unbearable Weight of Unfair Expectations"

1. Isaiah 58:6-7 - "Is not this the fast that I have chosen? To loose the bands of wickedness, to undo the heavy burdens, and to let the oppressed go free, and that ye break every yoke? Is it not to deal thy bread to the hungry, and that thou bring the poor that are cast out to thy house? when thou seest the naked, that thou cover him; and that thou hide not thyself from thine own flesh?"

2. Galatians 6:2 - "Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ."

Matthew 23:5 But all their works they do for to be seen of men: they make broad their phylacteries, and enlarge the borders of their garments,

The passage from Matthew 23:5 states that the works of the Pharisees were done to be seen and praised by others, rather than for the glory of God.

1. "Doing Good Works for the Right Reasons"

2. "Focusing on God's Glory, Not Our Own"

1. Ephesians 2:10 - For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.

2. Colossians 3:23 - And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men.

Matthew 23:6 And love the uppermost rooms at feasts, and the chief seats in the synagogues,

The passage is about loving the best places at celebrations or in religious institutions.

1. The Joy of Serving Others

2. Humility in the Time of Celebrations

1. Philippians 2:3-4 - Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves

2. Luke 14:7-14 - Jesus told a parable about humility, saying "For all those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted."

Matthew 23:7 And greetings in the markets, and to be called of men, Rabbi, Rabbi.

This passage speaks of the danger of desiring recognition and admiration from other people.

1: Pride goes before a fall - Proverbs 16:18

2: Be humble and serve others - Philippians 2:3-4

1: James 4:10 - Humble yourselves before the Lord, and He will exalt you.

2: Matthew 6:1-4 - Do not be like the hypocrites who seek recognition and admiration from others.

Matthew 23:8 But be not ye called Rabbi: for one is your Master, even Christ; and all ye are brethren.

Jesus teaches that all believers are equal and that no one should be given a higher title than the other.

1. The Value of Equality in the Church

2. The Power of Serving in Humility

1. Galatians 3:28 - "There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus."

2. Philippians 2:3-4 - "Do nothing from rivalry or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others."

Matthew 23:9 And call no man your father upon the earth: for one is your Father, which is in heaven.

Jesus instructs his followers to not give honor to any human on earth, for God alone is their Father who is in Heaven.

1. “Our Ultimate Father: Acknowledging God as Our Heavenly Father”

2. “Honor the Lord: Refusing to Put Any Human on a Pedestal”

1. Ephesians 3:14-15 “For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named.”

2. Isaiah 40:25 “To whom then will you compare me, that I should be like him? says the Holy One.”

Matthew 23:10 Neither be ye called masters: for one is your Master, even Christ.

Jesus warns against calling oneself a master, as he is the only true master.

1. "Christ is Our Master: What Does that Mean for Us?"

2. "The Danger of Pride: Putting Ourselves Before Christ"

1. Proverbs 16:18 “Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall.”

2. Philippians 2:3 “Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves.”

Matthew 23:11 But he that is greatest among you shall be your servant.

Jesus teaches that the greatest among us should be humble and serve others.

1. "True Greatness Lies in Service"

2. "Serving Others: The Path to Fulfillment"

1. Philippians 2:5-8

2. Luke 22:24-27

Matthew 23:12 And whosoever shall exalt himself shall be abased; and he that shall humble himself shall be exalted.

Humble yourself and you will be exalted; exalt yourself and you will be humbled.

1. God will honor those who choose to honor Him through humility.

2. Pride and arrogance lead to destruction, but humility leads to glory.

1. James 4:10 - Humble yourselves before the Lord, and He will exalt you.

2. Proverbs 16:18- Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall.

Matthew 23:13 But woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye shut up the kingdom of heaven against men: for ye neither go in yourselves, neither suffer ye them that are entering to go in.

Jesus condemns the hypocrisy of the scribes and Pharisees, who refuse to enter the kingdom of heaven themselves and prevent others from entering.

1. The Danger of Hypocrisy: A Warning from Jesus

2. Practicing What We Preach: Living Out Our Faith

1. James 1:22: "But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves."

2. 1 John 1:9: "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

Matthew 23:14 Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye devour widows' houses, and for a pretence make long prayer: therefore ye shall receive the greater damnation.

Jesus condemns the scribes and Pharisees for taking advantage of widows and

pretending to be religious by making long prayers.

1. The Danger of Pretending to be Religious

2. Don't Take Advantage of Those in Need

1. James 2:15-17 - "If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food, and one of you says to them, “Go in peace, be warmed and filled,” without giving them the things needed for the body, what good is that?"

2. 1 John 3:17-18 - "But if anyone has the world’s goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God’s love abide in him? Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth."

Matthew 23:15 Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye compass sea and land to make one proselyte, and when he is made, ye make him twofold more the child of hell than yourselves.

The scribes and Pharisees were condemned for trying to make converts and making them even worse than themselves.

1. The Danger of Hypocrisy: A Warning from Jesus

2. Walking the Walk: Living a Life of Authenticity

1. James 4:17 - "So whoever knows the right thing to do and fails to do it, for him it is sin."

2. Ephesians 4:15 - "Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ."

Matthew 23:16 Woe unto you, ye blind guides, which say, Whosoever shall swear by the temple, it is nothing; but whosoever shall swear by the gold of the temple, he is a debtor!

Jesus criticized the Pharisees for allowing people to swear by the temple and yet requiring them to swear by the gold of the temple, leading to a greater debt.

1. The Danger of Misleading People: How the Pharisees Failed to Live Up to Their

Responsibilities

2. The Power of Words: How Our Words Have Consequences and Impact Others

1. Proverbs 11:9 - The hypocrite with his mouth destroyeth his neighbour: but through knowledge shall the just be delivered.

2. Proverbs 12:13 - The wicked is snared by the transgression of his lips: but the just shall come out of trouble.

Matthew 23:17 Ye fools and blind: for whether is greater, the gold, or the temple that sanctifieth the gold?

The passage highlights the comparison between the gold and the temple that sanctifies it, asking which one is greater.

1. The Importance of Sanctification - highlighting how the gold is made more valuable by being in the temple.

2. The True Value of Things - emphasizing that the gold is not the true value, but rather the temple that sanctifies it.

1. 1 Peter 1:7 - "so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ"

2. 1 Corinthians 3:16-17 - "Do you not know that you are God’s temple and that God’s Spirit dwells in you? If anyone destroys God’s temple, God will destroy him. For God’s temple is holy, and you are that temple."

Matthew 23:18 And, Whosoever shall swear by the altar, it is nothing; but whosoever sweareth by the gift that is upon it, he is guilty.

Jesus teaches his followers that making oaths by the altar is not wrong, but that one is guilty if they swear by the gift that is on it.

1. The Power of Oaths: What Jesus Teaches Us About Making Promises

2. Understanding Jesus' Teaching on the Significance of Vows

1. James 5:12 - "But above all, my brothers, do not swear—not by heaven or by earth or by anything else. Let your “Yes” be yes, and your “No,” no, or you will be condemned.

2. Ecclesiastes 5:4-5 - “When you make a vow to God, do not delay in fulfilling it. He has no pleasure in fools; fulfill your vow. It is better not to make a vow than to make one and not fulfill it.

Matthew 23:19 Ye fools and blind: for whether is greater, the gift, or the altar that sanctifieth the gift?

Jesus is rebuking the Pharisees for their hypocrisy in tithing, while neglecting justice and mercy.

1. "The Weight of Our Words: Jesus and the Pharisees"

2. "The Priority of Love: Sacrificing our Gifts to God"

1. Luke 6:37-38 - "Judge not, and ye shall not be judged: condemn not, and ye shall not be condemned: forgive, and ye shall be forgiven."

2. James 2:14-17 - "What doth it profit, my brethren, though a man say he hath faith, and have not works? can faith save him?"

Matthew 23:20 Whoso therefore shall swear by the altar, sweareth by it, and by all things thereon.

Jesus teaches that when someone swears by the altar, they are also swearing by all the things on it.

1. The Power of our Words: Understanding the Meaning of Oaths

2. The Importance of Holiness: Living Up to Our Promises

1. James 5:12 - "But above all, my brothers, do not swear—not by heaven or by earth or by anything else. Let your “Yes” be yes, and your “No,” no, or you will be condemned.”

2. Ecclesiastes 5:2-4 - “Do not be quick with your mouth, do not be hasty in your heart to utter anything before God. God is in heaven and you are on earth, so let your words be few. A dream comes when there are many cares, and many words mark the speech of a fool.”

Matthew 23:21 And whoso shall swear by the temple, sweareth by it, and by him that dwelleth therein.

Jesus is teaching that those who swear by the temple, are in fact swearing by God who dwells within the temple.

1. The Power of a Swear: Exploring the gravity of swearing by the temple and the significance of God who dwells within it.

2. Making an Oath: Examining our relationship with the temple and the importance of honoring God through our words.

1. James 5:12-14 - "But above all, my brothers, do not swear, either by heaven or by earth or by any other oath, but let your “yes” be yes and your “no” be no, so that you may not fall under condemnation. Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray. Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing praise."

2. Isaiah 65:16 - "Whoever invokes a blessing in the land will do so by the God of faithfulness; and he who takes an oath in the land will swear by the God of faithfulness."

Matthew 23:22 And he that shall swear by heaven, sweareth by the throne of God, and by him that sitteth thereon.

This passage emphasizes the importance of swearing by God and His throne.

1: "Honor the Lord in Your Oaths"

2: "The Power of God's Throne"

1: Isaiah 66:1 - "Thus saith the LORD, The heaven is my throne, and the earth is my footstool: where is the house that ye build unto me?"

2: Jeremiah 17:12 - "A glorious high throne from the beginning is the place of our sanctuary."

Matthew 23:23 Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye pay tithe of mint and anise and cummin, and have omitted the weightier matters of the law, judgment, mercy, and faith: these ought ye to have done, and not to leave the other undone.

This passage in Matthew 23:23 speaks of the hypocrisy of the scribes and Pharisees for focusing on minor matters of the law while neglecting the more important matters of judgment, mercy, and faith.

1. "Seeking Justice and Mercy: The Weightier Matters of the Law"

2. "Living Faithfully and Righteously: A Reflection on Matthew 23:23"

1. Micah 6:8 "He has showed you, O man, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God."

2. Galatians 5:22-23 "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law."

Matthew 23:24 Ye blind guides, which strain at a gnat, and swallow a camel.

This verse is about hypocrisy among the religious leaders who focus on minor details but overlook larger issues.

1. Seeing the Big Picture: Exposing Hypocrisy in our Lives

2. From Gnats to Camels: The Danger of Selective Obedience

1. Isaiah 29:13-14 - Woe unto them that decree unrighteous decrees, and that write grievousness which they have prescribed; To turn aside the needy from judgement, and to take away the right from the poor of my people, that widows may be their prey, and that they may rob the fatherless!

2. James 1:22-25 - But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves. For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass: For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was. But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty,

and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed.

Matthew 23:25 Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye make clean the outside of the cup and of the platter, but within they are full of extortion and excess.

The scribes and Pharisees focused on outward appearance rather than internal transformation.

1: Our focus should be on internal transformation rather than outward appearances.

2: We should focus on following God's instructions and living with a pure heart.

1: Colossians 3:12-17 - Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience.

2: James 1:22-25 - But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.

Matthew 23:26 Thou blind Pharisee, cleanse first that which is within the cup and platter, that the outside of them may be clean also.

The passage speaks of the importance of attending to the inside of one's heart before worrying about outward appearances.

1. "The Heart of the Matter: Cleaning the Inside First"

2. "Appearances Can Be Deceiving: The Need for Inner Purification"

1. Psalm 51:10 - "Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me."

2. Proverbs 4:23 - "Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life."

Matthew 23:27 Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye are like unto whited sepulchres, which indeed appear beautiful outward, but are within full of dead men's bones, and of all uncleanness.

Jesus condemns the scribes and Pharisees for appearing holy on the outside while their hearts are full of sin and corruption.

1. Jesus' Warning Against Hypocrisy

2. The Danger of a False Disguise of Piety

1. Romans 3:23 - For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God.

2. James 4:17 - Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin.

Matthew 23:28 Even so ye also outwardly appear righteous unto men, but within ye are full of hypocrisy and iniquity.

This passage warns against appearing righteous on the outside while hiding one's inner hypocrisy and sin.

1: True righteousness comes from within, not from outward appearances.

2: We must be honest with ourselves, and strive for true righteousness, not just the appearance of it.

1: Philippians 3:8-9 - "Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ."

2: 1 John 1:8-10 - "If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us."

Matthew 23:29 Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! because ye build the tombs of the prophets, and garnish the sepulchres of the righteous,

The scribes and Pharisees are hypocrites for paying homage to those they persecuted.

1. The Hypocrisy of Paying Homage

2. The Dangers of Hypocrisy

1. Isaiah 29:13 - "This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with their lips; but their heart is far from me."

2. James 2:17 - "Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone."

Matthew 23:30 And say, If we had been in the days of our fathers, we would not have been partakers with them in the blood of the prophets.

The people of Jesus' day were hypocritical, claiming that they would not have persecuted the prophets like their ancestors had done, when in reality they were doing the same.

1. The Danger of Hypocrisy: Recognizing and Avoiding Falsehoods

2. Staying True in Times of Opposition: Standing Firm in Faith

1. Isaiah 29:13 - "And the Lord said: “Because this people draw near with their mouth and honor me with their lips, while their hearts are far from me, and their fear of me is a commandment taught by men"

2. James 2:17 - "So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead"

Matthew 23:31 Wherefore ye be witnesses unto yourselves, that ye are the children of them which killed the prophets.

Jesus warns the Pharisees that they are the children of those who killed the prophets.

1. The Consequences of Our Actions

2. The Danger of Spiritual Pride

1. Romans 6:23 - For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

2. James 1:19-20 - Know this, my beloved brothers: let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger; for the anger of man does not produce the righteousness that God requires.

Matthew 23:32 Fill ye up then the measure of your fathers.

Jesus warns the Pharisees and scribes of the dangers of their hypocrisy by reminding them of the sins of their ancestors.

1. The Importance of Honesty and Humility in our Walk with God

2. The Consequences of Disobeying God's Commands

1. Romans 6:23 - For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

2. Proverbs 28:13 - Whoever conceals his transgressions will not prosper, but he who confesses and forsakes them will obtain mercy.

Matthew 23:33 Ye serpents, ye generation of vipers, how can ye escape the damnation of hell?

Jesus condemns the Pharisees for their hypocrisy and warns them about the consequences of their evil deeds.

1. Hypocrisy: A Sin That Cannot Be Avoided

2. The Cost of Rejecting God's Truth

1. Romans 2:1-5 - Therefore you have no excuse, O man, every one of you who judges. For in passing judgment on another you condemn yourself, because you, the judge, practice the very same things.

2. James 4:17 - So whoever knows the right thing to do and fails to do it, for him it is sin.

Matthew 23:34 Wherefore, behold, I send unto you prophets, and wise men, and scribes: and some of them ye shall kill and crucify; and some of them shall ye scourge in your synagogues, and persecute them from city to city:

Jesus warns of the persecution of God's servants.

1. The Persecution of God's Servants: Standing Firm Despite Adversity

2. Our Calling: To Love Despite Persecution

1. Hebrews 11:35-40 - The Faith of God's Servants

2. John 15:17-19 - The Love of God's Servants

Matthew 23:35 That upon you may come all the righteous blood shed upon the earth, from the blood of righteous Abel unto the blood of Zacharias son of Barachias, whom ye slew between the temple and the altar.

This passage speaks of God's judgment on the people for their sins, particularly for the shedding of innocent blood.

1: The Consequences of Sin

2: The Wrath of God

1: Genesis 4:10 - And He said, What hast thou done? The voice of thy brother's blood crieth unto me from the ground.

2: Romans 12:19 - Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord.

Matthew 23:36 Verily I say unto you, All these things shall come upon this generation.

This passage speaks of judgement that will come upon the current generation.

1. We must live in a manner that respects and honors God, lest we bring judgement upon ourselves.

2. Our actions have consequences, both in this life and the life to come.

1. Hebrews 9:27 - "And just as it is appointed for man to die once, and after that comes judgment."

2. Romans 2:5-6 - "But because of your hard and impenitent heart you are storing up wrath for yourself on the day of wrath when God's righteous judgment will be revealed."

Matthew 23:37 O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and ye would not!

Jesus expresses deep sorrow over Jerusalem's refusal to accept Him, despite the many prophets sent to her throughout history.

1. God's Love Endures: The Unconditional Love of Jesus for Jerusalem

2. Rejecting the Call: The Consequences of Refusing God's Offer of Salvation

1. Isaiah 53:3 - "He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief"

2. Jeremiah 29:13 - "You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart"

Matthew 23:38 Behold, your house is left unto you desolate.

Jesus warns the Pharisees that their house will be left desolate because of their refusal to repent.

1. The Consequences of Hardened Hearts - A on Matthew 23:38

2. Rejecting Repentance - A on the Pharisees' Unbelief and the Resulting Desolation of Their House

1. Hebrews 3:7-14 - Warning against hardening of hearts.

2. Isaiah 6:9-10 - God's call to repent.

Matthew 23:39 For I say unto you, Ye shall not see me henceforth, till ye shall say, Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord.

Jesus declared that he will not be seen again until the people recognize his authority from the Lord.

1. The Power of Recognition: How to Acknowledge God's Authority in Our Lives

2. The Value of Blessing: Experiencing the Joy of Rejoicing in the Lord

1. Isaiah 11:10 - "And in that day there shall be a root of Jesse, which shall stand for an ensign of the people; to it shall the Gentiles seek: and his rest shall be glorious."

2. Psalm 118:26 - "Blessed be he that cometh in the name of the LORD: we have blessed you out of the house of the LORD."

Matthew 24 discusses the destruction of the temple, signs of the end times, and the importance of watchfulness in anticipation of Jesus' return.

1st Paragraph: The chapter begins with Jesus predicting destruction temple (Matthew 24:1-2). When disciples ask about sign His coming end age He warns them not be misled by false Christs or disturbed by wars rumors wars because these things must happen but end is still to come. He talks about nation rising against nation kingdom against kingdom famines earthquakes various places but these are just beginning birth pains (Matthew 24:3-8).

2nd Paragraph: He then describes persecution believers will face false prophets who will deceive many increase wickedness love most grow cold but those who stand firm to end will be saved. Gospel kingdom will be preached whole world testimony all nations then end will come (Matthew 24:9-14). He refers to 'abomination desolation' spoken through prophet Daniel standing in holy place warning those in Judea flee mountains without delay for there will be great distress unequaled from beginning world until now never to be equaled again.

3rd Paragraph: Jesus goes on discuss signs immediately after distress days sun moon stars darkened heavenly bodies shaken Son Man coming clouds heaven with power great glory sending angels with loud trumpet call gather elect from four winds one end heavens other (Matthew 24:29-31). He tells parable fig tree when its twigs get tender leaves come out know summer is near same way when see all these things know it is near right at door. But exact day hour no one knows not even angels heaven nor Son only Father. As it was in days Noah so it will be at coming Son Man people eating drinking

marrying giving marriage up day Noah entered ark they knew nothing about flood swept them away that how coming Son Man will be so need always keep watch because do not know on what day your Lord will come (Matthew 24:32-44).

Matthew 24:1 And Jesus went out, and departed from the temple: and his disciples came to him for to shew him the buildings of the temple.

Jesus left the temple and his disciples showed him the buildings of the temple.

1. God's Presence is Everywhere: Understanding the Meaning of Jesus Leaving the Temple

2. The Importance of Respect and Awe: Appreciating the Buildings of the Temple

1. Psalm 46:4-5 “There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy habitation of the Most High. God is in the midst of her; she shall not be moved; God will help her when morning dawns.”

2. Isaiah 66:1 “Thus says the LORD: “Heaven is my throne, and the earth is my footstool; what is the house that you would build for me, and what is the place of my rest?”

Matthew 24:2 And Jesus said unto them, See ye not all these things? verily I say unto you, There shall not be left here one stone upon another, that shall not be thrown down.

Jesus foretells the destruction of the Temple in Jerusalem.

1: We must be prepared for the unexpected, as Jesus warned us that destruction is possible.

2: We must trust in the Lord’s plan, even when it seems dire or difficult.

1: Romans 8:28 - And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.

2: Isaiah 41:10 - So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.

Matthew 24:3 And as he sat upon the mount of Olives, the disciples came unto him privately, saying, Tell us, when shall these things be? and what shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world?

The disciples asked Jesus questions about the signs of his second coming and the end of the world when he was sitting on the Mount of Olives.

1. The Power of Faith: How to Prepare for Jesus's Second Coming

2. The Importance of Watching and Waiting: Jesus's Return and the End of the World

1. Romans 13:11-12 “Besides this you know the time, that the hour has come for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed. The night is far gone; the day is at hand. So then let us cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light.”

2. Titus 2:11-14 “For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works.”

Matthew 24:4 And Jesus answered and said unto them, Take heed that no man deceive you.

Jesus warns his disciples to be aware of those who try to deceive them.

1. "The Dangers of Deception"

2. "The Power of Discernment"

1. Ephesians 5:15-17; "Be very careful, then, how you live--not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is."

2. Proverbs 14:15; "The simple believe anything, but the prudent give thought to their steps."

Matthew 24:5 For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many.

Many false teachers will come in Jesus’ name and mislead many.

1. False Prophets: The Danger of Deception

2. The Authority of Christ: Avoiding False Teachings

1. Acts 20:29-31 – Paul’s Warning Against False Teachers

2. 2 Peter 2:1-3 – False Prophets and Their Punishment

Matthew 24:6 And ye shall hear of wars and rumours of wars: see that ye be not troubled: for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet.

The passage is about not being troubled by wars or rumors of wars that will come to pass, as the end is not yet.

1. Don't Worry, Be Faithful - Focus on trusting God instead of being troubled by worldly issues.

2. Enduring Troubles in the Last Days - Prepare for the end times by maintaining faith and not giving in to fear.

1. Romans 8:18 "For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us."

2. Isaiah 41:10 "Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand."

Matthew 24:7 For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places.

The passage is talking about how there will be conflict between nations, famines, pestilences and earthquakes in different places.

1. God is still in control even in times of distress.

2. We should not worry about what is happening in the world, but put our trust in God.

1. Isaiah 41:10 - "So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand."

2. Psalm 46:1-3 - "God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea, though its waters roar and foam and the mountains quake with their surging."

Matthew 24:8 All these are the beginning of sorrows.

Jesus warns that many difficult times will come before the end of the world.

1. "The Sorrows of the End Times: Jesus' Warning for Us"

2. "The Power of Jesus' Words: Preparing for What is to Come"

1. Isaiah 61:1-2 - “The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is on me, because the Lord has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners.”

2. Romans 8:18-19 - “I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us. For the creation waits in eager expectation for the children of God to be revealed.”

Matthew 24:9 Then shall they deliver you up to be afflicted, and shall kill you: and ye shall be hated of all nations for my name's sake.

The followers of Jesus will be persecuted and killed for His name's sake.

1. Jesus calls us to be faithful even in the face of persecution.

2. The power of Jesus' name is worth defending.

1. John 15:18-20 - "If the world hates you, keep in mind that it hated me first. If you belonged to the world, it would love you as its own. As it is, you do not belong to the world, but I have chosen you out of the world. That is why the world hates you. Remember what I told you: ‘A servant is not greater than his master.’ If they persecuted me, they will persecute you also."

2. 1 Peter 4:12-13 - "Dear friends, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that has come on you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice inasmuch as you participate in the sufferings of Christ, so that you may be overjoyed when his glory is revealed."

Matthew 24:10 And then shall many be offended, and shall betray one another, and shall hate one another.

Many will become offended and turn against one another, leading to hatred.

1. "Love Your Neighbor: The Danger of Offending Others"

2. "The Cost of Betrayal: Reflections on Matthew 24:10"

1. John 15:13 - "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends."

2. 1 Corinthians 13:4-7 - "Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things."

Matthew 24:11 And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many.

Many false prophets will spread false teachings and lead many astray.

1. Beware of False Prophets - Galatians 1:6-9

2. Test Everything - 1 Thessalonians 5:21-22

1. Jeremiah 14:14; 23:25-32

2. 2 Peter 2:1-3; Revelation 19:20

Matthew 24:12 And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold.

The abundance of sin will cause love to diminish.

1: We must fight against the temptation of sin and instead nurture love in our lives.

2: We must remain vigilant in our faith and not let sin overpower us.

1: Romans 12:9-10 - Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good.

2: 1 John 4:7-8 - Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God.

Matthew 24:13 But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved.

This verse emphasizes the importance of perseverance in order to be saved.

1: Standing Strong in Difficult Times - focusing on the importance of perseverance in the face of adversity

2: The Enduring Faith of the Saints - highlighting the rewards of faithfulness

1: Hebrews 10:35-36 - "Do not, therefore, throw away your confidence, for it has great reward. For you have need of endurance, so that after you have done the will of God, you may receive the promise."

2: James 1:12 - "Blessed is the one who perseveres under trial, because when he has stood the test, he will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love him."

Matthew 24:14 And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come.

This passage speaks about the importance of preaching God's word and how it will signal the end of time.

1. The Power of Preaching: How God's Word Unites Us and Prepares Us for Eternity

2. The Great Commission: How We Can Share God's Message and Bring Closer the Coming of the End

1. Acts 1:8 - But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.

2. Isaiah 55:11 - So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it.

Matthew 24:15 When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, (whoso readeth, let him understand:)

Jesus warns his followers to be vigilant and to be aware of the "abomination of desolation" spoken of by the prophet Daniel.

1. The Abomination of Desolation: What it Means for Us Today

2. Be Ready: The Warning of Jesus in Matthew 24

1. Daniel 9:27 - "And he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week: and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease, and for the overspreading of abominations he shall make it desolate, even until the consummation, and that determined shall be poured upon the desolate."

2. 2 Thessalonians 2:3 - "Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition;"

Matthew 24:16 Then let them which be in Judaea flee into the mountains:

The passage is advising those in Judea to flee to the mountains in times of danger.

1. We must be prepared to flee when danger is near.

2. We must heed God's warnings to stay safe.

1. Proverbs 22:3 - A prudent man foreseeth the evil, and hideth himself: but the simple pass on, and are punished.

2. Psalm 91:14-16 - Because he hath set his love upon me, therefore will I deliver him: I will set him on high, because he hath known my name. He shall call upon me, and I will answer him: I will be with him in trouble; I will deliver him, and honour him. With long life will I satisfy him, and shew him my salvation.

Matthew 24:17 Let him which is on the housetop not come down to take any thing out of his house:

Jesus instructs the people to not go back into their houses when fleeing from a city.

1. God knows what is best for us and will provide us with the protection necessary to keep us safe.

2. Our faith in God will be rewarded when we listen and follow His instructions.

1. Isaiah 41:10 - "Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand."

2. Matthew 6:25-33 - "Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they?..."

Matthew 24:18 Neither let him which is in the field return back to take his clothes.

This verse warns against leaving one’s work in haste, especially in the face of imminent danger.

1. Realizing the Brevity of Life: Reflections on Matthew 24:18.

2. Preparing Ourselves for Unexpected Challenges: A Study of Matthew 24:18.

1. Luke 14:28-30 - "For which of you, desiring to build a tower, does not first sit down and count the cost, whether he has enough to complete it? Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it begin to mock him, saying, ‘This man began to build and was not able to finish.’"

2. Hebrews 10:35-36 - “Therefore do not throw away your confidence, which has a great reward. For you have need of endurance, so that when you have done the will of God you may receive what is promised.”

Matthew 24:19 And woe unto them that are with child, and to them that give suck in those days!

In Matthew 24:19, Jesus warns of the hardships that will come to pregnant and nursing mothers during end times.

1. "The Hardest Times: Pregnant and Nursing Mothers During End Times"

2. "The Warnings of Jesus: Enduring Difficulties for Mothers"

1. Isaiah 40:11 - "He will tend his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms; he will carry them in his bosom, and gently lead those that are with young."

2. 1 Thessalonians 5:3 - "For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape."

Matthew 24:20 But pray ye that your flight be not in the winter, neither on the sabbath day:

The passage warns to not flee on the Sabbath or in winter.

1: Our faith calls us to be prepared but also to be mindful of our obligations to God.

2: Life's disappointments should not lead us to forget God's commandments.

1: Deuteronomy 5:12-15 - Respect the Sabbath and keep it holy.

2: Isaiah 40:31 - Those who wait on the Lord will renew their strength.

Matthew 24:21 For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be.

Great tribulation is a period of intense suffering that will occur before Jesus returns.

1: God is in control and will bring us through the great tribulation.

2: We must trust in God and stay faithful to Him during great tribulation.

1: Romans 8:31-39 - Nothing can separate us from the love of God.

2: Isaiah 41:10 - Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.

Matthew 24:22 And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened.

God will shorten the days of tribulation for the sake of the elect.

1. God's Love for His Elect: How God's Mercy Protects His People in Troubled Times

2. The Promise of God's Protection: How God's Provision Saves Us from Tribulation

1. Romans 8:28 - And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.

2. Isaiah 54:17 - No weapon that is formed against thee shall prosper; and every tongue that shall rise against thee in judgment thou shalt condemn. This is the heritage of the servants of the Lord, and their righteousness is of me, saith the Lord.

Matthew 24:23 Then if any man shall say unto you, Lo, here is Christ, or there; believe it not.

Jesus advises his disciples not to believe anyone who claims to be the messiah, even if they claim to be him in a specific location.

1. "Be Wary of False Prophets"

2. "The Danger of Believing False Claims"

1. Jeremiah 29:8-9 "For thus saith the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel; Let not your prophets and your diviners, that be in the midst of you, deceive you, neither hearken to your dreams which ye cause to be dreamed. For they prophesy falsely unto you in my name: I have not sent them, saith the Lord."

2. 2 Peter 2:1-3 "But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction. And many shall follow their pernicious ways; by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of. And through covetousness shall they with feigned words make merchandise of you: whose judgment now of a long time lingereth not, and their damnation slumbereth not."

Matthew 24:24 For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect.

False teachers and prophets will deceive even the elect, if it were possible.

1. Recognizing False Teachers and Prophets

2. Do Not Be Deceived by False Teachings

1. Matthew 7:15-20 - Beware of false prophets

2. 1 John 4:1-6 - Test the spirits to see if they are from God

Matthew 24:25 Behold, I have told you before.

Jesus warns his disciples to be alert and ready for the coming of God's kingdom.

1. Be Aware: Jesus Urges Us to Be Ready for the Coming of God's Kingdom

2. The Importance of Heeding Jesus' Warnings

1. 1 Thessalonians 5:2-4 - For you know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night.

2. 1 Corinthians 16:13 - Be watchful, stand firm in the faith, act like men, be strong.

Matthew 24:26 Wherefore if they shall say unto you, Behold, he is in the desert; go not forth: behold, he is in the secret chambers; believe it not.

This verse warns us not to believe false prophets and trust in God's word instead.

1. Don't Believe the Lies: Trusting in God's Word

2. False Prophets: Discernment in Today's World

1. 2 Timothy 3:16-17 "All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work."

2. Isaiah 8:20 "To the teaching and to the testimony! If they will not speak according to this word, it is because they have no dawn."

Matthew 24:27 For as the lightning cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.

The coming of the Son of man will be like the lightning, visible to all.

1. The Light of the World: A on the Coming of the Son of Man

2. Jesus is Coming: A on Hope and Redemption

1. Acts 1:11: “This same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven.”

2. Isaiah 9:2: “The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light: they that dwell in the land of the shadow of death, upon them hath the light shined.”

Matthew 24:28 For wheresoever the carcase is, there will the eagles be gathered together.

This verse reflects Jesus' statement that death and destruction will draw attention to the event.

1: The Gathering of Eagles symbolizes death and destruction, and should lead us to reflect on the fragility of life.

2: The Gathering of Eagles is a reminder of Jesus' warning that death and destruction will come to those who are not prepared.

1: Psalm 34:18 - The Lord is near to the brokenhearted and saves the crushed in spirit.

2: James 4:14 - You do not know what tomorrow will bring. What is your life? For you are a mist that appears for a little time and then vanishes.

Matthew 24:29 Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken:

Jesus predicts that after a time of tribulation, the sun will be darkened and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will fall from the sky, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken.

1. How to Prepare for Troubles in Life - Matthew 24:29

2. Relying on God's Protection in Troubled Times - Matthew 24:29

1. Isaiah 13:10 - For the stars of heaven and the constellations thereof shall not give their light: the sun shall be darkened in his going forth, and the moon shall not cause her light to shine.

2. Hebrews 12:26-27 - Whose voice then shook the earth: but now he hath promised,

saying, Yet once more I shake not the earth only, but also heaven. And this word, Yet once more, signifieth the removing of those things that are shaken, as of things that are made, that those things which cannot be shaken may remain.

Matthew 24:30 And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.

The Second Coming of Jesus will be a glorious event with the sign of the Son of Man appearing in heaven and Jesus coming in the clouds.

1. The Majesty of Jesus' Second Coming

2. Prepare for the Return of the King

1. Revelation 1:7 - Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they also which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him.

2. Zechariah 14:5 - And you shall flee to the valley of the mountains, for the valley of the mountains shall reach unto Azal: yea, you shall flee, like as you fled from before the earthquake in the days of Uzziah king of Judah: and the LORD my God shall come, and all the saints with thee.

Matthew 24:31 And he shall send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.

Jesus will send angels with a great sound of a trumpet to gather the elect from the four corners of the earth.

1: A trumpet will sound, announcing the return of Jesus and the gathering of His people.

2: We will all be reunited with Jesus, no matter how far we have been scattered.

1: 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17 - For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first.

2: Revelation 11:15 - Then the seventh angel blew his trumpet, and there were loud voices in heaven, saying, “The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord

and of his Christ, and he shall reign forever and ever.”

Matthew 24:32 Now learn a parable of the fig tree; When his branch is yet tender, and putteth forth leaves, ye know that summer is nigh:

Parable of the fig tree: Summer is near when the branch is tender and leaves appear.

1. The Hope of a New Season

2. Preparation for Change

1. Isaiah 40:31 - But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.

2. Galatians 6:9 - And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.

Matthew 24:33 So likewise ye, when ye shall see all these things, know that it is near, even at the doors.

Jesus tells us to recognize the signs of His coming and to be prepared for it.

1. "Be Ready: Signs of the Coming of the Lord"

2. "The Imminence of the Lord: Knowing That He is Near"

1. Luke 21:28 - “Now when these things begin to take place, straighten up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”

2. Matthew 24:44 - “Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.”

Matthew 24:34 Verily I say unto you, This generation shall not pass, till all these things be fulfilled.

This passage states that all of the prophesied events will happen in the current generation.

1. God's Word is True: We can Trust in What He Promises

2. Living in Light of Prophesied Events: Taking Action Now

1. Isaiah 40:8: "The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: but the word of our God shall stand for ever."

2. Ephesians 1:13-14: "In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory."

Matthew 24:35 Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away.

This verse proclaims that God's words will stand firm, even when all else fails.

1. God's Word Is Permanent

2. The Unchanging Nature of God's Word

1. Isaiah 40:8 - “The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever.”

2. 1 Peter 1:25 - “But the word of the Lord remains forever. And this word is the good news that was preached to you.”

Matthew 24:36 But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only.

No one knows when the end of the world will come, only God knows.

1. The importance of trusting in God's timing.

2. How to prepare for an unknown day.

1. Jeremiah 29:11 "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

2. Psalm 31:15 "My times are in Your hands."

Matthew 24:37 But as the days of Noe were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.

The coming of the Son of man will be similar to the days of Noah.

1: In the days of Noah, the world was filled with sin and wickedness, but God still provided a way of salvation and a promise of hope through Noah and his family.

2: We must always remember to have faith and trust in God, even when the world around us seems to be filled with wickedness and sin.

1: Genesis 6:5-9 – The Lord saw how great the wickedness of the human race had become on the earth, and that every inclination of the thoughts of the human heart was only evil all the time.

2: Romans 5:12-14 – Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all people, because all sinned—

Matthew 24:38 For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark,

In the days before the flood, people were living their everyday lives without any regard for the impending judgement.

1: Our lives are fleeting; we must always be prepared for judgement, for it can come at any time.

2: We must not take the life that God has given us for granted, for it can be taken away from us in an instant.

1: Genesis 6:5-8 - God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.

2: 1 Peter 3:20 - Which sometime were disobedient, when once the longsuffering of God waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was a preparing, wherein few, that is, eight souls were saved by water.

Matthew 24:39 And knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.

The coming of the Son of Man will be sudden and unexpected like the flood.

1: Be Prepared for the Coming of the Lord

2: Be Ready for Christ's Return

1: Luke 12:35-40 - Be prepared for the Lord's coming

2: 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11 - Be alert and ready for the Lord's return

Matthew 24:40 Then shall two be in the field; the one shall be taken, and the other left.

Two people will be separated in a field, one taken and the other left.

1. God's judgement is impartial, and no one will escape it.

2. To be prepared for the judgement of God is essential.

1. 2 Corinthians 5:10 - For we must all appear before the judgement seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.

2. Romans 14:12 - So then each of us shall give account of himself to God.

Matthew 24:41 Two women shall be grinding at the mill; the one shall be taken, and the other left.

Two people will be doing the same thing, yet one will be taken and the other will be left

behind.

1. The importance of being ready for the coming of the Lord.

2. We must each prepare ourselves for the coming of the Lord.

1. 1 Thessalonians 5:2-4 - For you yourselves are fully aware that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. While people are saying, “There is peace and security,” then sudden destruction will come upon them as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and they will not escape.

2. Luke 21:34-36 - “But watch yourselves lest your hearts be weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and cares of this life, and that day come upon you suddenly like a trap. For it will come upon all who dwell on the face of the whole earth. But stay awake at all times, praying that you may have strength to escape all these things that are going to take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.”

Matthew 24:42 Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come.

Jesus teaches that we should be constantly vigilant and watchful for His coming, as we do not know when He will come.

1. "Watch and Wait: Be Ready for the Coming of the Lord"

2. "Be Vigilant: Don't Miss the Return of Jesus"

1. Hebrews 9:28 - "So Christ was offered once to bear the sins of many. To those who eagerly wait for Him He will appear a second time, apart from sin, for salvation."

2. 1 Thessalonians 5:2-4 - "For you yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so comes as a thief in the night. For when they say, “Peace and safety!” then sudden destruction comes upon them, as labor pains upon a pregnant woman. And they shall not escape."

Matthew 24:43 But know this, that if the goodman of the house had known in what watch the thief would come, he would have watched, and would not have suffered his house to be broken up.

The goodman of the house would have been prepared if he had known when the thief

was coming.

1. Be prepared for the unexpected - Matthew 24:43

2. Don't be caught unaware - Matthew 24:43

1. Proverbs 22:3 - A prudent man foreseeth the evil, and hideth himself: but the simple pass on, and are punished.

2. 1 Peter 5:8 - Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour.

Matthew 24:44 Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh.

The Son of Man will come at an unexpected hour, so be prepared.

1. "Be Ready: Preparing for the Unexpected Return of the Son of Man"

2. "Stay Ready: Living in Anticipation of the Son of Man's Return"

1. 1 Thessalonians 5:2-4 - "For you yourselves are fully aware that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. While people are saying, “There is peace and security,” then sudden destruction will come upon them as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and they will not escape. But you are not in darkness, brothers, for that day to surprise you like a thief.

2. James 5:7-8 - Be patient, therefore, brothers, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient about it, until it receives the early and the late rains. You also, be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand.

Matthew 24:45 Who then is a faithful and wise servant, whom his lord hath made ruler over his household, to give them meat in due season?

This passage highlights the importance of being a faithful and wise servant of the Lord.

1. “The Call to be Faithful and Wise Servants”

2. “Fulfilling Our Responsibilities as Servants of God”

1. Proverbs 2:6-9 - For the LORD giveth wisdom: out of his mouth cometh knowledge and understanding. He layeth up sound wisdom for the righteous: he is a buckler to them that walk uprightly. He keepeth the paths of judgment, and preserveth the way of his saints. Then shalt thou understand righteousness, and judgment, and equity; yea, every good path.

2. James 1:5-8 - If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him. But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed. For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord. A double minded man is unstable in all his ways.

Matthew 24:46 Blessed is that servant, whom his lord when he cometh shall find so doing.

Jesus encourages his followers to stay faithful and diligent in their service, as they will be rewarded when the Lord returns.

1. Remain Faithful Until the Lord Returns

2. Reaping the Rewards of Dutiful Service

1. Proverbs 13:4 - The soul of the sluggard craves and gets nothing, while the soul of the diligent is richly supplied.

2. Colossians 3:23-24 - Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ.

Matthew 24:47 Verily I say unto you, That he shall make him ruler over all his goods.

The passage speaks about a faithful servant being made ruler over all his master's goods.

1: Our faithfulness will be rewarded as we are made rulers of all God's goods.

2: We must remain faithful to God and be obedient to His will, for this will lead us to greater rewards.

1: Hebrews 11:6 - And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.

2: Colossians 3:23 - Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters.

Matthew 24:48 But and if that evil servant shall say in his heart, My lord delayeth his coming;

The passage warns against complacency and lack of faith when waiting for Jesus' return.

1: Be watchful and prepared for the Lord's coming.

2: Have faith that the Lord will come in his own time.

1: Luke 12:35-40 - "Blessed are those servants whom the master finds awake when he comes."

2: 1 Peter 4:7 - "The end of all things is near. Therefore be alert and of sober mind so that you may pray."

Matthew 24:49 And shall begin to smite his fellowservants, and to eat and drink with the drunken;

The passage talks about someone beginning to mistreat his fellow servants, and to engage in drunkenness.

1: Let us not be selfish or mistreat others, but show kindness and love to all.

2: We must not engage in drunkenness, as it is sinful and displeasing to God.

1: Ephesians 4:31-32 - "Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you."

2: Proverbs 20:1 - "Wine is a mocker, strong drink a brawler, and whoever is led astray by it is not wise."

Matthew 24:50 The lord of that servant shall come in a day when he looketh not for him, and in an hour that he is not aware of,

The Lord will come when least expected.

1: Be always ready for the Lord's return.

2: Do not be complacent in your faith, as you do not know when the Lord will come.

1: Luke 12:35-40 - Jesus encourages his followers to be ready and alert for his return.

2: 1 Thessalonians 5:2-4 - Paul urges the church to be watchful and sober, not living in darkness.

Matthew 24:51 And shall cut him asunder, and appoint him his portion with the hypocrites: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

Jesus warns of the consequences of not being faithful, which include being separated from God and sharing a portion with the hypocrites, who will experience weeping and gnashing of teeth.

1. The Warning of Jesus: Preparing for the Final Judgment

2. Be Faithful or Face the Consequences: Weeping and Gnashing of Teeth

1. Psalm 35:13 – But as for me, when they were sick, my clothing was sackcloth: I humbled my soul with fasting; and my prayer returned into mine own bosom.

2. Matthew 25:41 – Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels.

Matthew 25 contains the parables of the ten virgins, the talents, and concludes with the judgment of the nations.

1st Paragraph: The chapter opens with Parable of Ten Virgins (Matthew 25:1-13). In this parable, ten virgins take their lamps to meet bridegroom. Five are wise and bring extra oil while five are foolish and do not. When bridegroom is delayed, they all fall asleep. At midnight cry rings out 'Here's bridegroom! Come out to meet him!' All virgins wake up trim their lamps but foolish ones have run out oil ask wise ones share theirs but wise ones refuse say there may not be enough for both us you go buy some for yourselves. While they were on their way to buy oil, bridegroom arrived; those who were ready went in with him to wedding banquet door was shut. Later others also came said 'Lord Lord open door for us!' But he replied 'Truly I tell you I don't know you.' So Jesus warns always be ready because do not know day or hour.

2nd Paragraph: This is followed by Parable of Talents (Matthew 25:14-30). A man going on journey entrusts his property to his servants according ability one five talents another two another one each according ability. The first two invest gain more but third buries his talent ground out fear master. When master returns he praises rewards first two servants but condemns punishes third servant lack initiative failure use what was given him effectively saying "For everyone who has will be given more and they will have an abundance whoever does not have even what they have will be taken from them."

3rd Paragraph: Finally Jesus describes Judgment Nations (Matthew 25:31-46) where Son Man comes in His glory sits on His glorious throne nations gathered before Him separates people one from another as shepherd separates sheep from goats putting sheep on His right goats on His left. He then invites those His right inherit kingdom prepared for them from foundation world because when He was hungry thirsty stranger naked sick in prison they gave Him food drink welcomed Him clothed Him looked after Him visited Him whereas those His left did not do these things so they go away eternal punishment righteous eternal life showing importance caring least among us as if we were caring Christ Himself.

Matthew 25:1 Then shall the kingdom of heaven be likened unto ten virgins, which took their lamps, and went forth to meet the bridegroom.

In Matthew 25:1, Jesus compares the kingdom of heaven to ten virgins who took their lamps to meet the bridegroom.

1. The Importance of Preparation: How the Parable of the Ten Virgins Encourages Us to be Ready for Christ's Return

2. The Wise and the Foolish: An Examination of the Different Outcomes of the Ten Virgins

1. 2 Peter 3:14 - “Therefore, beloved, since you are waiting for these, be diligent to be found by him without spot or blemish, and at peace.”

2. Philippians 4:5 - “Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand.”

Matthew 25:2 And five of them were wise, and five were foolish.

The parable of the ten virgins teaches that it is wise to be prepared for Christ's return.

1. Be Ready: Preparing for Christ's Return

2. Wise Living: The Lessons from the Parable of the Ten Virgins

1. Luke 12:35-48 - The Parable of the Faithful Servant

2. Romans 13:11-14 - Put on the Armor of Light

Matthew 25:3 They that were foolish took their lamps, and took no oil with them:

The foolish took their lamps, but did not bring oil in preparation for the journey.

1: We must be prepared to face our journey in life with all that we need for success.

2: We must be mindful of the resources we need to succeed and be wise in the use of them.

1: Proverbs 16:9, "A man's heart deviseth his way: but the Lord directeth his steps."

2: Ephesians 6:10-18, "Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil."

Matthew 25:4 But the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps.

The wise virgins in the parable of the ten virgins took extra oil in their vessels to go with their lamps.

1. The Wisdom of Preparing for Life's Unexpected Challenges

2. The Benefits of Being Prepared for Life's Unknowns

1. James 4:13-15 - Come now, you who say, “Today or tomorrow we will go into such and such a town and spend a year there and trade and make a profit”— 14 yet you do not know what tomorrow will bring. What is your life? For you are a mist that appears for a little time and then vanishes. 15 Instead you ought to say, “If the Lord wills, we will live and do this or that.”

2. Proverbs 21:5 - The plans of the diligent lead surely to abundance, but everyone who is hasty comes only to poverty.

Matthew 25:5 While the bridegroom tarried, they all slumbered and slept.

The passage highlights the patience of the bridegroom in waiting for the arrival of his guests.

1: Patience is a virtue - Proverbs 16:32

2: Waiting on the Lord brings blessing - Isaiah 40:31

1: Luke 12:35-36 - Be ready for the coming of the Lord

2: Romans 12:12 - Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation

Matthew 25:6 And at midnight there was a cry made, Behold, the bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet him.

At midnight, a call is made to go out and meet the bridegroom.

1. The Bridegroom: Preparing for His Coming

2. Being Ready for Jesus: Preparing to Meet the Bridegroom

1. Isaiah 62:5 - For as a young man marrieth a virgin, so shall thy sons marry thee: and

as the bridegroom rejoiceth over the bride, so shall thy God rejoice over thee.

2. Revelation 19:7 - Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready.

Matthew 25:7 Then all those virgins arose, and trimmed their lamps.

The passage speaks of the parable of the wise and foolish virgins, where the wise virgins were prepared and had enough oil for their lamps while the foolish virgins did not.

1. Being prepared for the future by being wise and investing in God’s word.

2. Taking the time to tend to our relationship with God and be diligent in our faith.

1. Proverbs 6:6-11 - Go to the ant, you sluggard; consider its ways and be wise!

2. James 1:5 - If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you.

Matthew 25:8 And the foolish said unto the wise, Give us of your oil; for our lamps are gone out.

The wise virgins had oil for their lamps while the foolish did not, and so they asked the wise for some of their oil.

1: Christ calls us to be prepared for his coming.

2: We must be diligent in our faith and be ready for the unexpected.

1: Matthew 24:44, “Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.”

2: Proverbs 19:2, “Desire without knowledge is not good, and whoever makes haste with his feet misses his way.”

Matthew 25:9 But the wise answered, saying, Not so; lest there be not enough for us and

you: but go ye rather to them that sell, and buy for yourselves.

The wise advise against sharing their resources, instead suggesting to buy more for themselves.

1. Trust in the wisdom of God when making decisions.

2. Be aware of the consequences of sharing resources.

1. Ecclesiastes 11:2 - “Give a portion to seven, yes, even to eight, for you do not know what disaster may come upon the land.”

2. Proverbs 11:24 - “One gives freely, yet grows all the richer; another withholds what he should give, and only suffers want.”

Matthew 25:10 And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came; and they that were ready went in with him to the marriage: and the door was shut.

The bridegroom came while the five wise virgins were away buying oil, and only those who were ready were able to enter the wedding.

1. Being Ready: Preparing for the Bridegroom's Return

2. The Necessity of Preparing for the Unexpected

1. Romans 13:11-14 - Put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to fulfill its lusts.

2. Ecclesiastes 9:10 - Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with all your might, for there is no work or device or knowledge in the grave where you are going.

Matthew 25:11 Afterward came also the other virgins, saying, Lord, Lord, open to us.

The parable of the ten virgins teaches that we must be prepared and watchful for the Lord's return.

1. Be Prepared and Ready For the Lord's Return

2. Watchfulness and Vigilance in the Face of Uncertainty

1. Matthew 24:42-44

2. Luke 12:35-40

Matthew 25:12 But he answered and said, Verily I say unto you, I know you not.

This passage from Matthew 25:12 emphasizes the importance of knowing Jesus in order to receive eternal life.

1. "Recognizing the Value of Knowing Jesus"

2. "The Necessity of Knowing the Savior"

1. John 17:3, "And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent."

2. 1 John 5:12, "He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life."

Matthew 25:13 Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh.

Be watchful and prepared for the coming of the Lord.

1: Take Heed and Prepare for the Coming of the Lord.

2: Be Ready and Awake for the Return of Jesus.

1: Matthew 24:36-44 - No one knows the exact day or hour of Jesus' return, so we must remain alert and prepared.

2: Luke 12:35-40 - We must be ready and wearing our spiritual armor so that we can be ready when Jesus returns.

Matthew 25:14 For the kingdom of heaven is as a man travelling into a far country, who called his own servants, and delivered unto them his goods.

The parable of the talents emphasizes the importance of using God’s gifts in a responsible and productive manner.

1: We must use the gifts God has given us to help build His Kingdom.

2: We must be faithful stewards of the gifts God has given us to be a blessing to others.

1: Colossians 3:23-24 - Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ.

2: 1 Corinthians 4:2 - Moreover, it is required of stewards that they be found faithful.

Matthew 25:15 And unto one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one; to every man according to his several ability; and straightway took his journey.

Jesus gives talents according to each person's individual ability and then goes on his way.

1. God entrusts us with gifts according to our ability and calls us to use them for His glory.

2. The parable of the talents teaches us to use our gifts to honor God and bless others.

1. Romans 12:6-8 - We have different gifts according to the grace given to us, and we are to use them for the common good.

2. 1 Peter 4:10-11 - Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms.

Matthew 25:16 Then he that had received the five talents went and traded with the same, and made them other five talents.

This passage tells of a man who was given five talents and was able to use them to make five more talents.

1. Making the Most of What You Have Been Given

2. Investing in the Kingdom of God

1. Proverbs 13:11 - Wealth gained hastily will dwindle, but whoever gathers little by little will increase it.

2. Matthew 6:20-21 - Lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

Matthew 25:17 And likewise he that had received two, he also gained other two.

A person who was given two talents was able to gain two more.

1. “The Power of Investment” – How investing in our talents can lead to multiplied returns.

2. “God’s Generosity” – How God rewards and increases the blessings of those who are faithful with what they have.

1. Proverbs 22:29 - “Do you see a man skillful in his work? He will stand before kings; he will not stand before obscure men.”

2. Ephesians 4:28 - “Let the thief no longer steal, but rather let him labor, doing honest work with his own hands, so that he may have something to share with anyone in need.”

Matthew 25:18 But he that had received one went and digged in the earth, and hid his lord's money.

A parable told by Jesus illustrates that a person who has been given something should use it wisely and responsibly.

1. The Parable of the Talents: Using Our Gifts Responsibly

2. Investing in God's Kingdom: What the Parable of the Talents Teaches Us

1. Proverbs 3:9-10 - Honor the Lord with your wealth and with the firstfruits of all your produce

2. Luke 16:10 - One who is faithful in a very little is also faithful in much.

Matthew 25:19 After a long time the lord of those servants cometh, and reckoneth with them.

A master entrusted his servants with money and after a long period of time, he returns to hold them accountable for what they had done with it.

1. The Lord is watching: Stewardship in the Parable of the Talents

2. Be Prepared: Preparing for the Coming of the Lord

1. Matthew 24:44-51 - Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh.

2. Luke 12:35-38 - Let your loins be girded about, and your lights burning; And ye yourselves like unto men that wait for their lord, when he will return from the wedding.

Matthew 25:20 And so he that had received five talents came and brought other five talents, saying, Lord, thou deliveredst unto me five talents: behold, I have gained beside them five talents more.

A man was given five talents and he brought back five more, having made a profit from his initial investment.

1. The Parable of Investments: Learning to Manage God's Resources

2. Making the Most of Opportunities: Turning Blessings into Multiplied Blessings

1. Proverbs 13:11 - Wealth from get-rich-quick schemes quickly disappears; wealth from hard work grows over time.

2. 1 Corinthians 4:2 -Now it is required that those who have been given a trust must prove faithful.

Matthew 25:21 His lord said unto him, Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord.

This passage is about Jesus Christ praising a faithful servant and rewarding them with greater responsibilities.

1. The rewards of faithfulness - how loyalty to God leads to greater blessings.

2. The joy of serving - the happiness that comes from fulfilling God's Will.

1. 1 Corinthians 15:58 - Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.

2. Psalm 37:3-5 - Trust in the LORD, and do good; so shalt thou dwell in the land, and verily thou shalt be fed. Delight thyself also in the LORD; and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart. Commit thy way unto the LORD; trust also in him; and he shall bring it to pass.

Matthew 25:22 He also that had received two talents came and said, Lord, thou deliveredst unto me two talents: behold, I have gained two other talents beside them.

A man with two talents was rewarded for gaining two more talents.

1. God rewards hard work.

2. Investing in the Kingdom brings a return.

1. Philippians 4:19 - "And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus."

2. Romans 8:28 - "And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose."

Matthew 25:23 His lord said unto him, Well done, good and faithful servant; thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord.

This passage is about a faithful servant being rewarded for their hard work.

1. "Rewards for Faithful Service"

2. "The Joy of God's Blessing"

1. Colossians 3:23-24 - "Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving."

2. James 1:12 - "Blessed is the one who perseveres under trial because, having stood the test, that person will receive the crown of life that the Lord has promised to those who love him."

Matthew 25:24 Then he which had received the one talent came and said, Lord, I knew thee that thou art an hard man, reaping where thou hast not sown, and gathering where thou hast not strawed:

A man with one talent comes to the Lord and complains about the Lord's character, claiming he reaps where he has not sown.

1. God's Character - Recognizing God's Grace and Mercy

2. The Power of a Talented Life - Making the Most of What You Have

1. Psalm 145:8-9 - The Lord is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

2. James 2:14-17 - What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him? If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food, and one of you says to them, “Go in peace, be warmed and filled,” without giving them the things needed for the body, what good is that?

Matthew 25:25 And I was afraid, and went and hid thy talent in the earth: lo, there thou hast that is thine.

A man is afraid and buries his talent in the ground rather than using it.

1. "The Danger of Fear: Overcoming Fear to Use God-Given Talents"

2. "Harnessing Our Gifts to Glorify God"

1. Isaiah 41:10 - "Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand."

2. Philippians 4:13 - "I can do all things through him who strengthens me."

Matthew 25:26 His lord answered and said unto him, Thou wicked and slothful servant, thou knewest that I reap where I sowed not, and gather where I have not strawed:

A master scolds his lazy servant for not doing his work, noting that he had ample opportunity to do so.

1. The Danger of Laziness in the Christian Life

2. The Promise of Blessings Through Diligence

1. Proverbs 12:24 - Diligent hands will rule, but laziness ends in forced labor.

2. Matthew 6:33 - But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

Matthew 25:27 Thou oughtest therefore to have put my money to the exchangers, and then at my coming I should have received mine own with usury.

This passage teaches the importance of planning ahead and wise investing.

1. Investing in the Kingdom: The Benefits of Wise Planning

2. Putting Our Money to Work: What We Can Learn from the Parable of the Talents

1. Proverbs 13:11 - Dishonest money dwindles away, but whoever gathers money little by little makes it grow.

2. Philippians 4:19 - And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus.

Matthew 25:28 Take therefore the talent from him, and give it unto him which hath ten talents.

The parable of the talents teaches that God expects us to make good use of the gifts and talents He has given us.

1: God has given us all gifts and talents, and it is our responsibility to use them wisely and to the best of our ability.

2: We should use the gifts and talents God has given us to honor Him and serve others.

1: Ephesians 4:7-8 - But to each one of us grace has been given as Christ apportioned it. Therefore it says: “When he ascended on high, he led captives in his train and gave gifts to men.”

2: 1 Peter 4:10 - Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God’s grace in its various forms.

Matthew 25:29 For unto every one that hath shall be given, and he shall have abundance: but from him that hath not shall be taken away even that which he hath.

Those who have will be given more, while those who have nothing will have even that taken away.

1: We should be grateful for what we have, as God blesses us with more for what we already possess.

2: We should share what we have with those who have less, as God may take away what little they have.

1: James 1:17 - Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.

2: Proverbs 19:17 - He that hath pity upon the poor lendeth unto the Lord; and that which he hath given will he pay him again.

Matthew 25:30 And cast ye the unprofitable servant into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

The unprofitable servant will be cast out into outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

1. "The Consequences of our Actions: What Unprofitable Servants Reap"

2. "God's Judgment on Unprofitable Servants"

1. Proverbs 6:1-5 - My son, if thou be surety for thy friend, if thou hast stricken thy hand with a stranger, Thou art snared with the words of thy mouth, thou art taken with the words of thy mouth. Do this now, my son, and deliver thyself, when thou art come into the hand of thy friend; go, humble thyself, and make sure thy friend. Give not sleep to thine eyes, nor slumber to thine eyelids. Deliver thyself as a roe from the hand of the hunter, and as a bird from the hand of the fowler.

2. Proverbs 21:13 - Whoso stoppeth his ears at the cry of the poor, he also shall cry himself, but shall not be heard.

Matthew 25:31 When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory:

Jesus will come again in glory, accompanied by holy angels, and will take His place on His throne of glory.

1. The Glorious Return of Christ

2. The Majesty of Heaven: Preparing for Christ's Return

1. Revelation 22:12 - "Behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every

man according as his work shall be."

2. Psalm 96:13 - "Before the LORD: for he cometh, for he cometh to judge the earth: he shall judge the world with righteousness, and the people with his truth."

Matthew 25:32 And before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats:

This passage describes the gathering of all nations before God and His separation of them into sheep and goats.

1. The Final Judgment: Who Will Be Separated in the End?

2. The Sheep and the Goats: What Determines Our Fate?

1. Isaiah 10:17 - “And the Light of Israel will become a fire, and his Holy One a flame; and it will burn and devour his thorns and his briers in a single day.”

2. Luke 17:24-25 - “For as the lightning flashes and lights up the sky from one side to the other, so will the Son of Man be in His day. But first He must suffer many things and be rejected by this generation.”

Matthew 25:33 And he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left.

The passage states that the righteous are set on the right hand and the unrighteous on the left.

1. The Great Divide: The Righteous and the Unrighteous

2. The Day of Judgment: Separating the Sheep from the Goats

1. Matthew 7:21-23 - "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. On that day many will say to me, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name and in your name drive out demons and in your name perform many miracles?' Then I will tell them plainly, 'I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!'

2. Romans 2:6-8 - God “will repay each person according to what they have done. To

those who by persistence in doing good seek glory, honor and immortality, he will give eternal life. But for those who are self-seeking and who reject the truth and follow evil, there will be wrath and anger. There will be trouble and distress for every human being who does evil."

Matthew 25:34 Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world:

The King will welcome the righteous into the kingdom prepared from the foundation of the world.

1. God has always had a plan of salvation and eternal life for us.

2. Living a righteous life is a reward that is greater than any earthly wealth or pleasure.

1. Ephesians 2:8-9: For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast.

2. 1 Peter 1:3-4: Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you.

Matthew 25:35 For I was an hungred, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in:

The passage emphasizes the importance of caring for those in need.

1: We are all called to practice hospitality and selfless service for the benefit of our brothers and sisters in need.

2: Jesus calls us to be mindful of the needs of others and to be generous with our time, resources, and care.

1: James 2:14-17 - What use is it, my brethren, if someone says he has faith but he has no works? Can that faith save him?

2: Mark 12:31 - 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'

Matthew 25:36 Naked, and ye clothed me: I was sick, and ye visited me: I was in prison, and ye came unto me.

This passage emphasizes the importance of compassionate service to those in need.

1. Our Compassionate Call: Fulfilling the Ministry of Jesus

2. Serving Others with the Love of Christ

1. Galatians 5:13-14 - "For, brethren, ye have been called unto liberty; only use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another. For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this; Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself."

2. James 1:27 - "Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world."

Matthew 25:37 Then shall the righteous answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungred, and fed thee? or thirsty, and gave thee drink?

This passage speaks of the righteous answering God's question about when they had cared for the hungry and thirsty.

1: We must have a heart to serve the less fortunate and show God's love by caring for those who are hungry and thirsty.

2: We must be ready to give an answer for why we are living a life of faith in Christ and demonstrate it through our actions.

1: Matthew 22:37-40 - "Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets."

2: James 2:14-17 - "What doth it profit, my brethren, though a man say he hath faith, and have not works? can faith save him? If a brother or sister be naked, and destitute of daily food, And one of you say unto them, Depart in peace, be ye warmed and filled; notwithstanding ye give them not those things which are needful to the body; what doth it profit? Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone."

Matthew 25:38 When saw we thee a stranger, and took thee in? or naked, and clothed thee?

This passage emphasizes the importance of hospitality and caring for those in need.

1: We are called to be generous and hospitable, as outlined in Matthew 25:38.

2: We are to view strangers as fellow children of God, and show them kindness and compassion as instructed in Matthew 25:38.

1: Hebrews 13:2 - "Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares."

2: James 2:15-16 - "If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food, and one of you says to them, “Go in peace, be warmed and filled,” without giving them the things needed for the body, what good is that?"

Matthew 25:39 Or when saw we thee sick, or in prison, and came unto thee?

This passage speaks of the importance of caring for the sick and imprisoned.

1. "The Compassion of Jesus: Caring for the Sick and Imprisoned"

2. "The Power of Love: Showing Mercy to the Weak and Hurting"

1. James 2:14-17 - "What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save them? Suppose a brother or a sister is without clothes and daily food. If one of you says to them, “Go in peace; keep warm and well fed,” but does nothing about their physical needs, what good is it? In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead."

2. Isaiah 58:6-7 - "Is not this the kind of fasting I have chosen: to loose the chains of injustice and untie the cords of the yoke, to set the oppressed free and break every yoke? Is it not to share your food with the hungry and to provide the poor wanderer with shelter — when you see the naked, to clothe them, and not to turn away from your own flesh and blood?"

Matthew 25:40 And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me.

This passage emphasizes the importance of helping the least of our brethren, as we are helping Christ himself.

1. "Living a Life of Compassion: Serving the Least of Our Brethren"

2. "The Power of Love: Serving as an Expression of Faith"

1. James 2:14-17

2. Luke 10:25-37

Matthew 25:41 Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels:

The wicked will be sent into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels.

1: The consequence of evil is eternal damnation.

2: Do not be deceived by the promises of evil, as it only leads to destruction.

1: Revelation 20:10-15 - And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever.

2: 2 Thessalonians 1:7-9 - And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels, In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power.

Matthew 25:42 For I was an hungred, and ye gave me no meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me no drink:

This passage speaks of not providing sustenance to those in need.

1. "Giving to Those in Need: A Call to Compassion"

2. "Helping Those Without: A Responsibility of the Faithful"

1. James 2:15-16 "If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food, and one of you says to them, “Go in peace, be warmed and filled,” without giving them the things needed for the body, what good is that?"

2. 1 John 3:17-18 "But if anyone has the world’s goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God’s love abide in him? Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth."

Matthew 25:43 I was a stranger, and ye took me not in: naked, and ye clothed me not: sick, and in prison, and ye visited me not.

This verse encourages us to be hospitable and offer help to those in need.

1: We are called to be hospitable to those in need.

2: We must show compassion and mercy by helping those who are suffering and in need.

1: James 1:27 - Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their trouble, and to keep oneself unspotted from the world.

2: Isaiah 58:7 - Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, and that you bring to your house the poor who are cast out; when you see the naked, that you cover him, and not hide yourself from your own flesh?

Matthew 25:44 Then shall they also answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungred, or athirst, or a stranger, or naked, or sick, or in prison, and did not minister unto thee?

This passage speaks of how we should treat others, even those who are in need, as if they were Christ himself.

1. A Call to Compassion: Our Duty to Love and Serve the Needy

2. The Golden Rule: Treating Others as You Would Like to be Treated

1. Galatians 6:9-10 - "Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers."

2. James 2:14-17 - "What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save them? Suppose a brother or a sister is without clothes and daily food. If one of you says to them, “Go in peace; keep warm and well fed,” but does nothing about their physical needs, what good is it? In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead."

Matthew 25:45 Then shall he answer them, saying, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye did it not to one of the least of these, ye did it not to me.

Jesus teaches that when we help those in need, it is the same as helping Him.

1: Jesus calls us to serve those in need in order to serve Him.

2: Our service to others reveals our love for Jesus.

1: Galatians 6:9-10 - Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.

2: James 2:14-17 - What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save them? Suppose a brother or a sister is without clothes and daily food. If one of you says to them, “Go in peace; keep warm and well fed,” but does nothing about their physical needs, what good is it? In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.

Matthew 25:46 And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal.

The passage emphasizes that the unrighteous will face everlasting punishment, while the righteous will receive eternal life.

1. The Choice of Eternity: Facing the Consequences of Our Actions

2. The Promise of Eternal Life: An Invitation for Spiritual Transformation

1. Romans 6:23 - For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

2. 1 Corinthians 15:19-22 - If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable. But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept. For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.

Matthew 26 recounts the plot against Jesus, His anointing at Bethany, the Last Supper, His prayer in Gethsemane, His arrest and subsequent trials before the high priest and Peter's denial of Him.

1st Paragraph: The chapter begins with Jesus predicting His death in two days' time during Passover (Matthew 26:1-5). Meanwhile, chief priests and elders are plotting to arrest Him. In Bethany, a woman anoints Jesus with expensive perfume which Judas Iscariot sees as wasteful. This triggers Judas to agree to betray Jesus for thirty pieces of silver (Matthew 26:6-16).

2nd Paragraph: During the Last Supper, Jesus shares bread and wine with his disciples as symbols of his body and blood that will be given up for many for the forgiveness of sins (Matthew 26:17-29). He also predicts that one of them will betray Him which leads to each disciple questioning if they are the one. After supper they go out to Mount Olives where Jesus predicts Peter's denial before rooster crows. Despite Peter's strong objections saying he would never fall away or deny Christ even if all others do.

3rd Paragraph: At Gethsemane, while praying fervently about impending suffering death He asks disciples stay awake pray but finds them sleeping on return showing human weakness contrast divine strength (Matthew 26:36-46). Soon after Judas arrives with crowd armed swords clubs sent by chief priests elders betrays Jesus kiss leading His arrest. A disciple strikes servant high priest cutting off his ear but Jesus rebukes him heals servant saying those who live by sword die by sword then He is led away Caiaphas high priest where teachers law elders have assembled meanwhile Peter follows distance up courtyard high priest sits outside watch proceedings there he denies knowing Christ three times rooster crows just as Christ had predicted fulfilling what was said earlier Matthew 26:47-75.

Matthew 26:1 And it came to pass, when Jesus had finished all these sayings, he said unto his disciples,

Jesus finished teaching his disciples and was ready to face the trials that lay ahead.

1: No matter what trials come our way, we must remain faithful and trust in the Lord.

2: We must be prepared to follow Jesus and take up our own crosses in life.

1: Romans 8:28 - And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.

2: Colossians 3:23-24 - Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ.

Matthew 26:2 Ye know that after two days is the feast of the passover, and the Son of man is betrayed to be crucified.

This passage is about the Passover and Jesus being betrayed and crucified.

1. The Sacrifice of Jesus: The Ultimate Gift

2. The Impossible Fulfillment of God's Plan

1. Isaiah 53:4-6 (Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.)

2. Hebrews 9:14-15 (How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God? And for this cause he is the mediator of the new testament, that by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions that were under the first testament, they which are called might receive the promise of eternal inheritance.)

Matthew 26:3 Then assembled together the chief priests, and the scribes, and the elders of the people, unto the palace of the high priest, who was called Caiaphas,

The chief priests, scribes, and elders of the people gathered together at the palace of the high priest Caiaphas.

1. Jesus' Victory Over Sin - How the death and resurrection of Jesus gives us the power to overcome sin.

2. The Power of Unity - How working together can help us achieve our goals.

1. Matthew 18:20 - "For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them."

2. Romans 6:23 - "For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."

Matthew 26:4 And consulted that they might take Jesus by subtilty, and kill him.

The chief priests and scribes sought a way to take Jesus and kill him without causing a disturbance.

1. God's Sovereignty in Hardship - We can trust that God is in control even when we face difficult circumstances.

2. The Danger of Pride - We must be careful not to succumb to pride and seek to take matters into our own hands.

1. Isaiah 55:8-9 - For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.

2. James 4:13-17 - Come now, you who say, ?□oday or tomorrow we will go into such and such a town and spend a year there and trade and make a profit?□□?yet you do not know what tomorrow will bring. What is your life? For you are a mist that appears for a little time and then vanishes. Instead you ought to say, ?□f the Lord wills, we will live and do this or that.??As it is, you boast in your arrogance. All such boasting is evil. So whoever knows the right thing to do and fails to do it, for him it is sin.

Matthew 26:5 But they said, Not on the feast day, lest there be an uproar among the people.

The people objected to Jesus' anointing at Bethany because it was the feast day.

1. The importance of honoring God's appointed times.

2. Practicing Godly wisdom in the midst of opposition.

1. Deuteronomy 16:16 - "Three times in a year shall all your males appear before the Lord your God in the place which He chooses: at the Feast of Unleavened Bread, at the Feast of Weeks, and at the Feast of Tabernacles; and they shall not appear before the Lord empty-handed."

2. Proverbs 15:2 - "The tongue of the wise uses knowledge rightly, but the mouth of fools pours forth foolishness."

Matthew 26:6 Now when Jesus was in Bethany, in the house of Simon the leper,

Jesus was in Bethany at the home of Simon the leper.

1. The Power of the Unconditional: Exploring Jesus' Visit to the Home of a Leper

2. The Compassion of Christ: Jesus' Love for Those Deemed Unworthy

1. Matthew 9:12 - But when Jesus heard that, he said unto them, They that be whole need not a physician, but they that are sick.

2. John 8:7 - So when they continued asking him, he lifted up himself, and said unto them, He that is without sin among you, let him first cast a stone at her.

Matthew 26:7 There came unto him a woman having an alabaster box of very precious ointment, and poured it on his head, as he sat at meat.

This passage tells of a woman who anoints Jesus with a very precious ointment.

1: Jesus is worthy to be anointed - Luke 4:18-19

2: Showing love and reverence to Jesus through acts of service - John 12:1-8

1: Psalm 133:2 - How good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity!

2: John 13:34-35 - A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another.

Matthew 26:8 But when his disciples saw it, they had indignation, saying, To what purpose is this waste?

This passage highlights the disciples' indignation when they saw Jesus wasting perfume.

1: We should not be wasteful, but instead use our resources to benefit others.

2: We should be wise stewards of our resources, especially when it comes to serving the Lord.

1: Proverbs 21:20 - There is precious treasure and oil in the house of the wise: but a foolish man spendeth it up.

2: 2 Corinthians 8:7 - Therefore, as ye abound in every thing, in faith, and utterance, and knowledge, and in all diligence, and in your love to us, see that ye abound in this grace also.

Matthew 26:9 For this ointment might have been sold for much, and given to the poor.

This passage speaks of Jesus' generous act of using a large amount of valuable ointment to anoint his body for burial.

1. The Power of Generosity: Choosing to Give Generously Out of Love

2. The Cost of Compassion: Sacrificing for Others

1. 2 Corinthians 8:9 - For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich.

2. Luke 6:38 - Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again.

Matthew 26:10 When Jesus understood it, he said unto them, Why trouble ye the woman? for she hath wrought a good work upon me.

Jesus showed compassion to a woman who had anointed Him with expensive oil.

1. Compassion in Action: Following Jesus' Example

2. The Act of Selfless Worship: Honoring God with our Resources

1. Philippians 2:3-4 - Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves.

2. Luke 10:25-37 - The Parable of the Good Samaritan.

Matthew 26:11 For ye have the poor always with you; but me ye have not always.

This passage from Matthew emphasizes that Jesus will not always be present with us, but the poor will always be present in our society.

1: Jesus teaches us to always be mindful of and care for the poor.

2: We should remember that Jesus will not always be with us, and use his teachings to guide our lives.

1: James 1:27 - Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unstained from the world.

2: Deuteronomy 15:7-8 - ?□f among you, one of your brothers should become poor, in any of your towns within your land that the Lord your God is giving you, you shall not harden your heart or shut your hand against your poor brother, but you shall open your hand to him and lend him sufficient for his need, whatever it may be.

Matthew 26:12 For in that she hath poured this ointment on my body, she did it for my burial.

The woman showed Jesus love and respect by anointing his body with ointment in preparation for his burial.

1: Jesus was the recipient of great love and respect from those around him, even in the

face of death.

2: The woman's gesture of anointing Jesus with ointment was an act of faith and reverence.

1: Mark 14:8 She hath done what she could: she is come aforehand to anoint my body to the burying.

2: John 12:3 Then took Mary a pound of ointment of spikenard, very costly, and anointed the feet of Jesus, and wiped his feet with her hair: and the house was filled with the odour of the ointment.

Matthew 26:13 Verily I say unto you, Wheresoever this gospel shall be preached in the whole world, there shall also this, that this woman hath done, be told for a memorial of her.

This passage emphasizes the importance of remembering the acts of kindness and service done by women.

1: We should honor and remember the acts of kindness that women have done for us, for they are a memorial to them.

2: Celebrate those who have done acts of kindness and service, for they will be remembered for eternity.

1: Proverbs 31:30-31 - ?□harm is deceitful, and beauty is vain, but a woman who fears the Lord is to be praised. Give her of the fruit of her hands, and let her works praise her in the gates.??

2: Matthew 25:34-40 - ?□hen the King will say to those on his right, ?□ome, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.??Then the righteous will answer him, saying, ?□ord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you??□□?

Matthew 26:14 Then one of the twelve, called Judas Iscariot, went unto the chief priests,

Judas betrays Jesus to the chief priests.

1. The Danger of Betrayal - How Judas' betrayal of Jesus serves as a warning to us about the power of sin and temptation.

2. The Power of Forgiveness - How Jesus' response to Judas' betrayal demonstrates the healing power of grace and forgiveness.

1. Mark 14:10-11 - Jesus' prediction that one of his disciples would betray him.

2. Romans 5:8 - God's demonstration of his love for us while we were still sinners.

Matthew 26:15 And said unto them, What will ye give me, and I will deliver him unto you? And they covenanted with him for thirty pieces of silver.

The chief priests and scribes offered Judas Iscariot thirty pieces of silver to betray Jesus.

1. The High Cost of Betrayal: What Is Worth Giving Up for What We Believe In?

2. The Danger of Coveting: Recognizing the Temptation of Greed.

1. Proverbs 15:16 - Better is a little with the fear of the Lord than great treasure and trouble therewith.

2. James 4:2-3 - Ye lust, and have not: ye kill, and desire to have, and cannot obtain: ye fight and war, yet ye have not, because ye ask not. Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts.

Matthew 26:16 And from that time he sought opportunity to betray him.

From the moment Judas Iscariot made the decision to betray Jesus, he actively looked for an opportunity to do so.

1. The Betrayal of Jesus: Examining Judas' Actions.

2. Learning from Judas: Examining Our Own Actions.

1. Luke 22:3-6 - Jesus knew of Judas' plan to betray Him, yet allowed it to happen.

2. John 13:21-30 - Jesus shows His love for Judas even after Judas betrayed Him.

Matthew 26:17 Now the first day of the feast of unleavened bread the disciples came to Jesus, saying unto him, Where wilt thou that we prepare for thee to eat the passover?

Jesus instructs the disciples to prepare for the Passover.

1. Jesus' Call to Prepare for the Passover: What Does it Mean for Us Today?

2. Remembering the Passover: Lessons in Faith and Obedience from Jesus.

1. Exodus 12:3-14 - God's instructions to the Israelites for observance of the Passover.

2. Luke 22:15-18 - Jesus' institution of the Lord's Supper at the Passover.

Matthew 26:18 And he said, Go into the city to such a man, and say unto him, The Master saith, My time is at hand; I will keep the passover at thy house with my disciples.

Jesus instructed his disciples to go to a man in the city to prepare for the Passover meal.

1. The Importance of Preparing for the Passover

2. Jesus' Timing is Always Perfect

1. Luke 22:7-13 - Jesus instructs the disciples to prepare for the Passover

2. Exodus 12:1-14 - God's instructions for the Passover feast

Matthew 26:19 And the disciples did as Jesus had appointed them; and they made ready the passover.

The disciples followed Jesus' instructions and prepared the Passover meal.

1. Obedience: The Power of Following God's Commands

2. Preparation: Getting Ready for What God Has Called Us To

1. John 14:15 - "If you love me, you will keep my commandments."

2. Psalm 119:60 - "I hasten and do not delay to keep your commandments."

Matthew 26:20 Now when the even was come, he sat down with the twelve.

This passage describes Jesus gathering with his disciples for the Passover meal.

1: Jesus' example of breaking bread with his disciples teaches us the importance of gathering together with our loved ones and friends.

2: Jesus' gathering with his disciples reminds us to be thankful for our relationships and to cherish them.

1: Acts 2:42-46 - The early church gathered together in fellowship and broke bread.

2: Psalm 133:1 - "Behold, how good and pleasant it is when brothers dwell in unity!"

Matthew 26:21 And as they did eat, he said, Verily I say unto you, that one of you shall betray me.

The disciples were warned of their one of them that would betray Jesus.

1 - A Call to Repentance: Learning from the Disciples' Betrayal

2 - A Call to Faithfulness: Being Faithful Despite Difficult Circumstances

1 - Luke 22:21-22 ?□ut behold, the hand of him that betrayeth me is with me on the table. And truly the Son of man goeth, as it was determined: but woe unto that man by

whom he is betrayed!??

2 - John 13:21-30 ?□hen Jesus had thus said, he was troubled in spirit, and testified, and said, Verily, verily, I say unto you, that one of you shall betray me.??

Matthew 26:22 And they were exceeding sorrowful, and began every one of them to say unto him, Lord, is it I?

The disciples were filled with sorrow and asked Jesus if he was referring to them when he mentioned that one of them would betray him.

1. The Power of Self-Reflection: Facing Our Own Failures

2. Living a Life of Compassion: Showing Mercy in Our Relationships

1. Philippians 3:12-14 - Not that I have already obtained it or have already become perfect, but I press on so that I may lay hold of that for which also I was laid hold of by Christ Jesus. Brethren, I do not regard myself as having laid hold of it yet; but one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

2. James 5:16 - Therefore, confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another so that you may be healed. The effective prayer of a righteous man can accomplish much.

Matthew 26:23 And he answered and said, He that dippeth his hand with me in the dish, the same shall betray me.

Jesus predicted that one of his disciples would betray him.

1. Betrayals and Broken Trust: A Study of Matthew 26:23

2. The Consequences of Betrayal: Learning from the Betrayal of Jesus in Matthew 26:23

1. John 13:21-26 - Jesus predicts his betrayal.

2. Psalm 41:9 - Betrayal of a friend.

Matthew 26:24 The Son of man goeth as it is written of him: but woe unto that man by whom the Son of man is betrayed! it had been good for that man if he had not been born.

This passage warns against betraying Jesus, as it would be better if that man had never been born.

1. The Cost of Betrayal: How to Avoid a Fate Worse Than Death

2. The Dangers of Turning Your Back on Jesus

1. Luke 22:22 - "And truly the Son of man goeth, as it was determined: but woe unto that man by whom he is betrayed!"

2. Isaiah 53:3 - "He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not."

Matthew 26:25 Then Judas, which betrayed him, answered and said, Master, is it I? He said unto him, Thou hast said.

Judas asked Jesus if he was the one who was going to betray him. Jesus confirmed it was him.

1. Living in Integrity: Understanding the Consequences of Betrayal

2. The Grace of Jesus: Compassion Despite Betrayal

1. Psalm 55:12-14 ?□or it is not an enemy that reproacheth me; then I could have borne it: neither is it an adversary that magnify himself against me; then I would have hid myself from him: But it was thou, a man mine equal, my guide, and mine acquaintance. We took sweet counsel together, and walked unto the house of God in company.??

2. Romans 2:4 "Or despisest thou the riches of his goodness and forbearance and longsuffering; not knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance?"

Matthew 26:26 And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and blessed it, and brake it, and gave it to the disciples, and said, Take, eat; this is my body.

This passage explains how Jesus blessed bread and gave it to his disciples to eat, saying that it is His body.

1. Jesus Is The Bread Of Life: Exploring The Significance Of Jesus?□ Sacrifice

2. Eating The Bread Of Life: How To Receive God?□ Gift Of Salvation

1. John 6:35 - ?□esus said to them, ?□ am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst.?□□?

2. Isaiah 55:1-3 - ?□ome, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and he who has no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labor for that which does not satisfy? Listen diligently to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food.??

Matthew 26:27 And he took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, Drink ye all of it;

Jesus shared the cup of salvation with his disciples and commanded them to partake of it.

1. The Cup of Salvation: Drinking in the Promises of God

2. The Answer to Our Thirst: Experiencing Jesus' Love Through the Cup

1. Isaiah 55:1 - ?□ome, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and he who has no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price.??

2. Psalm 116:13 - ?□ will lift up the cup of salvation and call on the name of the Lord.??

Matthew 26:28 For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins.

This passage speaks of Jesus' sacrifice for the forgiveness of sin.

1: Jesus, the Lamb of God - His incredible gift of grace and mercy.

2: Jesus, the Suffering Servant - His ultimate act of love and devotion.

1: Romans 5:8 - But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

2: Ephesians 1:7 - In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace.

Matthew 26:29 But I say unto you, I will not drink henceforth of this fruit of the vine, until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom.

The passage speaks of Jesus' promise that he will not drink of the fruit of the vine until he drinks it anew in the Kingdom of his Father.

1. The Hope of Heaven: Jesus' Promised Return

2. Finding Strength in Times of Difficulty: Jesus' Words of Comfort

1. Revelation 21:1-4 - The Promise of a New Heaven and a New Earth

2. Isaiah 25:6-9 - The Lord Will Wipe Away Tears from All Faces

Matthew 26:30 And when they had sung an hymn, they went out into the mount of Olives.

After singing a hymn, Jesus and his disciples went to the Mount of Olives.

1. The importance of prayer and worship in our lives

2. Understanding the significance of the Mount of Olives in Jesus' life

1. Mark 14:26, "And when they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives."

2. Luke 22:39, "And He came out and went, as was His custom, to the Mount of Olives; and the disciples also followed Him."

Matthew 26:31 Then saith Jesus unto them, All ye shall be offended because of me this night: for it is written, I will smite the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock shall be scattered abroad.

Jesus tells His disciples that they will be offended because of Him and that it is written that the shepherd will be smitten and the sheep of the flock will be scattered.

1. The Scattering of the Sheep: A Reflection on Matthew 26:31

2. Understanding the Smiting of the Shepherd: A on Faith and Perseverance

1. Zechariah 13:7 - ?wake, O sword, against my shepherd, and against the man that is my fellow, saith the LORD of hosts: smite the shepherd, and the sheep shall be scattered: and I will turn mine hand upon the little ones.??

2. Hebrews 13:20 - ?ow the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant.??

Matthew 26:32 But after I am risen again, I will go before you into Galilee.

Jesus tells his disciples that he will rise again and go before them into Galilee.

1. The Power of Hope and Faith: Jesus' Resurrection and Our Journey of Faith

2. The Promise of the Risen Christ: Understanding and Applying the Hope of the Resurrection

1. Romans 8:24-25 - For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

2. 1 Corinthians 15:13-14 - But if there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. And if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain.

Matthew 26:33 Peter answered and said unto him, Though all men shall be offended because of thee, yet will I never be offended.

Peter expresses his unwavering loyalty to Jesus despite the threat of being abandoned by all others.

1. Standing Firm In Our Faith: Staying Committed To Jesus Even In Difficult Times

2. Loyalty To Jesus: Peter?□ Example Of Unwavering Commitment

1. Hebrews 11:1- Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see.

2. Romans 12:9- Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good.

Matthew 26:34 Jesus said unto him, Verily I say unto thee, That this night, before the cock crow, thou shalt deny me thrice.

Jesus warns Peter of his impending denial of Him before the cock crows.

1: Don't be Hasty in Your Commitments to God

2: True Faith is Not in Words, but in Action

1: James 2:17-18 - "Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone. Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: shew me thy faith without thy works, and I will shew thee my faith by my works."

2: Proverbs 14:23 - "In all labour there is profit: but the talk of the lips tendeth only to penury."

Matthew 26:35 Peter said unto him, Though I should die with thee, yet will I not deny thee. Likewise also said all the disciples.

The disciples declared their unwavering faithfulness to Jesus even if it means death.

1: We must not be afraid to stand up for our faith no matter the cost.

2: Let us remain committed to Jesus and His teachings.

1: Romans 8:31-39 - If God is for us, who can be against us?

2: Philippians 1:21 - For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain.

Matthew 26:36 Then cometh Jesus with them unto a place called Gethsemane, and saith unto the disciples, Sit ye here, while I go and pray yonder.

Jesus took His disciples to a place called Gethsemane and asked them to wait for Him while He went to pray.

1. The Power of Prayer: Learning from Jesus' Example

2. The Strength of His Presence: Trusting in God During Times of Trial

1. Psalm 139:7-10 - Where shall I go from your Spirit? Or where shall I flee from your presence?

2. Isaiah 40:31 - But they who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint.

Matthew 26:37 And he took with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and began to be sorrowful and very heavy.

The disciples of Jesus accompanied him as he became sorrowful and heavy.

1: Jesus shows us that it is okay to feel sorrow and despair in our lives, and that we should not be ashamed to seek comfort from our friends and family.

2: Jesus shows us the importance of having people in our lives to support us when times are difficult.

1: Ecclesiastes 4:9-10 - ?□wo are better than one, because they have a good reward for their toil. For if they fall, one will lift up his fellow. But woe to him who is alone when he falls and has not another to lift him up!??

2: Proverbs 17:17 - ?□ friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for adversity.??

Matthew 26:38 Then saith he unto them, My soul is exceeding sorrowful, even unto death: tarry ye here, and watch with me.

Jesus expresses his deep sorrow and asks his disciples to stay and watch with him.

1. The Power of True Fellowship - How Jesus' Request for His Disciples to Stay and Watch with Him Teaches Us about the Strength of Community

2. The Depth of Jesus' Love - His Request for His Disciples to Stay and Watch with Him Displays the Extent of His Compassion

1. Psalm 23:4 - Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

2. Hebrews 13:5 - Keep your life free from love of money, and be content with what you have, for he has said, ?□ will never leave you nor forsake you.??

Matthew 26:39 And he went a little farther, and fell on his face, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt.

Jesus prayed to God, asking that the cup of suffering be taken away from him, but that His will, not Jesus' will, be done.

1. Living a Life of Surrender: Understanding God's Will

2. The Crucified Life: Experiencing God's Suffering

1. Philippians 2:8-11 - Jesus humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

2. Isaiah 53:10-12 - Yet it was the LORD's will to crush him and cause him to suffer, and though the LORD makes his life an offering for sin, he will see his offspring and prolong his days, and the will of the LORD will prosper in his hand.

Matthew 26:40 And he cometh unto the disciples, and findeth them asleep, and saith unto Peter, What, could ye not watch with me one hour?

The disciples failed to stay awake with Jesus during His time of need.

1. We must be vigilant in our faith, ready to stay awake with Jesus despite the difficulties.

2. We must be there for Jesus even in the hardest times, to show our devotion and dedication to Him.

1. Ephesians 6:10-18 - Put on the full armor of God so that you can stand against the schemes of the devil.

2. Romans 12:12 - Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer.

Matthew 26:41 Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.

This verse encourages us to watch and pray in order to avoid temptation and keep our spirits willing despite our weak human nature.

1. "The Power of Prayer: Strengthening Ourselves Against Temptation"

2. "Watch and Pray: Taking Care of Ourselves in the Face of Temptation"

1. James 4:7 - "Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you."

2. 1 Corinthians 10:13 - "No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it."

Matthew 26:42 He went away again the second time, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if this cup may not pass away from me, except I drink it, thy will be done.

Jesus prayed to God and accepted His will, even if it meant drinking the cup of suffering.

1. "The Cup of Suffering: Accepting God's Will"

2. "The Power of Prayer: Learning to Surrender to God's Plan"

1. James 4:13-15 - "Come now, you who say, ?□oday or tomorrow we will go to such and such a city, spend a year there, buy and sell, and make a profit?? whereas you do not know what will happen tomorrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes away. Instead you ought to say, ?□f the Lord wills, we shall live and do this or that.??

2. Romans 12:1-2 - I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

Matthew 26:43 And he came and found them asleep again: for their eyes were heavy.

Jesus found his disciples sleeping again, despite their fatigue.

1. ?□e Ready: Be Awake and Alert??

2. ?□e Faithful: Remembering Jesus??Sacrifice??

1. Isaiah 40:31 - ?□ut they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.??

2. Hebrews 11:1 - ?□ow faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.??

Matthew 26:44 And he left them, and went away again, and prayed the third time, saying the same words.

Jesus prayed three times in the Garden of Gethsemane, repeating the same words each time.

1. The Power of Prayer: Jesus' Example in the Garden of Gethsemane

2. The Comfort of Repeat Prayer: Jesus' Example in the Garden of Gethsemane

1. Philippians 4:6-7 - ?□o not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.??

2. James 5:16 - ?□herefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working.??

Matthew 26:45 Then cometh he to his disciples, and saith unto them, Sleep on now, and take your rest: behold, the hour is at hand, and the Son of man is betrayed into the hands of sinners.

Jesus goes to his disciples and tells them to rest because the hour of his betrayal is near.

1. The Importance of Rest in Times of Trial

2. Understanding and Accepting God's Plan

1. Psalm 4:8 - In peace I will both lie down and sleep; for you alone, O Lord, make me dwell in safety.

2. Isaiah 40:31 - But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.

Matthew 26:46 Rise, let us be going: behold, he is at hand that doth betray me.

The passage speaks of Jesus' imminent betrayal.

1. The Strength of Jesus in the Face of Betrayal

2. The Power of Forgiveness in the Face of Adversity

1. Isaiah 43:2 - "When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned,

and the flame shall not consume you."

2. John 14:27 - "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid."

Matthew 26:47 And while he yet spake, lo, Judas, one of the twelve, came, and with him a great multitude with swords and staves, from the chief priests and elders of the people.

Judas, one of Jesus' twelve disciples, arrived with a large crowd from the chief priests and elders of the people, armed with swords and staves.

1. The Betrayal of Judas: The Danger of Compromising Faith

2. Standing Firm in Difficult Times: Lessons from Jesus' Arrest

1. 1 Corinthians 10:13 - "No temptation has overtaken you except what is common to mankind. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can endure it."

2. Psalm 37:5-7 - "Commit your way to the Lord; trust in him and he will do this: He will make your righteousness shine like the dawn, the justice of your cause like the noonday sun. Be still before the Lord and wait patiently for him; do not fret when people succeed in their ways, when they carry out their wicked schemes."

Matthew 26:48 Now he that betrayed him gave them a sign, saying, Whomsoever I shall kiss, that same is he: hold him fast.

Jesus instructs his disciples to recognize the betrayer through a sign.

1. The Betrayal of Jesus: Understanding the Significance of Jesus' Instructions. 2. Uncovering the Power of Jesus' Love Despite Betrayal.

1. John 3:16 - For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. 2. Luke 22:48 - Jesus said to him, ?udas, are you betraying the Son of Man with a kiss???

Matthew 26:49 And forthwith he came to Jesus, and said, Hail, master; and kissed him.

A disciple of Jesus, Judas, greeted Jesus with a kiss.

1. The Power of a Kiss: What Can We Learn from Judas?

2. Betrayal in the Garden: Understanding Judas' Actions.

1. Luke 22:47-48, ?□nd while he yet spake, behold a multitude, and he that was called Judas, one of the twelve, went before them, and drew near unto Jesus to kiss him. But Jesus said unto him, Judas, betrayest thou the Son of man with a kiss???

2. 2 Corinthians 11:14, ?□nd no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light.??

Matthew 26:50 And Jesus said unto him, Friend, wherefore art thou come? Then came they, and laid hands on Jesus, and took him.

Jesus is betrayed and arrested.

1: Jesus models love and friendship even in the face of betrayal.

2: Jesus is an example of how to remain faithful to God despite difficult circumstances.

1: John 3:16-17 - For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

17 For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.

2: James 1:2-4 - My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations;

3 Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience.

4 But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.

Matthew 26:51 And, behold, one of them which were with Jesus stretched out his hand,

and drew his sword, and struck a servant of the high priest's, and smote off his ear.

Jesus prevented his disciples from using violence to protect him.

1: We must not be quick to resort to violence to solve our problems.

2: Follow Jesus's example by turning the other cheek in difficult situations.

1: Romans 12:17-21 - Repay no one evil for evil, but give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all. If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all.

2: Matthew 5:38-42 - You have heard that it was said, ?□n eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.??But I say to you, Do not resist the one who is evil. But if anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to him the other also.

Matthew 26:52 Then said Jesus unto him, Put up again thy sword into his place: for all they that take the sword shall perish with the sword.

Jesus tells a disciple to put away his sword, warning them that those who take up the sword will perish by it.

1. Our Actions Have Consequences - Proverbs 16:18

2. Turning the Other Cheek - Matthew 5:38-39

1. Romans 12:19-21

2. James 4:1-3

Matthew 26:53 Thinkest thou that I cannot now pray to my Father, and he shall presently give me more than twelve legions of angels?

This passage illustrates the power of Jesus, as he states that he can call upon his Father to send him more than twelve legions of angels.

1. The Power of Prayer: Learning from the Example of Jesus

2. Have Faith in the Almighty: Relying on God's Power and Strength

1. Luke 18:27 - Jesus responds to the rich ruler who asked what he must do to inherit eternal life: ?□hat is impossible with man is possible with God.??

2. Ephesians 3:20 - ?□ow to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us.??

Matthew 26:54 But how then shall the scriptures be fulfilled, that thus it must be?

Jesus refers to scripture to explain that something must happen in order to fulfill the prophecy.

1. The Power of Prophecy: How God's Word Fulfills Our Lives

2. Living Out the Scriptures: How We Can Make Prophecy Come True

1. Isaiah 46:10-11 - I make known the end from the beginning, from ancient times, what is still to come. I say, ?□y purpose will stand, and I will do all that I please.??

2. Galatians 3:8 - Scripture foresaw that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, and announced the gospel in advance to Abraham: ?□ll nations will be blessed through you.??

Matthew 26:55 In that same hour said Jesus to the multitudes, Are ye come out as against a thief with swords and staves for to take me? I sat daily with you teaching in the temple, and ye laid no hold on me.

Jesus calls out the hypocrisy of the multitudes in arresting Him in the same way they would a thief when He had been openly teaching in the temple every day.

1. The Danger of Hypocrisy: How Jesus Condemned the Multitudes for Their Unjust Actions

2. God's Justice: How Jesus Rightly Called Out the Multitudes for Their Wrongdoing

1. Matthew 23:27-28 - "Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye are like

unto whited sepulchers, which indeed appear beautiful outward, but are within full of dead men's bones, and of all uncleanness. Even so ye also outwardly appear righteous unto men, but within ye are full of hypocrisy and iniquity."

2. Romans 2:1-3 - "Therefore thou art inexcusable, O man, whosoever thou art that judgest: for wherein thou judgest another, thou condemnest thyself; for thou that judgest doest the same things. But we are sure that the judgment of God is according to truth against them which commit such things. And thinkest thou this, O man, that judgest them which do such things, and doest the same, that thou shalt escape the judgment of God?"

Matthew 26:56 But all this was done, that the scriptures of the prophets might be fulfilled. Then all the disciples forsook him, and fled.

This passage describes how the disciples abandoned Jesus in order to fulfill the prophecies of the Old Testament.

1. "Standing Firm in the Face of Adversity: Lessons from the Disciples and Jesus"

2. "Fulfilling God's Plan: The Disciples, Jesus, and the Scriptures of the Prophets"

1. Psalm 22:1-31 - My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?

2. Isaiah 53:5 - But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed.

Matthew 26:57 And they that had laid hold on Jesus led him away to Caiaphas the high priest, where the scribes and the elders were assembled.

Jesus is taken prisoner and brought to Caiaphas the high priest, who is accompanied by the scribes and elders.

1. The Meaning of Jesus' Arrest - What does it mean to be arrested and brought to justice?

2. The Significance of Caiaphas the High Priest - How does the role of the high priest impact Jesus' story?

1. John 18:12-14 - Then the band and the captain and officers of the Jews took Jesus, and bound him, and led him away to Annas first; for he was father in law to Caiaphas, which was the high priest that same year.

2. Acts 4:5-7 - And it came to pass on the morrow, that their rulers, and elders, and scribes, And Annas the high priest, and Caiaphas, and John, and Alexander, and as many as were of the kindred of the high priest, were gathered together at Jerusalem.

Matthew 26:58 But Peter followed him afar off unto the high priest's palace, and went in, and sat with the servants, to see the end.

Peter followed Jesus to the high priest's palace despite the risks.

1. We can learn from Peter's courage and faith to follow Jesus despite the risks.

2. Even when we feel distant from God, we can still take steps to draw nearer to Him.

1. Hebrews 11:8-10 - By faith Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed; and he went out, not knowing whither he went.

2. Matthew 14:29 - And he said, Come. And when Peter was come down out of the ship, he walked on the water, to go to Jesus.

Matthew 26:59 Now the chief priests, and elders, and all the council, sought false witness against Jesus, to put him to death;

The chief priests and other religious authorities sought false testimony to condemn Jesus to death.

1. The Danger of False Accusations

2. The Power of Truth

1. Psalm 25:2-3 - "O my God, in you I trust; let me not be put to shame; let not my enemies exult over me. Indeed, none who wait for you shall be put to shame; they shall be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous."

2. Proverbs 12:17 - "Whoever speaks the truth gives honest evidence, but a false witness utters deceit."

Matthew 26:60 But found none: yea, though many false witnesses came, yet found they none. At the last came two false witnesses,

The high priest and the Sanhedrin had difficulty finding witnesses to testify against Jesus, and eventually found two false witnesses.

1. The power of truth: even false witnesses can't make a lie stand up.

2. The importance of standing firm in your faith, even when faced with false witness.

1. Psalm 119:160 - "The sum of thy word is truth; and every one of thy righteous judgments endureth for ever."

2. John 8:44 - "Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it."

Matthew 26:61 And said, This fellow said, I am able to destroy the temple of God, and to build it in three days.

The high priest accused Jesus of claiming He could destroy the temple of God and rebuild it in three days.

1: The Power of Words - How the words we speak have the power to create or destroy.

2: Jesus' Authority - Jesus' divine authority demonstrated through His words.

1: James 3:5-6 - "So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great things. How great a forest is set ablaze by such a small fire! And the tongue is a fire, a world of unrighteousness. The tongue is set among our members, staining the whole body, setting on fire the entire course of life, and set on fire by hell."

2: Proverbs 18:21 - "Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and those who love it will eat its fruits."

Matthew 26:62 And the high priest arose, and said unto him, Answerest thou nothing? what is it which these witness against thee?

The high priest questions Jesus without giving him a chance to answer.

1: We should never be so quick to judge and question that we do not give people a chance to answer.

2: Be mindful of the words we speak, especially when addressing someone in authority.

1: James 1:19 - Know this, my beloved brothers: let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger.

2: Proverbs 18:13 - If one gives an answer before he hears, it is his folly and shame.

Matthew 26:63 But Jesus held his peace. And the high priest answered and said unto him, I adjure thee by the living God, that thou tell us whether thou be the Christ, the Son of God.

The high priest asked Jesus if He was the Christ, the Son of God, but Jesus did not answer.

1. When faced with difficult choices, seek God's will and trust in His guidance.

2. Even in the most difficult of circumstances, we can remain faithful to God's plan for us.

1. John 14:27 - "Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid."

2. Isaiah 26:3 - "Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee."

Matthew 26:64 Jesus saith unto him, Thou hast said: nevertheless I say unto you, Hereafter shall ye see the Son of man sitting on the right hand of power, and coming in the clouds of heaven.

Jesus declares his authority and power as the Son of Man.

1: Jesus is King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

2: Jesus is the Messiah who will come again in the clouds.

1: Revelation 19:11-16 - Jesus is the King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

2: Zechariah 14:4-5 - Jesus will come with the clouds.

Matthew 26:65 Then the high priest rent his clothes, saying, He hath spoken blasphemy; what further need have we of witnesses? behold, now ye have heard his blasphemy.

The high priest condemns Jesus for blasphemy.

1: Speak God's truth even when it is difficult.

2: Do not be afraid to stand up for what you believe in.

1: John 15:13 - Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.

2: 1 Corinthians 15:58 - Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.

Matthew 26:66 What think ye? They answered and said, He is guilty of death.

This passage describes the verdict of Jesus' accusers, who declared Him guilty of death.

1. The Price of Discipleship: Jesus' Sacrifice for the Salvation of Mankind

2. The Power of the Cross: Understanding Jesus' Death and Resurrection

1. Romans 5:8 - But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

2. John 3:16 - For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

Matthew 26:67 Then did they spit in his face, and buffeted him; and others smote him with the palms of their hands,

Jesus was subjected to humiliation and physical abuse.

1: We should not forget the suffering of Jesus and how He was willing to go through it for us.

2: We should strive to be humble and obedient to God, even in times of trial.

1: Isaiah 50:6 "I gave my back to the smiters, and my cheeks to them that plucked off the hair: I hid not my face from shame and spitting."

2: Hebrews 12:2-3 "Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God."

Matthew 26:68 Saying, Prophesy unto us, thou Christ, Who is he that smote thee?

This passage discusses the mocking of Jesus by the High Priest and his attendants during his trial.

1: Jesus' example of patience, humility and forgiveness is a model for us in difficult times.

2: We can learn from Jesus' example of courage and faith in the face of adversity.

1: Isaiah 53:7 - He was oppressed and afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth; he was led like a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before its shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth.

2: 1 Peter 2:21-23 - To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps. ?□e committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth.??When they hurled their insults at him, he did not retaliate; when he suffered, he made no threats. Instead, he entrusted himself to him who judges justly.

Matthew 26:69 Now Peter sat without in the palace: and a damsel came unto him, saying, Thou also wast with Jesus of Galilee.

Peter denied Jesus three times, and this passage speaks of the third denial.

1: Our actions have consequences, and we must be careful to live a life that reflects our faith.

2: We should strive to remain humble and not be ashamed to proclaim our faith regardless of external pressures.

1: 1 John 2:28 - And now, little children, abide in him; that, when he shall appear, we may have confidence, and not be ashamed before him at his coming.

2: Matthew 10:33 - But whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my Father which is in heaven.

Matthew 26:70 But he denied before them all, saying, I know not what thou sayest.

This passage recounts Peter's denial of Jesus three times.

1: In the face of adversity, we must stay true to our faith and stand firm in our convictions.

2: We should never be ashamed to admit we know Jesus, even in the face of pressure or danger.

1: John 16:33 - "I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world.??

2: 1 Timothy 6:12 - ?□ight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called and about which you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses.??

Matthew 26:71 And when he was gone out into the porch, another maid saw him, and said unto them that were there, This fellow was also with Jesus of Nazareth.

The maid recognized Peter as one who had been with Jesus of Nazareth.

1: We should always follow Jesus, even when people don't recognize us for it.

2: We can stand up for our faith even in the face of criticism.

1: Matthew 10:32-33 ?□herefore whoever confesses Me before men, him I will also confess before My Father who is in heaven. But whoever denies Me before men, him I will also deny before My Father who is in heaven.??

2: Philippians 1:27-28 ?□nly let your conduct be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of your affairs, that you stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel.??

Matthew 26:72 And again he denied with an oath, I do not know the man.

Peter denied knowing Jesus three times, even after swearing an oath.

1. The Danger of Denying Christ - How we can avoid the same mistake Peter made.

2. The Power of God's Grace - How Jesus extended forgiveness to Peter despite his denials.

1. Romans 10:9-10 - That if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.

2. 1 John 1:9 - If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Matthew 26:73 And after a while came unto him they that stood by, and said to Peter, Surely thou also art one of them; for thy speech bewrayeth thee.

Peter denies Jesus three times after being identified as one of his disciples.

1: Don't be like Peter - stand firm in your faith and convictions.

2: Be brave in the face of adversity, and don't be afraid to speak up.

1: Joshua 1:9 - "Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go."

2: Hebrews 10:35 - "Therefore do not throw away your confidence, which has a great reward."

Matthew 26:74 Then began he to curse and to swear, saying, I know not the man. And immediately the cock crew.

This passage describes Peter's denial of Jesus three times before the cock crowed.

1. The Danger of Denying Christ: An Examination of Peter's Denial

2. The Power of a Single Moment: The Importance of Timing in Peter's Denial

1. Matthew 26:31-35 - Jesus foretells Peter's denial

2. 1 Peter 5:8 - Be alert and of sober mind, your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.

Matthew 26:75 And Peter remembered the word of Jesus, which said unto him, Before the cock crow, thou shalt deny me thrice. And he went out, and wept bitterly.

Peter denied Jesus three times, despite the warning that Jesus gave him.

1: We must learn from Peter's mistakes and remain steadfast in our faith, even when facing difficult situations.

2: When Jesus warns us of something, it is important to take it seriously and trust in His guidance.

1: Luke 22:31-32 - "And the Lord said, ?imon, Simon! Indeed, Satan has asked for you, that he may sift you as wheat. But I have prayed for you, that your faith should not fail; and when you have returned to Me, strengthen your brethren.??

2: James 1:12 - "Blessed is the man who endures temptation; for when he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him."

Matthew 27 is the twenty-seventh chapter of the Gospel of Matthew, which focuses on the events leading up to and including Jesus' crucifixion, death, and burial.

1st Paragraph: The chapter begins with the betrayal and trial of Jesus (Matthew 27:1-26). Judas Iscariot, one of Jesus' disciples, regrets his betrayal and returns the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests. Overwhelmed by guilt, Judas hangs himself. Meanwhile, Jesus is brought before Pilate, the Roman governor. Despite finding no fault in Him, Pilate succumbs to pressure from the crowd and releases Barabbas—a notorious criminal—instead of Jesus. Pilate then orders Jesus to be flogged and handed over for crucifixion.

2nd Paragraph: The soldiers mock and abuse Jesus before leading Him to Golgotha for crucifixion (Matthew 27:27-44). They dress Him in a scarlet robe and crown Him with thorns while taunting Him as King of the Jews. Alongside two criminals, Jesus is nailed to a cross between them. Passersby join in mocking Him while religious leaders challenge His claims about being able to save Himself. Darkness falls over the land from noon until three in the afternoon.

3rd Paragraph: As Jesus breathes His last breath on the cross (Matthew 27:45-66), an earthquake occurs, tombs open up, and some dead saints are resurrected. A centurion confesses that truly "this was the Son of God." Joseph of Arimathea—a disciple secretly following Jesus—boldly requests permission from Pilate to take charge of Jesus' body for burial. Joseph wraps it in clean linen cloth and places it in his own new tomb carved out of rock while Mary Magdalene and another Mary observe.

In summary,

Chapter twenty-seven of Matthew portrays Judas' remorse and suicide, Jesus' trial before Pilate, His crucifixion alongside criminals, and His eventual death and burial.

The soldiers mock Jesus, abuse Him, and lead Him to Golgotha for crucifixion. Darkness covers the land while passersby taunt Him and religious leaders challenge His claims.

As Jesus dies on the cross, an earthquake occurs, tombs open up, and a centurion confesses that He is the Son of God. Joseph of Arimathea boldly requests Jesus' body for burial in his own tomb while Mary Magdalene and another Mary observe. This chapter presents the somber events surrounding Jesus' sacrifice for humanity's salvation.

Matthew 27:1 When the morning was come, all the chief priests and elders of the people took counsel against Jesus to put him to death:

The chief priests and elders conspired against Jesus to kill him.

1. Serving God and not men - Acts 5:29

2. Don't let the world squeeze you into its mold - Romans 12:2

1. Romans 3:23, "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God"

2. Romans 5:8, "But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us"

Matthew 27:2 And when they had bound him, they led him away, and delivered him to Pontius Pilate the governor.

Jesus was arrested and bound, then delivered to Pontius Pilate, the governor.

1. The Power of Faith in the Face of Persecution

2. The Miraculous Love of Jesus

1. Acts 4:19-20 - But Peter and John answered and said unto them, Whether it be right in the sight of God to hearken unto you more than unto God, judge ye. For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard.

2. 1 Peter 2:21-22 - For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps: Who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth.

Matthew 27:3 Then Judas, which had betrayed him, when he saw that he was condemned, repented himself, and brought again the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders,

Judas repented and returned the money he had been given for betraying Jesus.

1: We must always recognize the consequences of our actions and turn to God for forgiveness.

2: When we fail, we must humbly seek repentance and make amends for our wrongdoings.

1: Jeremiah 31:19 “For after I turned back, I repented; and after I was instructed, I struck myself on the thigh; I was ashamed, and also humiliated, because I bore the reproach of my youth.”

2: Luke 17:3–4 “Pay attention to yourselves! If your brother sins, rebuke him, and if he repents, forgive him, and if he sins against you seven times in the day, and turns to you seven times, saying, 'I repent,' you must forgive him.”

Matthew 27:4 Saying, I have sinned in that I have betrayed the innocent blood. And they said, What is that to us? see thou to that.

Pilate asked the Jews what he should do with Jesus, and they responded by telling Pilate that it was his responsibility to decide what to do with Jesus.

1. The Importance of Taking Responsibility for our Actions

2. The Need for Compassion and Forgiveness

1. Jeremiah 17:9-10 - "The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it? I the Lord search the heart, I try the reins, even to give every man according to his ways, and according to the fruit of his doings"

2. James 3:17-18 - "But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be intreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy. And the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace of them that make peace."

Matthew 27:5 And he cast down the pieces of silver in the temple, and departed, and went and hanged himself.

Judas Iscariot, one of Jesus' disciples, betrayed him and was filled with remorse. He returned the money he was paid for his betrayal and then hung himself.

1. The Danger of Betrayal - How Judas' act of betrayal impacted the life of Jesus and his own.

2. The Power of Repentance - How Judas' act of repentance and remorse showed the power of turning away from sin.

1. Psalm 51:17 - "The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise."

2. Luke 15:11-32 - Parable of the Prodigal Son - Jesus' story of a son who repents and returns to his father.

Matthew 27:6 And the chief priests took the silver pieces, and said, It is not lawful for to put them into the treasury, because it is the price of blood.

The chief priests took the silver pieces, which was the price of blood, but they declared it was not lawful to put it into the treasury.

1. When we receive payment for our wrongdoings, we should not use it for our own gain.

2. We must be responsible with the resources given to us, even if they come from questionable sources.

1. Proverbs 16:8 -Better is a little with righteousness than great revenues without right.

2. 1 Peter 4:3-4 - For the time that is past suffices for doing what the Gentiles want to do, living in sensuality, passions, drunkenness, orgies, drinking parties, and lawless idolatry. With respect to this they are surprised when you do not join them in the same flood of debauchery, and they malign you.

Matthew 27:7 And they took counsel, and bought with them the potter's field, to bury strangers in.

The chief priests and elders of the people consulted together and used the money they had received for betraying Jesus to buy a field, which was used to bury strangers in.

1. "Living a Selfless Life: The Example of the Chief Priests and Elders"

2. "The Power of Compassion: The Potter's Field"

1. John 13:34-35 - "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”

2. Isaiah 58:6-7 - “Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of wickedness, to undo the straps of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? Is it not to share your bread with the hungry and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover him, and not to hide yourself from your own flesh?”

Matthew 27:8 Wherefore that field was called, The field of blood, unto this day.

The field of Akeldama was purchased with money gained by Judas Iscariot's betrayal of Jesus, and was therefore called the field of blood.

1. The Betrayal of Christ: An Exploration of the Consequences of Sin

2. The Cost of Discipleship: Giving Up Everything for Jesus

1. Acts 1:18-19, which records the purchase of the field of Akeldama

2. Luke 14:25-33, which discusses the cost of discipleship

Matthew 27:9 Then was fulfilled that which was spoken by Jeremy the prophet, saying, And they took the thirty pieces of silver, the price of him that was valued, whom they of the children of Israel did value;

This passage speaks of how the prophecy of the prophet Jeremiah was fulfilled when the thirty pieces of silver were paid for Jesus.

1: God's plan is always fulfilled.

2: Trusting in the Lord's will and plan.

1: Isaiah 55:11 "So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it."

2: Proverbs 16:3 "Commit thy works unto the Lord, and thy thoughts shall be established."

Matthew 27:10 And gave them for the potter's field, as the Lord appointed me.

Pilate was instructed by the Lord to give the thirty pieces of silver to a potter, who then used it to purchase a field to bury strangers in.

1. Making a Difference by Obeying God - How Pilate's obedience to the Lord impacted the lives of others.

2. The Power of a Small Gift - How a seemingly insignificant gift can have immense and lasting effects.

1. Acts 10:38 - How God shows no partiality in His love and care for all people.

2. Proverbs 19:17 - He who is kind to the poor lends to the Lord, and He will reward him for what he has done.

Matthew 27:11 And Jesus stood before the governor: and the governor asked him, saying, Art thou the King of the Jews? And Jesus said unto him, Thou sayest.

Jesus affirmed his kingship before Pilate when asked.

1: Jesus is the King of Kings and Lord of Lords - Revelation 19:16

2: Jesus is not of this world - John 18:36

1: Jesus is the King of Glory - Psalm 24:10

2: Pilate asked Jesus if He is the King of the Jews - Mark 15:2

Matthew 27:12 And when he was accused of the chief priests and elders, he answered nothing.

This passage describes Jesus being accused by the chief priests and elders, yet he remains silent and does not respond.

1. The Power of Silence: Examining Jesus' Response to His Accusers

2. Learning to Speak Up: When to Utilize Our Voice

1. Isaiah 53:7 - He was oppressed and afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth; he was led like a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before its shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth.

2. James 1:19 - My dear brothers and sisters, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry.

Matthew 27:13 Then said Pilate unto him, Hearest thou not how many things they witness against thee?

The people accused Jesus of many things, but Pilate asked if Jesus heard them.

1. Jesus' Response to Accusations: How Jesus faced accusation with a calm and peaceful demeanor.

2. Resisting the Urge to React: Not responding to false accusations with anger or bitterness.

1. 1 Peter 2:23 - When He was reviled, He did not revile in return; when He suffered, He did not threaten, but committed Himself to Him who judges righteously.

2. Matthew 5:43-44 - You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you.

Matthew 27:14 And he answered him to never a word; insomuch that the governor marvelled greatly.

Jesus' silence before Pilate shows his commitment to God's will.

1: Jesus' commitment to God's will was so strong that even in the face of death he remained silent.

2: Jesus' obedience to God's will was so strong that he gave up his own life without hesitation.

1: Philippians 2:5-8 - Jesus humbled himself, taking the form of a servant, and he obediently gave up his life.

2: Isaiah 53:7 - He was oppressed and afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth; he was led like a lamb to the slaughter.

Matthew 27:15 Now at that feast the governor was wont to release unto the people a prisoner, whom they would.

At a certain feast, Pilate would customarily release a prisoner chosen by the people.

1. The Power of Mercy: Examining Pilate's Example in Matthew 27:15

2. Choosing Compassion Over Vengeance: Exploring Pilate's Choice in Matthew 27:15

1. Exodus 34:7 - "keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, and that will by no means clear the guilty;"

2. Romans 12:19-21 - "Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord. Therefore if thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him drink: for in so doing thou shalt heap coals of fire on his head. Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good."

Matthew 27:16 And they had then a notable prisoner, called Barabbas.

This passage in Matthew 27:16 mentions Barabbas, a notable prisoner.

1. The Meaning of Forgiveness - How Jesus Forgave Barabbas

2. The Power of Mercy - How Jesus Showed Mercy to Barabbas

1. Luke 23:13-25 - Pilate offers to release Jesus or Barabbas

2. Ephesians 2:4-9 - God's mercy and grace through Jesus

Matthew 27:17 Therefore when they were gathered together, Pilate said unto them, Whom will ye that I release unto you? Barabbas, or Jesus which is called Christ?

Pilate asked the crowd whether he should release Barabbas or Jesus, who is known as the Christ.

1. The Gift of Freedom: How God's Grace Liberates Us

2. The Power of Choice: How We Are Called to Make Wise Decisions

1. Romans 6:14-15 - For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace.

2. Ephesians 4:17-19 - This I say therefore, and testify in the Lord, that ye henceforth walk not as other Gentiles walk, in the vanity of their mind.

Matthew 27:18 For he knew that for envy they had delivered him.

Jesus was betrayed and handed over to be crucified by his own people out of envy.

1. The Power of Envy: How it Can Lead to Destruction

2. The Greatest Gift of Love: Jesus' Sacrifice for Mankind

1. Proverbs 14:30 - A sound heart is the life of the flesh: but envy the rottenness of the bones.

2. Romans 5:8 - But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

Matthew 27:19 When he was set down on the judgment seat, his wife sent unto him, saying, Have thou nothing to do with that just man: for I have suffered many things this day in a dream because of him.

This passage recounts Pilate's wife's warning to her husband regarding Jesus' innocence.

1. God uses supernatural means to protect the innocent.

2. The power of a spouse's influence.

1. Daniel 2:28-30 - God reveals mysteries to those He has chosen.

2. Proverbs 31:11-12 - A wife's counsel should be sought and heeded.

Matthew 27:20 But the chief priests and elders persuaded the multitude that they should ask Barabbas, and destroy Jesus.

The chief priests and elders convinced the crowd to ask for Barabbas to be set free instead of Jesus, leading to Jesus' death.

1. God's will is greater than human choice.

2. Making the right decisions based on faith, not persuasion.

1. Isaiah 55:8-9 - "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts."

2. Romans 12:2 - "Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect."

Matthew 27:21 The governor answered and said unto them, Whether of the twain will ye that I release unto you? They said, Barabbas.

The crowd chose Barabbas over Jesus.

1. "Doing the Right Thing vs. Doing the Popular Thing"

2. "What Does it Mean to Follow Jesus?"

1. Isaiah 53:12 - "Therefore I will divide Him a portion with the great, and He shall divide

the spoil with the strong, because He poured out His soul unto death,"

2. Matthew 16:24 - "Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me."

Matthew 27:22 Pilate saith unto them, What shall I do then with Jesus which is called Christ? They all say unto him, Let him be crucified.

The people demanded Jesus be crucified.

1: Jesus is our ultimate sacrifice.

2: The power of the people and the authority of the government.

1: Isaiah 53:5 - But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed.

2: John 19:11 - Jesus answered, "You would have no power over me if it were not given to you from above. Therefore the one who handed me over to you is guilty of a greater sin."

Matthew 27:23 And the governor said, Why, what evil hath he done? But they cried out the more, saying, Let him be crucified.

The crowd demanded that Jesus be crucified even after Pilate asked why Jesus had done wrong.

1. The Power of the Crowd: How Peer Pressure Can Lead to Wrongful Judgement

2. Jesus' Crucifixion: Our Greatest Example of Sacrifice and Forgiveness

1. Matthew 27:23 - "Let him be crucified"

2. Romans 5:8 - "But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us."

Matthew 27:24 When Pilate saw that he could prevail nothing, but that rather a tumult was made, he took water, and washed his hands before the multitude, saying, I am innocent of the blood of this just person: see ye to it.

Pilate, unable to control the crowd, washed his hands as a symbol of his innocence in the death of Jesus.

1. The Power of Symbolism in the Bible

2. The Conflict of Righteousness and Unrighteousness

1. Isaiah 1:15-18 - When you spread out your hands in prayer, I will hide my eyes from you; even if you offer many prayers, I will not listen. Your hands are full of blood!

2. Psalm 51:1-2 - Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love; according to your great compassion blot out my transgressions. Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin.

Matthew 27:25 Then answered all the people, and said, His blood be on us, and on our children.

This verse speaks of the people's willingness to accept the consequences of Jesus' death as their own.

1. "The Power of Words: Owning Our Words and Actions"

2. "The Blood of Jesus: His Sacrifice, Our Salvation"

1. Romans 5:8 - "But God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us."

2. Luke 23:34 - "And Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.”

Matthew 27:26 Then released he Barabbas unto them: and when he had scourged Jesus, he delivered him to be crucified.

Pilate released Barabbas and scourged Jesus before delivering Him to be crucified.

1. The Cost of Our Redemption: Sacrificial Love and the Cross

2. The Power of Forgiveness: Jesus’ Greatest Gift

1. Luke 23:34 - Then said Jesus, Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do.

2. Romans 5:8 - But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

Matthew 27:27 Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the common hall, and gathered unto him the whole band of soldiers.

The soldiers of the governor took Jesus to the common hall and assembled a large group of soldiers.

1. God has a plan for us, and even in our darkest moments, He is still with us.

2. We must be willing to face the consequences of our actions and accept God's will.

1. Isaiah 43:1-2 - “But now, this is what the Lord says— he who created you, Jacob, he who formed you, Israel: “Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have summoned you by name; you are mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and when you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned; the flames will not set you ablaze.”

2. Isaiah 41:10 - “So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.”

Matthew 27:28 And they stripped him, and put on him a scarlet robe.

The soldiers stripped Jesus and clothed him in a scarlet robe.

1. The Scarlet Robe of Humiliation: Jesus' Sacrifice for Our Redemption

2. The Robe of Humility: A Lesson in Humility from the King of Kings

1. Isaiah 53:3: "He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief; and as one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not."

2. Philippians 2:5-8: "Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross."

Matthew 27:29 And when they had platted a crown of thorns, they put it upon his head, and a reed in his right hand: and they bowed the knee before him, and mocked him, saying, Hail, King of the Jews!

The soldiers put a crown of thorns on Jesus' head, put a reed in his right hand and mocked him, saying "Hail, King of the Jews!"

1. The Power of Mockery: How Jesus Triumphed in Humiliation

2. The True King: How Jesus Was Recognized Despite His Suffering

1. Isaiah 53:3-5 - He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not.

2. Philippians 2:8-11 - And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.

Matthew 27:30 And they spit upon him, and took the reed, and smote him on the head.

The soldiers mocked and assaulted Jesus.

1: Jesus was willing to suffer humiliation and physical pain to bring us salvation.

2: We should be willing to follow Jesus' example and endure suffering with grace.

1: 1 Peter 2:20-21 “For what credit is it if, when you sin and are beaten for it, you endure?

But if when you do good and suffer for it you endure, this is a gracious thing in the sight of God. For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow his steps.”

2: Isaiah 53:5-6 “But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned—every one—to his own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all.”

Matthew 27:31 And after that they had mocked him, they took the robe off from him, and put his own raiment on him, and led him away to crucify him.

Jesus was mocked and then taken away to be crucified.

1: No matter how much we are mocked and persecuted, Jesus was the ultimate example of humility and courage in the face of adversity.

2: We should take comfort in Jesus' example of perseverance and faith in the face of opposition.

1: Philippians 2:5-8 - Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men.

2: 1 Peter 2:21-23 - For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps. He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth. When he was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but continued entrusting himself to him who judges justly.

Matthew 27:32 And as they came out, they found a man of Cyrene, Simon by name: him they compelled to bear his cross.

Two Roman soldiers compel Simon of Cyrene to help them carry the cross of Jesus Christ.

1. Jesus overcame suffering and sorrow through the help of others.

2. To carry one another's burdens is to carry the cross of Christ.

1. Galatians 6:2 - "Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ."

2. Matthew 11:28-30 - "Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

Matthew 27:33 And when they were come unto a place called Golgotha, that is to say, a place of a skull,

The place of Jesus' crucifixion was called Golgotha, which translates to "place of a skull".

1. The Skull of Jesus: A Symbol of Our Redemption

2. The Significance of Golgotha: A Place of Crucifixion

1. Luke 23:33-34 - When they came to the place called the Skull, there they crucified him, and the criminals, one on his right and one on his left.

2. John 19:17-18 - They took Jesus, therefore, and He went out, bearing His own cross, to the place called the Place of a Skull, which is called in Hebrew, Golgotha. There they crucified Him, and with Him two other men, one on either side, and Jesus in between.

Matthew 27:34 They gave him vinegar to drink mingled with gall: and when he had tasted thereof, he would not drink.

The soldiers offered Jesus a mixture of vinegar and gall, but He refused to drink it.

1. The Suffering of Jesus: How to Respond When Everything Seems Hopeless

2. Jesus' Unfailing Faith and Trust in God's Plan

1. Isaiah 53:7 - He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth: he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he openeth not his mouth.

2. Matthew 26:39 - And he went a little further, and fell on his face, and prayed, saying, O

my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt.

Matthew 27:35 And they crucified him, and parted his garments, casting lots: that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, They parted my garments among them, and upon my vesture did they cast lots.

Jesus was crucified and his garments were divided among the people, fulfilling a prophecy that his clothes would be divided by casting lots.

1. The Faithfulness of Jesus: The Fulfillment of Prophecy

2. The Power of Our Decisions: The Significance of Casting Lots

1. Isaiah 53:12 "Therefore will I divide him a portion with the great, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong; because he hath poured out his soul unto death: and he was numbered with the transgressors; and he bare the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors."

2. Proverbs 16:33 "The lot is cast into the lap; but the whole disposing thereof is of the LORD."

Matthew 27:36 And sitting down they watched him there;

The soldiers watched Jesus while he was crucified.

1. The Power of Witnessing: Learning from the Soldiers at the Cross

2. Jesus' Sacrifice: The Ultimate Expression of Love

1. Isaiah 53:5 - "But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed."

2. John 15:13 - "Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one’s life for one’s friends."

Matthew 27:37 And set up over his head his accusation written, THIS IS JESUS THE KING

OF THE JEWS.

A sign was placed above Jesus' head on the cross that read, "This is Jesus the King of the Jews."

1. Jesus' Kingship: What It Means for Us

2. The Sign of Jesus' Kingship: What It Means for Us

1. John 3:17 - "For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him."

2. Romans 8:1-3 - "There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death. For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do. By sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, he condemned sin in the flesh."

Matthew 27:38 Then were there two thieves crucified with him, one on the right hand, and another on the left.

Jesus was crucified with two criminals, one to his right and one to his left.

1. The Meaning of Jesus's Crucifixion: Understanding the Significance of His Final Hours

2. The Power of Forgiveness: Jesus's Example of Humility and Mercy

1. Luke 23:43 - And Jesus said to him, “Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise.”

2. John 8:1-11 - But Jesus went to the Mount of Olives. Early in the morning he came again to the temple. All the people came to him, and he sat down and taught them.

Matthew 27:39 And they that passed by reviled him, wagging their heads,

The people passing by Jesus mocked him and showed their disapproval.

1. "The Power of Words: How We Can Choose to Build Up or Break Down"

2. "Understanding Jesus' Suffering: Standing with Him in His Hour of Need"

1. Hebrews 13:12-13 - "Therefore Jesus also, that he might sanctify the people with his own blood, suffered without the gate. Let us go forth therefore unto him without the camp, bearing his reproach."

2. Proverbs 18:21 - "Death and life are in the power of the tongue: and they that love it shall eat the fruit thereof."

Matthew 27:40 And saying, Thou that destroyest the temple, and buildest it in three days, save thyself. If thou be the Son of God, come down from the cross.

The crowd mocked Jesus, telling him to save himself if he was the Son of God.

1: How Jesus shows us the power of faith, even in the face of adversity and doubt.

2: Understanding the importance of putting our trust in God, even when it seems like the whole world is against us.

1: Hebrews 11:1 - "Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen".

2: Matthew 16:24-26 - "Then Jesus told his disciples, “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul? Or what shall a man give in return for his soul?”

Matthew 27:41 Likewise also the chief priests mocking him, with the scribes and elders, said,

The chief priests, scribes, and elders mocked Jesus.

1: The Danger of Mockery

2: The Power of Humility

1: James 4:10, "Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you."

2: Ephesians 4:29, "Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear."

Matthew 27:42 He saved others; himself he cannot save. If he be the King of Israel, let him now come down from the cross, and we will believe him.

The people mocked Jesus for claiming to be the King of Israel, asking him to come down from the cross if he wanted them to believe him.

1. Jesus' humility: How Jesus humbled himself in death on the cross for our salvation.

2. The power of faith: How faith in Jesus can bring us salvation despite our doubts and fears.

1. Philippians 2:7-8 – “But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.”

2. Hebrews 11:1 – “Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.”

Matthew 27:43 He trusted in God; let him deliver him now, if he will have him: for he said, I am the Son of God.

The chief priests and teachers of the law mock Jesus, calling on God to deliver him if he truly is the Son of God.

1. God's Plan for Salvation: How Jesus' Suffering Brings Us Hope

2. The Power of Trust: Learning to Follow God Despite Our Circumstances

1. Isaiah 53:4-5 - "Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed."

2. Hebrews 12:2 - "looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God."

Matthew 27:44 The thieves also, which were crucified with him, cast the same in his teeth.

The thieves crucified with Jesus mocked him.

1: Jesus endured mockery and even in his darkest hour remained strong in his faith.

2: We can learn from Jesus to remain faithful in all circumstances, even when we are mocked.

1: 1 Peter 2:21-23 “For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps: Who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth: Who, when he was reviled, reviled not again; when he suffered, he threatened not; but committed himself to him that judgeth righteously.”

2: Hebrews 12:2-3 “Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God. For consider him that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds.”

Matthew 27:45 Now from the sixth hour there was darkness over all the land unto the ninth hour.

At midday, darkness fell over all the land for three hours.

1: Jesus's sacrifice provided a way for us to be reconciled with God.

2: When Jesus died on the cross, it was a somber and dark time for the world.

1: Isaiah 53:5 - “But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed.”

2: Luke 23:44-46 - “It was now about the sixth hour, and darkness came over the whole land until the ninth hour, for the sun stopped shining. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two. Jesus called out with a loud voice, ‘Father, into your hands I commit my spirit.’ When he had said this, he breathed his last.”

Matthew 27:46 And about the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, saying, Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani? that is to say, My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?

Jesus, in the ninth hour of His suffering on the cross, cried out to God in anguish asking why He had been forsaken.

1. The Agony of Jesus: Understanding Our Savior's Sacrifice

2. The Ultimate Act of Love: Exploring Jesus' Abandonment

1. Psalm 22:1-2 - "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? Why are you so far from saving me, so far from my cries of anguish? My God, I cry out by day, but you do not answer, by night, but I find no rest."

2. Isaiah 53:3-4 - "He was despised and rejected by mankind, a man of suffering, and familiar with pain. Like one from whom people hide their faces he was despised, and we held him in low esteem. Surely he took up our pain and bore our suffering."

Matthew 27:47 Some of them that stood there, when they heard that, said, This man calleth for Elias.

This passage recounts how some bystanders at the crucifixion of Jesus responded by saying that Jesus was calling for Elijah.

1. The Crucifixion of Jesus: An Opportunity for Salvation

2. God's Purpose in Jesus' Death

1. Psalm 22:1-21 – A Messianic prophecy of Jesus' death on the cross

2. Isaiah 53:4-6 – A prophecy of Jesus' death and the salvation he would bring

Matthew 27:48 And straightway one of them ran, and took a spunge, and filled it with

vinegar, and put it on a reed, and gave him to drink.

Jesus was given vinegar on a reed to drink while He was on the cross.

1. The Power of Sacrificial Love

2. Proving Our Faith Through Actions

1. John 15:13 - Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.

2. Philippians 2:7-8 - But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.

Matthew 27:49 The rest said, Let be, let us see whether Elias will come to save him.

The crowd at Jesus' crucifixion were questioning if Elijah would come to save Jesus.

1: We should not be questioning God's plan, but rather trusting in His will.

2: We should look to the example of Jesus and trust in His sacrifice.

1: Romans 8:28 - "And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose."

2: Isaiah 41:10 - "So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand."

Matthew 27:50 Jesus, when he had cried again with a loud voice, yielded up the ghost.

Jesus died after loudly proclaiming his death.

1. Jesus’ Sacrifice: The Ultimate Act of Love and Obedience

2. Jesus’ Last Words: A Powerful Testimony of Faith

1. Romans 5:8: But God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

2. Philippians 2:8: And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

Matthew 27:51 And, behold, the veil of the temple was rent in twain from the top to the bottom; and the earth did quake, and the rocks rent;

The veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom, and the earth shook and rocks split.

1. God Parted the Veil: Seeing the Glory of God in Our Lives

2. The Earth Shook and the Rocks Split: Experiencing God's Power Through Prayer

1. Isaiah 64:1 - "Oh, that you would rend the heavens and come down, that the mountains would tremble before you!"

2. Psalm 18:6-7 - "In my distress I called to the Lord; I cried to my God for help. From his temple he heard my voice; my cry came before him, into his ears."

Matthew 27:52 And the graves were opened; and many bodies of the saints which slept arose,

This passage tells of the dead being resurrected after Jesus was crucified.

1. The Power of Jesus to Conquer Death

2. The Promise of the Resurrection of the Saints

1. Isaiah 25:8 - He will swallow up death in victory

2. John 11:25-26 - Jesus said “I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me,

though he die, yet shall he live.”

Matthew 27:53 And came out of the graves after his resurrection, and went into the holy city, and appeared unto many.

After Jesus' resurrection, He came out of the graves and went into Jerusalem to appear to many people.

1. The Power of Resurrection: How Christ's Resurrection Transforms Our Lives

2. The Significance of Jesus' Appearances After His Resurrection

1. Romans 6:4-5 - We too might walk in newness of life.

2. John 21:1-14 - Jesus appears to the disciples on the beach.

Matthew 27:54 Now when the centurion, and they that were with him, watching Jesus, saw the earthquake, and those things that were done, they feared greatly, saying, Truly this was the Son of God.

This passage describes the reaction of the centurion and those with him as they observed the earthquake and other events surrounding Jesus' death. They realized that Jesus was the Son of God.

1. The Power of Jesus: How the Centurion Recognized the Son of God

2. Witnessing the Miracles of Jesus: Embracing His Power

1. Isaiah 9:6 - For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

2. John 20:30-31 - Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

Matthew 27:55 And many women were there beholding afar off, which followed Jesus from Galilee, ministering unto him:

The passage mentions that many women had followed Jesus from Galilee to Jerusalem to minister to him.

1: Jesus was greatly cared for by those around him even to the very end.

2: There is great power, love, and comfort in the support of our sisters and brothers in Christ.

1: Mark 14:3-9 - Mary anoints Jesus with precious oil, a sign of her love for him.

2: Proverbs 31:10-31 - The ideal woman, one who uses her gifts and abilities to serve and minister to others.

Matthew 27:56 Among which was Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James and Joses, and the mother of Zebedee's children.

Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James and Joses, and the mother of Zebedee's children were among the people who witnessed Jesus's crucifixion.

1. The Faithful Witness: Examining the Courage of Mary Magdalene and Mary, Mother of James and Joses

2. Standing in Solidarity: How the Crucifixion of Jesus Unites Our Faith

1. Hebrews 12:1-2 - "Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us."

2. John 11:25-26 - "Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?”

Matthew 27:57 When the even was come, there came a rich man of Arimathaea, named Joseph, who also himself was Jesus' disciple:

Joseph of Arimathea was a devoted disciple of Jesus who provided a proper burial for Jesus.

1. The Devotion of Joseph of Arimathea: A Model for Following Jesus

2. The Power of Sacrifice: How Joseph of Arimathea Demonstrated His Faith

1. John 19:38-42 - The Burial of Jesus by Joseph of Arimathea

2. Mark 15:43-46 - Joseph of Arimathea's Request to Pilate for the Body of Jesus

Matthew 27:58 He went to Pilate, and begged the body of Jesus. Then Pilate commanded the body to be delivered.

Pilate granted Joseph of Arimathea's request to take the body of Jesus after he begged for it.

1. The power of faith and perseverance demonstrated by Joseph of Arimathea in his request for the body of Jesus.

2. The importance of making our requests to God in prayer, as demonstrated by Joseph of Arimathea.

1. James 5:16 - "The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working."

2. Matthew 21:22 - "And whatever you ask in prayer, you will receive, if you have faith.”

Matthew 27:59 And when Joseph had taken the body, he wrapped it in a clean linen cloth,

Joseph showed his love for Jesus by wrapping Jesus' body in a clean linen cloth.

1: Love is an action and not an emotion. We can show our love for Jesus through our actions, just as Joseph did.

2: Joseph's example of humility and service to Jesus can remind us to never forget to serve our Lord.

1: John 13:34-35, “A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I

have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”

2: 1 John 4:19-21, “We love because he first loved us. Whoever claims to love God yet hates a brother or sister is a liar. For whoever does not love their brother and sister, whom they have seen, cannot love God, whom they have not seen. And he has given us this command: Anyone who loves God must also love their brother and sister.”

Matthew 27:60 And laid it in his own new tomb, which he had hewn out in the rock: and he rolled a great stone to the door of the sepulchre, and departed.

Joseph of Arimathea requested the body of Jesus from Pilate and laid it in a new tomb hewn out of the rock, sealing the tomb with a great stone.

1. Jesus' death and burial: His life was not taken away in vain.

2. The significance of Joseph of Arimathea's faith and obedience to God's will.

1. Isaiah 53:9 - "And he made his grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death..."

2. Luke 23:50-53 - "And, behold, there was a man named Joseph, a counsellor; and he was a good man, and a just: (The same had not consented to the counsel and deed of them;) he was of Arimathaea, a city of the Jews: who also himself waited for the kingdom of God. This man went unto Pilate, and begged the body of Jesus. And he took it down, and wrapped it in linen, and laid it in a sepulchre that was hewn in stone, wherein never man before was laid."

Matthew 27:61 And there was Mary Magdalene, and the other Mary, sitting over against the sepulchre.

This passage describes the presence of Mary Magdalene and the other Mary at the tomb of Jesus.

1. Rejoicing in the Resurrection - How the Disciples of Jesus Showed Their Courage and Faith by Witnessing His Burial and Resurrection

2. Faithful Grief - How Mary Magdalene and the Other Mary Showed Their Dedication to Jesus in Mourning His Death

1. John 20:1-18 - The Resurrection of Jesus

2. Luke 24:1-12 - The Story of the Resurrected Jesus Appearing to the Disciples

Matthew 27:62 Now the next day, that followed the day of the preparation, the chief priests and Pharisees came together unto Pilate,

The chief priests and Pharisees came to Pilate the day after the Preparation Day.

1: The power of preparation - Matthew 27:62

2: Knowing when to act - Matthew 27:62

1: Luke 14:28-30 - For which of you, intending to build a tower, sitteth not down first, and counteth the cost, whether he have sufficient to finish it?

2: Ephesians 5:15-17 - See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil.

Matthew 27:63 Saying, Sir, we remember that that deceiver said, while he was yet alive, After three days I will rise again.

The Jewish leaders were aware of Jesus' prediction of his resurrection after three days.

1. The Faithfulness of God: Reflections on Jesus' Prediction of His Resurrection

2. The Power of Jesus: Examining the Impact of His Words

1. Daniel 6:20-23 - Reflection on God's faithfulness in delivering Daniel from the lion's den

2. Psalm 16:10 - Contemplation of Jesus' triumph over death and resurrection

Matthew 27:64 Command therefore that the sepulchre be made sure until the third day, lest his disciples come by night, and steal him away, and say unto the people, He is risen from the dead: so the last error shall be worse than the first.

The chief priests and Pharisees were worried that Jesus' disciples would steal his body and tell the people that he has risen from the dead, so they asked Pilate to secure the tomb.

1. Fear and Unbelief: How the Chief Priests and Pharisees Responded to the Resurrection of Jesus

2. Preparing for the Unexpected: The Need for Faith in Difficult Times

1. Hebrews 11:1 - "Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen."

2. Romans 10:17 - "So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ."

Matthew 27:65 Pilate said unto them, Ye have a watch: go your way, make it as sure as ye can.

Pilate encourages the chief priests and elders to secure Jesus as they wish.

1. The Power of Our Responsibility: How Our Choices Have Consequences

2. Making Sure of Our Faith: Trusting in God's Plan

1. Ezekiel 18:20 - The soul that sinneth, it shall die. The son shall not bear the iniquity of the father, neither shall the father bear the iniquity of the son: the righteousness of the righteous shall be upon him, and the wickedness of the wicked shall be upon him.

2. Matthew 6:34 - Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.

Matthew 27:66 So they went, and made the sepulchre sure, sealing the stone, and setting a watch.

The guards sealed the tomb and stood watch over it.

1. Jesus' Resurrection: The Ultimate Victory Over Death

2. The Power of Christ's Sacrifice: How His Death Overcame Sin

1. Isaiah 53:10-11 - Yet it was the Lord's will to crush him and cause him to suffer, and though the Lord makes his life an offering for sin, he will see his offspring and prolong his days, and the will of the Lord will prosper in his hand.

2. John 10:17-18 - The reason my Father loves me is that I lay down my life—only to take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down and authority to take it up again. This command I received from my Father.

Matthew 28 describes the resurrection of Jesus, His appearance to the women and disciples, and the Great Commission He gives to His followers.

1st Paragraph: The chapter begins with Mary Magdalene and the other Mary going to look at the tomb where Jesus was buried. An angel of the Lord descends from heaven, rolls back the stone covering the tomb, sits on it and tells them that Jesus has risen as He said (Matthew 28:1-7). The angel instructs them to go quickly and tell His disciples that He has risen from dead is going ahead of them into Galilee where they will see Him. They leave filled with joy mixed with fear.

2nd Paragraph: As they are on their way to deliver this message, Jesus Himself meets them. They fall down before Him clasping His feet worshiping Him. Jesus tells them not be afraid but go tell brothers go Galilee there they will see Him (Matthew 28:8-10). Meanwhile, when guards at tomb report what happened chief priests elders devise plan give soldiers large sum money bribe them say 'His disciples came during night stole him away while we were asleep' promise protect soldiers from any potential punishment for their failure guard body (Matthew 28:11-15).

3rd Paragraph: The eleven disciples then proceed to Galilee where they meet Jesus on a mountain. Some worshipped Him but others doubted. In what is known as "The Great Commission", Jesus comes forward and gives final instructions saying all authority in heaven earth has been given to Him therefore they should go make disciples of all nations baptizing them in name Father Son Holy Spirit teaching them obey everything commanded promising be with always end age (Matthew 28:16-20). This marks culmination Matthew's Gospel emphasizes ongoing mission church spread Gospel throughout world.

Matthew 28:1 In the end of the sabbath, as it began to dawn toward the first day of the week, came Mary Magdalene and the other Mary to see the sepulchre.

The two Marys came to the tomb at the dawn of the first day of the week.

1: Hope in the Resurrection: Even in the darkest of days, Jesus brings us hope.

2: Faith in Death: Taking comfort that even in death, our Lord Jesus Christ is with us.

1: John 11:25-26 - Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die.

2: 1 Corinthians 15:55-57 - “Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?” The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Matthew 28:2 And, behold, there was a great earthquake: for the angel of the Lord descended from heaven, and came and rolled back the stone from the door, and sat upon it.

The angel of the Lord descended from heaven and caused an earthquake to roll back the stone from the door.

1. The Power of God in Action

2. The Angel of the Lord Doing the Work of God

1. Acts 4:31 “And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and they spake the word of God with boldness.”

2. Isaiah 30:30 “And the LORD shall cause his glorious voice to be heard, and shall shew the lighting down of his arm, with the indignation of his anger, and with the flame of a devouring fire, with scattering, and tempest, and hailstones.”

Matthew 28:3 His countenance was like lightning, and his raiment white as snow:

The angel at the tomb of Jesus was dazzlingly bright and was clothed in white.

1: We should always strive to emulate the brightness of the angel at the tomb of Jesus.

2: Despite our imperfections, God can still use us as His instruments.

1: Isaiah 6:1-7 - The vision of Isaiah of the Lord upon his throne, surrounded by seraphim who cried "Holy, holy, holy."

2: Matthew 5:14-16 - Jesus's on the Mount, teaching that we should be the "light of the world."

Matthew 28:4 And for fear of him the keepers did shake, and became as dead men.

The keepers of the tomb were filled with fear when they saw the risen Jesus and became like dead men.

1. Fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.

2. The power of the resurrection of Jesus should fill us with awe and reverence.

1. Proverbs 9:10 - The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is insight.

2. Romans 1:4 - and was declared to be the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness by his resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Matthew 28:5 And the angel answered and said unto the women, Fear not ye: for I know that ye seek Jesus, which was crucified.

The angel told the women not to be afraid because he knew they were looking for Jesus, who had been crucified.

1. The Comfort of Knowing Jesus

2. The Strength of Faith in the Face of Fear

1. Isaiah 41:10 - "fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand."

2. Psalm 56:3-4 - "When I am afraid, I put my trust in you. In God, whose word I praise, in God I trust; I shall not be afraid. What can flesh do to me?"

Matthew 28:6 He is not here: for he is risen, as he said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay.

Jesus has risen from the dead, and his disciples are invited to go and see the place where he had lain.

1. The Resurrection of Christ: A Celebration of Hope

2. The Power of Jesus' Sacrifice: A Call to Faith

1. Romans 6:9-10 - “For we know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. For the death he died he died to sin, once for all, but the life he lives he lives to God.”

2. 1 Corinthians 15:20-22 - “But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive.”

Matthew 28:7 And go quickly, and tell his disciples that he is risen from the dead; and, behold, he goeth before you into Galilee; there shall ye see him: lo, I have told you.

Jesus has risen from the dead and is going before his disciples to Galilee, where they will see him.

1. The Power of the Resurrection: Celebrating Jesus' Triumphant Return

2. The Hope of the Risen Christ: Embracing the Life-Changing Good News

1. John 11:25-26 - Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die.

2. Romans 8:11 - If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who

raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you.

Matthew 28:8 And they departed quickly from the sepulchre with fear and great joy; and did run to bring his disciples word.

The women found the tomb of Jesus empty and left filled with joy and fear.

1. How the Empty Tomb of Jesus Fills Us with Joy and Hope

2. Overcoming Fear Through Joy in Jesus

1. Isaiah 9:6-7 - For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore.

2. John 20:19-22 - On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being locked where the disciples were for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, “Peace be with you.” When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you.” And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit.

Matthew 28:9 And as they went to tell his disciples, behold, Jesus met them, saying, All hail. And they came and held him by the feet, and worshipped him.

Jesus met two of his disciples and they held him by the feet and worshipped him.

1. Worshiping Jesus: Recognizing His Authority and Power

2. The Power of Jesus' Presence: Being in the Presence of the Savior

1. Philippians 2:10-11 - that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

2. Hebrews 12:2 - Looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy

that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

Matthew 28:10 Then said Jesus unto them, Be not afraid: go tell my brethren that they go into Galilee, and there shall they see me.

Jesus encourages his disciples to not be afraid and to tell his brothers to go to Galilee, where they will see him.

1. Take Courage: Jesus Calls Us to Not Be Afraid

2. Reaching Out: Jesus Sends Us to Spread the Gospel

1. Isaiah 41:10 - Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.

2. 1 John 4:7-12 - Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God.

Matthew 28:11 Now when they were going, behold, some of the watch came into the city, and shewed unto the chief priests all the things that were done.

Some of the watch reported to the chief priests about the events that had happened at Jesus' tomb.

1. The Power of Witnessing: God's faithfulness in using the watch to bear witness of His power.

2. Faithfulness Rewarded: God's faithfulness in rewarding those who are faithful to Him.

1. Psalm 37:3-4 "Trust in the Lord, and do good; dwell in the land and befriend faithfulness. Delight yourself in the Lord, and He will give you the desires of your heart."

2. Acts 1:8 "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

Matthew 28:12 And when they were assembled with the elders, and had taken counsel,

they gave large money unto the soldiers,

The elders and soldiers took counsel and the elders gave money to the soldiers.

1. The Power of Counsel: Learning from the Elders

2. Stewardship: Using Resources for God's Glory

1. Proverbs 11:14 - "Where there is no guidance, a people falls, but in an abundance of counselors there is safety."

2. Acts 4:32-35 - "Now the full number of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one said that any of the things that belonged to him was his own, but they had everything in common. And with great power the apostles were giving their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. There was not a needy person among them, for as many as were owners of lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold and laid it at the apostles’ feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need."

Matthew 28:13 Saying, Say ye, His disciples came by night, and stole him away while we slept.

This passage describes the false accusation made by the chief priests and elders that Jesus' disciples stole His body away while they were sleeping.

1. The Power of God: Understanding the Miracle of the Resurrection

2. Courageous Faith: Standing Firm in the Face of Opposition

1. John 11:25–26 - Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die.

2. 1 Thessalonians 5:21 - But test everything; hold fast what is good.

Matthew 28:14 And if this come to the governor's ears, we will persuade him, and secure you.

This passage describes how the disciples were willing to use persuasion to protect Jesus from the authorities.

1: We must stand up for what is right even if it means putting ourselves in harm's way.

2: We must have faith that God will provide us with the courage and strength to do what is right.

1: Proverbs 28:1 - The wicked flee when no one pursues, but the righteous are as bold as a lion.

2: Daniel 3:17-18 - If it be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and He will deliver us out of thine hand, O king. But if not, be it known unto thee, O king, that we will not serve thy gods, nor worship the golden image which thou hast set up.

Matthew 28:15 So they took the money, and did as they were taught: and this saying is commonly reported among the Jews until this day.

The Jews accepted money to spread a false story about Jesus, and this false story has been repeated until this day.

1: We should be careful to ensure that we are spreading truth, not lies, about Jesus.

2: We should be wary of the stories we hear and be sure to double check their truthfulness.

1: Colossians 2:8 - See to it that no one takes you captive by philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the world, and not according to Christ.

2: 1 John 4:1 - Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world.

Matthew 28:16 Then the eleven disciples went away into Galilee, into a mountain where Jesus had appointed them.

The eleven disciples went to a mountain in Galilee, where Jesus had instructed them to meet.

1. Following Jesus: A Call to Discipleship

2. Unshakeable Faith: Living Out the Call of Jesus

1. Matthew 4:19-20 – “And he said to them, “Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.” Immediately they left their nets and followed him.

2. Hebrews 11:1 – “Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.”

Matthew 28:17 And when they saw him, they worshipped him: but some doubted.

This passage speaks of Jesus' disciples' reaction to seeing Him alive after His resurrection - some worshipped Him, but some doubted.

1: We are all called to believe in God's power and goodness, and to demonstrate our faith in Him through worship.

2: Even when presented with miraculous events, faith can be fragile and wavering, but God's grace is abundant and He is patient with us.

1: Romans 4:17-21 - Abraham believed in God and it was credited to him as righteousness.

2: Hebrews 11:1-3 - By faith we understand that the universe was created by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things that are visible.

Matthew 28:18 And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.

The passage states that Jesus has been given all power in heaven and earth.

1. We are reminded of Jesus' power and authority over us and the world.

2. We can trust in Jesus' power and rely on Him in all things.

1. Philippians 2:9-11 - Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name.

2. Daniel 4:34-35 - At the end of the days I, Nebuchadnezzar, lifted my eyes to heaven, and my reason returned to me, and I blessed the Most High, and praised and honored him who lives forever, for his dominion is an everlasting dominion, and his kingdom endures from generation to generation.

Matthew 28:19 Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:

God commands us to go forth and spread his message throughout the world.

1: Jesus has given us a great mission, to go out and share the good news of the gospel with all nations.

2: We must remember that we are all called to be disciples of Jesus and to be a witness of his love.

1: Acts 1:8 But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

2: Isaiah 6:8 Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, Whom shall I send, and who will go for us? Then said I, Here am I; send me.

Matthew 28:20 Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen.

Jesus commands his disciples to observe all of his teachings and promises to be with them until the end of the world.

1. The Power of Jesus's Presence - Exploring Jesus's promise to be with us always.

2. Keeping Jesus's Commandments - Understanding the importance of following Jesus's teachings.

1. Isaiah 41:10 - “Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.”

2. Deuteronomy 31:6 - “Be strong and courageous. Do not fear or be in dread of them, for it is the Lord your God who goes with you. He will not leave you or forsake you.”

Mark 1 introduces the ministry of John the Baptist, the baptism and temptation of Jesus, the beginning of Jesus's public ministry, and various healings performed by Him.

1st Paragraph: The chapter begins with a prophecy from Isaiah about a messenger preparing the way for the Lord. This is fulfilled in John the Baptist who preaches in wilderness calling people to repentance and baptizing them in River Jordan (Mark 1:1-8). Then Jesus from Nazareth comes to John to be baptized. As He comes up out of water, heavens open and Spirit descends on Him like dove while voice from heaven declares "You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased" (Mark 1:9-11).

2nd Paragraph: Immediately after His baptism, Spirit leads Jesus into wilderness where He is tempted by Satan for forty days but remains steadfast (Mark 1:12-13). After John is arrested, Jesus goes into Galilee proclaiming good news about kingdom of God saying "The time has come," he said. "The kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news!" (Mark 1:14-15). As He walks beside Sea Galilee He calls Simon Peter Andrew James son Zebedee his brother John become disciples promising make them fishers men they leave nets follow him immediately.

3rd Paragraph: They go Capernaum where on Sabbath Jesus teaches in synagogue astonishing people with his authority unlike teachers law (Mark 1:21-22). There he drives out an impure spirit recognizing Him as Holy One God further amazing people leading fame spread quickly throughout region (Mark 1:23-28). Then at Simon Peter's house heals mother-in-law lying bed fever soon she begins serve them. At evening when sun sets whole town gathers door brings sick demon possessed healed many different kinds diseases drove out many demons not letting demons speak because they knew who he was. Next morning while it still dark goes solitary place pray Simon others find him say everyone looking for you but he replies let us go somewhere else nearby villages can preach there also that why have come so travels throughout Galilee preaching synagogues driving out demons (Mark 1:29-39). Lastly heals man leprosy who begged him kneel down said 'If you are willing you can make me clean', moved compassion Jesus reaches out hand touches him says 'I am willing be clean' immediately leprosy left man becomes clean warns him not tell anyone but go show yourself priest offer sacrifices Moses commanded as testimony them however man went spread news widely so much that could no longer enter town openly stayed outside lonely places yet people came him every quarter.

Mark 1:1 The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God;

The passage is about the beginning of the Good News of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

1. The True Origin of the Good News

2. The Power of the Gospel

1. Romans 1:1-4 - Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God,

2. Isaiah 9:6-7 - For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Mark 1:2 As it is written in the prophets, Behold, I send my messenger before thy face, which shall prepare thy way before thee.

The messenger is preparing the way for the Lord before he arrives.

1: Preparing the Way for the Lord: Making Room for the Presence of God.

2: The Prophetic Voice: Listening to the Words of the Lord.

1: Isaiah 40:3 - A voice of one calling: “In the wilderness prepare the way for the Lord; make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

2: Zechariah 3:8 - Hear now, O Joshua the high priest, you and your companions who sit before you, for they are a wondrous sign; for behold, I am bringing forth My Servant the BRANCH.

Mark 1:3 The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.

The voice of John the Baptist calls people to prepare for Jesus' coming and to make his paths straight.

1. A Call to Prepare for Jesus: Responding to John the Baptist's Message

2. Making Straight Paths: A Reflection on the Significance of Preparing for the Lord

1. Isaiah 40:3-5 - Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and proclaim to her that her hard service has been completed, that her sin has been paid for, that she has received from the LORD’s hand double for all her sins.

2. Luke 3:4-6 - As it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet: “A voice of one calling in the wilderness, ‘Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him. Every valley shall be filled in, every mountain and hill made low. The crooked roads shall become straight, the rough ways smooth. And all people will see God’s salvation.’”

Mark 1:4 John did baptize in the wilderness, and preach the baptism of repentance for the remission of sins.

John the Baptist preached the need for repentance and forgiveness of sins.

1. The Power of Repentance: Recognizing our Need for Forgiveness

2. The Importance of Our Actions: Embracing the Need for Repentance

1. Ezekiel 18:21-32 - Righteousness through Repentance

2. Luke 24:47 - Repentance and Forgiveness of Sins in Jesus' Name

Mark 1:5 And there went out unto him all the land of Judaea, and they of Jerusalem, and were all baptized of him in the river of Jordan, confessing their sins.

The people of Judea and Jerusalem went out to be baptized by John the Baptist in the Jordan River, confessing their sins.

1: The Power of Confession - Confessing sins is an important step in the journey of faith.

2: The Power of Baptism - Baptism is an outward sign of an inward change and a powerful symbol of faith.

1: 1 John 1:9 - If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

2: Romans 6:3-4 - Or don’t you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.

Mark 1:6 And John was clothed with camel's hair, and with a girdle of a skin about his loins; and he did eat locusts and wild honey;

John the Baptist was a humble and austere man who demonstrated sacrificial living by wearing simple clothing and eating simple food.

1. Living a Life of Sacrifice and Humility

2. The Example of John the Baptist

1. Matthew 3:4 - Now John himself was clothed in camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist; and his food was locusts and wild honey.

2. Micah 6:8 - He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

Mark 1:7 And preached, saying, There cometh one mightier than I after me, the latchet of whose shoes I am not worthy to stoop down and unloose.

Jesus proclaimed that there is someone more powerful than Him coming after Him, and He is not worthy to even untie the strap of His sandal.

1. The Power of Humility - Jesus teaches us that humble hearts can bring us closer to God.

2. The Coming of the Lord - Jesus foretells of the coming of the one more powerful than Him.

1. Matthew 3:1-2 - In those days came John the Baptist, preaching in the wilderness of Judaea, And saying, Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.

2. Matthew 4:17 - From that time Jesus began to preach, and to say, Repent: for the

kingdom of heaven is at hand.

Mark 1:8 I indeed have baptized you with water: but he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost.

This passage speaks of Jesus baptizing people with the Holy Spirit.

1: Jesus reveals himself to those who seek him and gives them the gift of the Holy Spirit.

2: Repentance and faith in Jesus bring us into a relationship with God and the empowering of the Holy Spirit.

1: Acts 2:38 - And Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.

2: Romans 8:14-15 - For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God. For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father.

Mark 1:9 And it came to pass in those days, that Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee, and was baptized of John in Jordan.

Jesus was baptized by John in Jordan.

1: The Power of Baptism: How Jesus' Baptism Sets an Example for Us

2: The Meaning of Baptism: What Baptism Signifies for Our Faith

1: Matthew 3:13-17 - Jesus' Baptism by John

2: Acts 2:38 - The Receiving of the Gift of the Holy Spirit Through Baptism

Mark 1:10 And straightway coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens opened, and the Spirit like a dove descending upon him:

Jesus was baptized in the River Jordan, and when he came out of the water he saw the heavens open and the Spirit like a dove descending on him.

1. The Power of Jesus and His Divine Nature

2. The Significance of Baptism in our Lives

1. Matthew 3:16-17 - When Jesus was baptized, a voice from heaven said, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased."

2. Isaiah 42:1 - Behold, My Servant, whom I uphold; My Chosen One in whom My soul delights. I have put My Spirit upon Him; He will bring forth justice to the nations.

Mark 1:11 And there came a voice from heaven, saying, Thou art my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.

The voice of God from heaven declared Jesus to be his beloved Son in whom the Father was pleased.

1: The Father's Love for His Son

2: The Father's Pleasure in His Son

1: Luke 3:22 - And the Holy Ghost descended in a bodily shape like a dove upon him, and a voice came from heaven, which said, Thou art my beloved Son; in thee I am well pleased.

2: Matthew 3:17 - And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.

Mark 1:12 And immediately the Spirit driveth him into the wilderness.

This passage shows Jesus being driven by the Spirit to the wilderness for a time of fasting and prayer.

1. Living in Obedience: Understanding the Power of the Spirit in Our Lives

2. Fasting and Praying: A Necessary Part of Our Faith

1. Acts 1:2 - "until the day in which He was taken up, after He through the Holy Spirit had given commandments to the apostles whom He had chosen."

2. Luke 4:1-2 - "Then Jesus, being filled with the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness, being tempted for forty days by the devil."

Mark 1:13 And he was there in the wilderness forty days, tempted of Satan; and was with the wild beasts; and the angels ministered unto him.

The passage describes Jesus' time in the wilderness for 40 days, facing temptation from Satan, and being ministered to by angels.

1. The Strength of Jesus: How Jesus Faced Temptation in the Wilderness

2. The Power of Faith: Overcoming Temptation with the Help of Angels

1. James 1:12-15 - Blessed is the one who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love him.

2. Ephesians 6:10-18 - Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil.

Mark 1:14 Now after that John was put in prison, Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God,

Jesus began preaching the gospel of the Kingdom of God in Galilee after John was imprisoned.

1. The Power of Forgiveness: Jesus' Ministry After John's Imprisonment

2. The Gospel of the Kingdom of God: Jesus' Message to Galilee

1. Luke 6:37-38, "Judge not, and you shall not be judged. Condemn not, and you shall not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven."

2. Matthew 11:2-5, "Now when John had heard in the prison the works of Christ, he sent two of his disciples, and said unto him, Art thou he that should come, or do we look for another? Jesus answered and said unto them, Go and shew John again those things which ye do hear and see: The blind receive their sight, and the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, and the poor have the gospel preached to them."

Mark 1:15 And saying, The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel.

The time has come for people to repent and believe the good news of the Kingdom of God.

1: Repent and Live for the Kingdom of God

2: Believe in the Gospel for Eternal Life

1: Luke 17:20-21 - Jesus said, "The Kingdom of God is not coming with things that can be observed; nor will they say, 'Look, here it is!' or 'There it is!' For, in fact, the Kingdom of God is among you."

2: Romans 10:9-10 - That if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved.

Mark 1:16 Now as he walked by the sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and Andrew his brother casting a net into the sea: for they were fishers.

Simon and Andrew were fishermen who were walking by the Sea of Galilee.

1: God calls us to be fishers of men, no matter the task.

2: Jesus saw Simon and Andrew, and called them to be his disciples.

1: Matthew 4:19 - “Come, follow me,” Jesus said, “and I will send you out to fish for people.”

2: Luke 5:10 - Jesus said to Simon, “Don’t be afraid; from now on you will fish for people.”

Mark 1:17 And Jesus said unto them, Come ye after me, and I will make you to become fishers of men.

Jesus calls the disciples to follow Him and become fishers of men.

1: Following Jesus: The Path to True Fulfillment

2: Becoming a Fisher of Men: A Call to Discipleship

1: John 15:8 - By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples.

2: Matthew 4:19 - And he said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men."

Mark 1:18 And straightway they forsook their nets, and followed him.

Two fishermen followed Jesus immediately after he spoke to them.

1. Following Jesus No Matter What - how Jesus calls us to drop everything and follow Him

2. Following Jesus Without Hesitation - why we must trust and obey Him without delay

1. Matthew 16:24-25 - "Then Jesus said to His disciples, “If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it.”

2. John 10:27 - “My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me.”

Mark 1:19 And when he had gone a little farther thence, he saw James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother, who also were in the ship mending their nets.

Jesus calls James and John to follow Him and become fishers of men.

1. Jesus calls us to leave our comfort zones and follow Him.

2. Our purpose in life is to become fishers of men.

1. Matthew 4:19 - “And he said to them, ‘Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.’”

2. Matthew 28:19-20 - “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

Mark 1:20 And straightway he called them: and they left their father Zebedee in the ship with the hired servants, and went after him.

Jesus calls, and the disciples leave their father behind to follow him.

1) Following Jesus sometimes requires sacrifice - even leaving behind family.

2) The call of Jesus can be so strong that it overrides our other responsibilities and relationships.

1) Matthew 8:21-22 - “And another of his disciples said unto him, Lord, suffer me first to go and bury my father. But Jesus said unto him, Follow me; and let the dead bury their dead.”

2) Luke 9:59-62 - “And he said unto another, Follow me. But he said, Lord, suffer me first to go and bury my father. Jesus said unto him, Let the dead bury their dead: but go thou and preach the kingdom of God. And another also said, Lord, I will follow thee; but let me first go bid them farewell, which are at home at my house. And Jesus said unto him, No man, having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.”

Mark 1:21 And they went into Capernaum; and straightway on the sabbath day he entered into the synagogue, and taught.

Jesus entered the synagogue in Capernaum and taught on the Sabbath day.

1: Jesus showed us that faith and spiritual life should be a priority, even amidst our busy schedules.

2: Jesus set an example of faithfulness, demonstrating to us that even a simple act of obedience can have a profound impact.

1: Hebrews 10:22-25 - “Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised;) And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.”

2: James 2:17-18 - “Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone. Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: shew me thy faith without thy works, and I will shew thee my faith by my works.”

Mark 1:22 And they were astonished at his doctrine: for he taught them as one that had authority, and not as the scribes.

The people were amazed by Jesus' teachings because He spoke with authority, unlike the scribes.

1. Jesus is the ultimate authority on truth and righteousness.

2. God's Word is the ultimate authority on life.

1. John 17:17, “Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth.”

2. Psalm 119:105, “Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.”

Mark 1:23 And there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit; and he cried out,

Jesus shows his authority over evil spirits through his powers of exorcism.

1: We must recognize Jesus' authority to overcome evil.

2: Let us remain in awe of Jesus' power to purify our hearts.

1: 2 Corinthians 10:4-5 - For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty

through God to the pulling down of strongholds, casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God.

2: Matthew 16:23 - But he turned and said to Peter, “Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; you do not have in mind the concerns of God, but merely human concerns.”

Mark 1:24 Saying, Let us alone; what have we to do with thee, thou Jesus of Nazareth? art thou come to destroy us? I know thee who thou art, the Holy One of God.

The passage describes Jesus being confronted by an unclean spirit in the synagogue of Capernaum. The spirit recognizes Jesus as the Holy One of God.

1: Jesus is the Holy One of God, worthy of our praise and submission.

2: We must recognize Jesus as the Holy One of God and come to Him with humble hearts.

1: Isaiah 41:10 - Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.

2: 1 Peter 2:9 - But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

Mark 1:25 And Jesus rebuked him, saying, Hold thy peace, and come out of him.

The passage describes Jesus rebuking a man and commanding him to be silent and to leave the man's body.

1. Jesus is the only one who can bring inner peace and freedom.

2. He is the one who can bring healing, restoration, and deliverance.

1. Isaiah 53:4-5 - "Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his stripes we are healed."

2. Matthew 8:16 - When evening came, many who were demon-possessed were brought to him, and he drove out the spirits with a word and healed all the sick.

Mark 1:26 And when the unclean spirit had torn him, and cried with a loud voice, he came out of him.

A man was possessed by an unclean spirit, and after a loud cry, the spirit left the man.

1. Jesus has the power to drive out unclean spirits.

2. God will always protect and deliver us from evil spirits.

1. Ephesians 6:12 - For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.

2. James 4:7 - Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.

Mark 1:27 And they were all amazed, insomuch that they questioned among themselves, saying, What thing is this? what new doctrine is this? for with authority commandeth he even the unclean spirits, and they do obey him.

The people were amazed by the authority Jesus had over the unclean spirits, who obeyed Him.

1: Jesus’ authority over all things should be celebrated.

2: Jesus’ authority over sin and death should be praised.

1: Colossians 2:15 - "And having disarmed the powers and authorities, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross."

2: Hebrews 2:14-15 - “Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might break the power of him who holds the power of death—that is, the devil— and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death.”

Mark 1:28 And immediately his fame spread abroad throughout all the region round

about Galilee.

Jesus performed an amazing healing of a man with an unclean spirit in the synagogue in Capernaum, and the news quickly spread throughout the region of Galilee.

1. Understanding the Miraculous Power of Jesus

2. The Impact of a Miraculous Healing

1. Acts 3:16 - "And His name, through faith in His name, has made this man strong, whom you see and know. Yes, the faith which comes through Him has given him this perfect soundness in the presence of you all."

2. Matthew 8:16 - "When evening had come, they brought to Him many who were demon-possessed. And He cast out the spirits with a word, and healed all who were sick."

Mark 1:29 And forthwith, when they were come out of the synagogue, they entered into the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John.

Jesus and his disciples enter the house of Simon and Andrew after attending the synagogue.

1. The importance of fellowship with Jesus and his disciples.

2. The benefits of attending the synagogue.

1. Acts 2:42-47 - The Apostles devoted themselves to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.

2. Hebrews 10:24-25 - Let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some.

Mark 1:30 But Simon's wife's mother lay sick of a fever, and anon they tell him of her.

Simon's wife's mother was ill with a fever, and soon the news was spread to him.

1. No illness can separate us from the love of God - Romans 8:38-39

2. The power of faith through affliction - James 1:2-4

1. Matthew 8:14-15 - Jesus healed the mother-in-law of Simon

2. 1 Peter 5:7 - Casting all your anxiety on Him because He cares for you

Mark 1:31 And he came and took her by the hand, and lifted her up; and immediately the fever left her, and she ministered unto them.

Jesus healed a woman of her fever and she served them in return.

1. Give your all to God and He will provide for you.

2. The power of Jesus to heal and transform lives.

1. Matthew 11:28-30 - “Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

2. James 5:14-15 - “Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer of faith will save the one who is sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven.”

Mark 1:32 And at even, when the sun did set, they brought unto him all that were diseased, and them that were possessed with devils.

The people brought those who were sick and possessed with demons to Jesus at sunset.

1. Jesus Cares for All Who Need Him

2. Healing and Deliverance Through Jesus

1. Isaiah 53:4-5 - "Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we

esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his stripes we are healed."

2. Matthew 8:16 - When evening came, many who were demon-possessed were brought to him, and he drove out the spirits with a word and healed all the sick.

Mark 1:33 And all the city was gathered together at the door.

Everyone in the city gathered at the door when Jesus arrived.

1.The Power of Jesus' Presence: How Jesus Inspires Us to Come Together

2.The Power of Community: How Jesus Unites Us in Fellowship

1.Matthew 8:16-17, "That evening they brought to him many who were oppressed by demons, and he cast out the spirits with a word and healed all who were sick. This was to fulfill what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah: “He took our illnesses and bore our diseases.”

2.Acts 2:44-45, “And all who believed were together and had all things in common. And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need.”

Mark 1:34 And he healed many that were sick of divers diseases, and cast out many devils; and suffered not the devils to speak, because they knew him.

Jesus healed many people and cast out many devils, but prevented them from speaking because they recognized him.

1. Jesus demonstrated his power and authority over sickness and demons.

2. God's love is a powerful force that overcomes evil.

1. Matthew 12:22-30 - Jesus casts out a demon and the people are amazed by his authority.

2. Psalm 103:3 - "He forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases."

Mark 1:35 And in the morning, rising up a great while before day, he went out, and departed into a solitary place, and there prayed.

Jesus prayed in solitude before the day began.

1: Seeking refuge in the Lord in times of trouble.

2: Finding peace in prayer.

1: Psalm 91:1-2 - He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will abide in the shadow of the Almighty. I will say to the Lord, my refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust.

2: Matthew 6:6 - But when you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

Mark 1:36 And Simon and they that were with him followed after him.

Jesus went to Simon's house and the people that were with him followed.

1. The Power of Jesus' Presence: How Following Jesus Can Change Your Life

2. The Power of Community: How Following Jesus Together Can Strengthen Your Faith

1. Matthew 4:18-22 - Jesus calls the first disciples

2. 1 Corinthians 12:12-27 - The body of Christ and its importance

Mark 1:37 And when they had found him, they said unto him, All men seek for thee.

Jesus was sought after by all people.

1: Seek Jesus and you will find peace.

2: Jesus is the source of all strength and hope.

1: Isaiah 41:10 - Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.

2: Proverbs 3:5-6 - Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.

Mark 1:38 And he said unto them, Let us go into the next towns, that I may preach there also: for therefore came I forth.

Jesus asks his followers to go to the next town so that he can preach there.

1. Jesus Shows Us How to Preach the Gospel

2. The Power of Jesus' Preaching

1. Matthew 28:19-20 - “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

2. Acts 1:8 - “But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

Mark 1:39 And he preached in their synagogues throughout all Galilee, and cast out devils.

Jesus preached throughout all Galilee and cast out devils.

1: We should follow Jesus' example and preach His word no matter our surroundings.

2: We should strive to spread the gospel and reject evil in our own lives.

1: Matthew 28:19-20, "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

2: Luke 4:18-19, “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.”

Mark 1:40 And there came a leper to him, beseeching him, and kneeling down to him, and saying unto him, If thou wilt, thou canst make me clean.

A leper came to Jesus asking to be healed.

1: Jesus is always ready to help those who come to Him with faith and humility.

2: Jesus desires to heal and restore us, no matter our condition.

1: Matthew 11:28 - Come to Me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

2: James 4:6-7 - But He gives more grace. Therefore it says, “God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble.” Therefore submit yourselves to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

Mark 1:41 And Jesus, moved with compassion, put forth his hand, and touched him, and saith unto him, I will; be thou clean.

Jesus showed compassion to a leper by healing him.

1: Compassion is an essential part of following Jesus - Luke 6:36-38

2: Jesus' power to heal is an example of his mercy - Luke 5:17-26

1: 1 Peter 3:8 - Finally, all of you, be like-minded, be sympathetic, love one another, be compassionate and humble.

2: Hebrews 4:15-16 - For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet he did not sin. Let us then approach God’s throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.

Mark 1:42 And as soon as he had spoken, immediately the leprosy departed from him, and he was cleansed.

A leper approached Jesus for healing and Jesus spoke a word of healing, causing the leper to be immediately cleansed from his leprosy.

1. Jesus has the power to heal us of our physical and spiritual ailments.

2. Jesus' word is powerful and can transform our lives.

1. Isaiah 53:5 - “But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed.”

2. Matthew 8:2-3 - “A man with leprosy came to him and begged him on his knees, ‘If you are willing, you can make me clean.’ Jesus was indignant. He reached out his hand and touched the man. ‘I am willing,’ he said. ‘Be clean!’”

Mark 1:43 And he straitly charged him, and forthwith sent him away;

Jesus commanded the man he had healed to not tell anyone of the miracle he had performed.

1. The Power of Jesus: Proving the Miraculous

2. The Importance of Obedience: Following Jesus' Command

1. Matthew 8:4 - "And Jesus said to him, “See that you say nothing to anyone, but go, show yourself to the priest and offer the gift that Moses commanded, for a proof to them.”

2. John 14:15 - “If you love me, you will keep my commandments.”

Mark 1:44 And saith unto him, See thou say nothing to any man: but go thy way, shew thyself to the priest, and offer for thy cleansing those things which Moses commanded, for a testimony unto them.

The passage is about Jesus instructing a man to keep his healing a secret, and to go to the priest to offer the items Moses commanded as a testimony.

1: God's Healing and Provision

2: The Power of Testimony

1: Exodus 12:3-5 "Speak ye unto all the congregation of Israel, saying, In the tenth day of this month they shall take to them every man a lamb, according to the house of their fathers, a lamb for an house: And if the household be too little for the lamb, let him and his neighbour next unto his house take it according to the number of the souls; every man according to his eating shall make your count for the lamb. Your lamb shall be without blemish, a male of the first year: ye shall take it out from the sheep, or from the goats."

2: John 8:32 "And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."

Mark 1:45 But he went out, and began to publish it much, and to blaze abroad the matter, insomuch that Jesus could no more openly enter into the city, but was without in desert places: and they came to him from every quarter.

Jesus' fame spread quickly and people from all over came to Him, yet He could not enter the city openly anymore.

1. Following Christ even when it is not popular or convenient.

2. Knowing when to step back and allow God to work in His own way.

1. Romans 8:28 - And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.

2. Proverbs 3:5-6 - Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.

Mark 2 continues the account of Jesus's ministry, including His healing miracles and teachings, as well as the growing opposition from religious leaders.

1st Paragraph: The chapter begins with Jesus healing a paralyzed man in Capernaum. When four men lower the paralytic through the roof due to crowd, Jesus first forgives his

sins causing some teachers of law present think He is blaspheming since only God can forgive sins. To demonstrate His authority on earth to forgive sins, Jesus heals the man who then picks up his mat and walks out in full view of them all (Mark 2:1-12).

2nd Paragraph: Then, Jesus calls Levi (Matthew) a tax collector to follow Him which he does immediately. Later at Levi's house during a meal with many tax collectors and sinners, Pharisees question why He eats with such people. Jesus responds that it is not healthy who need doctor but sick came not call righteous but sinners (Mark 2:13-17). Later John's disciples Pharisees are fasting people ask why John's disciples Pharisees fast but His disciples do not. He explains using metaphors new wine old wineskins bridegroom wedding guests suggesting that His presence ushers in new era rendering old practices like fasting inappropriate for time being (Mark 2:18-22).

3rd Paragraph: The chapter concludes with two Sabbath controversies. First, while walking through grainfields on Sabbath, His disciples begin pick heads grain eat which Pharisees see as unlawful on Sabbath. In response, Jesus cites example David eating consecrated bread when he was hungry arguing "The Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath" indicating flexibility over strict legalism (Mark 2:23-28). In second instance at synagogue there is man with shriveled hand whom He heals on Sabbath despite watching Pharisees looking for reason accuse Him. This leads Pharisees go out immediately plot Herodians how they might kill Him showing escalating tension between Jesus religious authorities.

Mark 2:1 And again he entered into Capernaum after some days; and it was noised that he was in the house.

Jesus entered Capernaum after some time and it was spread that He was in the house.

1. The Power of Jesus' Presence: How Jesus Brings Hope and Healing

2. The Paradox of Jesus: How He Can Be Everywhere at Once

1. Psalm 107:20 - He sent forth his word and healed them; he rescued them from the grave.

2. Matthew 18:20 - For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them.

Mark 2:2 And straightway many were gathered together, insomuch that there was no room to receive them, no, not so much as about the door: and he preached the word unto them.

Many people gathered together to hear Jesus preach the word.

1. The Power of Preaching - How Jesus was able to draw a crowd and preach the word.

2. Making Room for God - How we can make space in our lives for God's word.

1. Acts 2:42 - And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

2. Colossians 3:16 - Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God.

Mark 2:3 And they come unto him, bringing one sick of the palsy, which was borne of four.

The four men brought a paralyzed man to Jesus for healing.

1: Jesus has the power to heal and restore us.

2: We can bring our greatest challenges to Jesus and trust in his power to help us.

1: Isaiah 40:31 "But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint."

2: James 5:16 "Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much."

Mark 2:4 And when they could not come nigh unto him for the press, they uncovered the roof where he was: and when they had broken it up, they let down the bed wherein the sick of the palsy lay.

Jesus healed a paralyzed man even when the crowd blocked His access to him.

1. The Power of Faith: How Jesus Overcomes Obstacles to Heal

2. Jesus' Compassion: Meeting People Where They Are

1. Matthew 17:20 - And Jesus said unto them, Because of your unbelief: for verily I say unto you, If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, Remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible unto you.

2. Luke 5:17-26 - And it came to pass on a certain day, as he was teaching, that there were Pharisees and doctors of the law sitting by, which were come out of every town of Galilee, and Judaea, and Jerusalem: and the power of the Lord was present to heal them.

Mark 2:5 When Jesus saw their faith, he said unto the sick of the palsy, Son, thy sins be forgiven thee.

Jesus saw the faith of those around the man with palsy and said that his sins were forgiven.

1. The Power of Faith to Overcome Adversity

2. The Grace of God to Forgive our Sins

1. Hebrews 11:1 - Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.

2. Romans 5:8 - But God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Mark 2:6 But there were certain of the scribes sitting there, and reasoning in their hearts,

Jesus heals a man with palsy in the presence of scribes.

1. The power of Jesus to heal and restore.

2. The importance of faith in difficult situations.

1. Matthew 9:1-8 - Jesus heals a man with palsy.

2. Hebrews 11:1 - Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

Mark 2:7 Why doth this man thus speak blasphemies? who can forgive sins but God only?

Jesus demonstrates His divine power by forgiving the sins of a paralyzed man.

1: Jesus is God, and only He has the power to forgive our sins.

2: We should recognize Jesus as the divine being He is and accept His power to forgive our sins.

1: Colossians 2:13-14 - God has made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions ??it is by grace you have been saved.

2: Isaiah 43:25 - I, even I, am he who blots out your transgressions, for my own sake, and remembers your sins no more.

Mark 2:8 And immediately when Jesus perceived in his spirit that they so reasoned within themselves, he said unto them, Why reason ye these things in your hearts?

The passage in Mark 2:8 reveals that Jesus was aware of the thoughts of the people and questioned their reasoning.

1. Jesus Knows Our Thoughts - Matthew 12:25

2. How We Think Matters - Proverbs 23:7

1. Matthew 12:25 - "And Jesus knew their thoughts, and said unto them, Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation; and every city or house divided against itself shall not stand."

2. Proverbs 23:7 - "For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he: Eat and drink, saith he to thee; but his heart is not with thee."

Mark 2:9 Whether is it easier to say to the sick of the palsy, Thy sins be forgiven thee; or

to say, Arise, and take up thy bed, and walk?

Jesus challenges the crowd to decide which is more difficult: forgiving sins or healing the sick.

1. The Power of Forgiveness: How Jesus' Miracle of Forgiveness Can Transform Our Lives

2. Divine Miracles: Understanding the Meaning Behind Jesus' Miraculous Healings

1. Luke 5:20-24 - Jesus heals a paralyzed man and forgives his sins

2. Matthew 21:21-22 - Jesus heals a fig tree and teaches about faith and forgiveness

Mark 2:10 But that ye may know that the Son of man hath power on earth to forgive sins, (he saith to the sick of the palsy,)

Jesus demonstrated his authority to forgive sins by healing a man's paralysis.

1: Jesus is the ultimate source of healing and forgiveness.

2: Believe in Jesus and his power to forgive and heal.

1: Isaiah 53:5 - But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed.

2: James 5:15 - And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise them up. If they have sinned, they will be forgiven.

Mark 2:11 I say unto thee, Arise, and take up thy bed, and go thy way into thine house.

Jesus heals a paralyzed man and tells him to pick up his bed and go home.

1. "God's Miracles: The Power of Faith"

2. "The Ability to Move Forward: Taking Up Our Burdens"

1. Isaiah 35:3-6 - Strengthening of the Weak

2. Ephesians 3:20 - God's Power at Work Within Us

Mark 2:12 And immediately he arose, took up the bed, and went forth before them all; insomuch that they were all amazed, and glorified God, saying, We never saw it on this fashion.

Jesus healed a paralytic man, showing his power and glory to the people, who praised God in awe.

1: Jesus is always with us, ready to provide healing and hope.

2: Believe in the power of Jesus to heal and transform our lives.

1: Jeremiah 33:6 ?□ehold, I will bring it health and cure, and I will cure them, and will reveal unto them the abundance of peace and truth.??

2: Matthew 8:17 ?□hat it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Esaias the prophet, saying, Himself took our infirmities, and bare our sicknesses.??

Mark 2:13 And he went forth again by the sea side; and all the multitude resorted unto him, and he taught them.

Jesus taught by the seaside, attracting a large crowd.

1. The Power of Jesus' Teaching: Examining the Master's Teaching Style

2. Drawn to Jesus: The Power of Jesus' Words to Draw a Crowd

1. Matthew 5:1-2 - "And seeing the multitudes, he went up into a mountain: and when he was set, his disciples came unto him: And he opened his mouth, and taught them, saying..."

2. John 6:60-63 - "Many therefore of his disciples, when they had heard this, said, This is an hard saying; who can hear it? When Jesus knew in himself that his disciples murmured at it, he said unto them, Doth this offend you? What and if ye shall see the Son of man ascend up where he was before? It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life."

Mark 2:14 And as he passed by, he saw Levi the son of Alphaeus sitting at the receipt of custom, and said unto him, Follow me. And he arose and followed him.

Jesus called Levi to follow him and he obeyed.

1. The importance of obedience to Christ's call.

2. The power of Jesus' invitation.

1. Romans 12:1-2 - Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God? mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God? his is your true and proper worship. Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God? will is? is good, pleasing and perfect will.

2. Matthew 4:19 - Jesus said to them, ? ome, follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.??

Mark 2:15 And it came to pass, that, as Jesus sat at meat in his house, many publicans and sinners sat also together with Jesus and his disciples: for there were many, and they followed him.

Jesus welcomed sinners into his house for fellowship.

1: Jesus' example of welcoming and accepting sinners.

2: Jesus' unconditional love for all.

1: Luke 5:31-32 - Jesus answered them, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance."

2: John 8:1-11 - Jesus went to the Mount of Olives. Early in the morning he came again to the temple. All the people came to him, and he sat down and taught them.

Mark 2:16 And when the scribes and Pharisees saw him eat with publicans and sinners, they said unto his disciples, How is it that he eateth and drinketh with publicans and sinners?

Jesus eats with sinners, demonstrating God's love and acceptance of them.

1: Jesus welcomes sinners with open arms, reminding us to love and accept people despite their sins.

2: Jesus shows us that God's grace and mercy are available to all, no matter their past.

1: Luke 15:1-2 "Now the tax collectors and sinners were all gathering around to hear Jesus. But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law muttered, ?□his man welcomes sinners and eats with them.??

2: Romans 5:8 ?□ut God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.??

Mark 2:17 When Jesus heard it, he saith unto them, They that are whole have no need of the physician, but they that are sick: I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.

Jesus teaches that He came to call sinners to repentance, not the righteous.

1. The Power of Repentance: The Hope of Redemption

2. God's Unconditional Love: Calling Sinners to Repentance

1. Romans 3:23-25 ?□or all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God set forth as a propitiation by His blood, through faith, to demonstrate His righteousness, because in His forbearance God had passed over the sins that were previously committed.??

2. Luke 5:31-32 ?□nd Jesus answering said unto them, They that are whole need not a physician; but they that are sick. I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.??

Mark 2:18 And the disciples of John and of the Pharisees used to fast: and they come and say unto him, Why do the disciples of John and of the Pharisees fast, but thy disciples fast not?

The disciples of John and the Pharisees questioned Jesus why his disciples did not fast while theirs did.

1. The importance of fasting in our spiritual life.

2. Discipleship: Learning from Jesus and following his example.

1. Matthew 6:16-18 - Fasting as part of a spiritual practice.

2. John 15:1-5 - Abiding in Christ and being a disciple.

Mark 2:19 And Jesus said unto them, Can the children of the bridechamber fast, while the bridegroom is with them? as long as they have the bridegroom with them, they cannot fast.

Jesus teaches that it is not necessary to fast while the bridegroom is still present.

1. Fasting is not Required when Joy Abounds

2. Living in the Moment: Enjoying the Bridegroom's Presence

1. John 16:20-22 - Jesus tells of his joy before his death.

2. Isaiah 58:3-5 - God desires mercy and joy more than fasting.

Mark 2:20 But the days will come, when the bridegroom shall be taken away from them, and then shall they fast in those days.

The days will come when the bridegroom will be taken away, and then will be the time to fast.

1: Fasting in times of sorrow

2: Finding strength in sorrowful times

1: Isaiah 58:6-9

2: Matthew 6:16-18

Mark 2:21 No man also seweth a piece of new cloth on an old garment: else the new piece that filled it up taketh away from the old, and the rent is made worse.

This verse speaks of the foolishness of trying to patch up an old garment with a new piece of cloth, as it will only make the tear worse.

1: We are not to try to patch up our old ways of living with new habits because it will only make things worse.

2: We must be willing to let go of our old ways and accept the new life found in Jesus Christ.

1: Ephesians 4:22-24 - "That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts; And be renewed in the spirit of your mind; And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness."

2: Colossians 3:5-10 - "Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry: For which things' sake the wrath of God cometh on the children of disobedience: In the which ye also walked some time, when ye lived in them. But now ye also put off all these; anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy communication out of your mouth. Lie not one to another, seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds; And have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him:"

Mark 2:22 And no man putteth new wine into old bottles: else the new wine doth burst the bottles, and the wine is spilled, and the bottles will be marred: but new wine must be put into new bottles.

New wine should not be put into old bottles, as it will cause the bottles to burst and the wine to be spilled.

1. Change is Necessary - Challenges of Renewal

2. Making Room for Growth - Preparing for New Blessings

1. Isaiah 43:18-19 ?□emember not the former things, nor consider the things of old. Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.??

2. 2 Corinthians 5:17 ?□herefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.??

Mark 2:23 And it came to pass, that he went through the corn fields on the sabbath day; and his disciples began, as they went, to pluck the ears of corn.

Passage Jesus and his disciples were walking through the corn fields on the Sabbath and his disciples began plucking ears of corn.

1. The Importance of Sabbath Rest

2. Obedience to God in Everyday Life

1. Exodus 20:8-11 -Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.

2. Deuteronomy 5:12-15 - Observe the Sabbath day, to keep it holy, as the LORD thy God commanded thee.

Mark 2:24 And the Pharisees said unto him, Behold, why do they on the sabbath day that which is not lawful?

The Pharisees ask Jesus why his disciples are not following the law on the Sabbath day.

1. "The Power of Forgiveness: Finding Freedom From Legalism"

2. "The Meaning of Sabbath: A Day of Rest and Rejoicing"

1. Luke 6:1-5 - Jesus' disciples pluck grain on the Sabbath and Jesus' response of mercy.

2. Colossians 2:16-17 - Paul's warning against legalism.

Mark 2:25 And he said unto them, Have ye never read what David did, when he had need, and was an hungred, he, and they that were with him?

Jesus encouraged his disciples to remember the example of David and how he showed faith during difficult times.

1. Faith in God is demonstrated in times of need.

2. Trust in God and He will provide for our needs.

1. Psalm 37:25 - I was young, and now I am old, yet I have never seen the righteous forsaken or their children begging bread.

2. Philippians 4:19 - And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus.

Mark 2:26 How he went into the house of God in the days of Abiathar the high priest, and did eat the shewbread, which is not lawful to eat but for the priests, and gave also to them which were with him?

The passage describes how Jesus went into the temple in the days of Abiathar the high priest, and ate the showbread, which was only to be eaten by the priests, and gave some to his followers.

1: Jesus showed us an example of humility by humbling himself even in the presence of the high priest.

2: Jesus demonstrated a willingness to serve others by offering the showbread to his followers.

1: Philippians 2:5-8 - ?□ave this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.??

2: John 13:12-17 ???When he had washed their feet and put on his outer garments and resumed his place, he said to them, ?Do you understand what I have done to you? You call me Teacher and Lord, and you are right, for so I am. If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you. Truly, truly, I say to you, a servant is not greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them.??

Mark 2:27 And he said unto them, The sabbath was made for man, and not man for the sabbath:

The sabbath was created to be a blessing to man, not a burden.

1: God made the sabbath as a day of rest and reflection, not of stress and strain.

2: God gave us the sabbath to be a blessing, not a burden.

1: Genesis 2:2-3 - ?On the seventh day God had finished his work of creation, so he rested from all his work. Then God blessed the seventh day and declared it holy, because it was the day when he rested from his work of creation.??

2: Exodus 20:8-11 - ?Remember to keep the Sabbath day holy. You have six days each week for your ordinary work, but the seventh day is a Sabbath day of rest dedicated to the Lord your God. On that day no one in your household may do any work. This includes you, your sons and daughters, your male and female servants, your livestock, and any foreigners living among you. For in six days the Lord made the heavens, the earth, the sea, and everything in them; but on the seventh day he rested. That is why the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and set it apart as holy.??

Mark 2:28 Therefore the Son of man is Lord also of the sabbath.

The Son of Man is Lord of the Sabbath.

1. God is in Control of All Things

2. We are to Follow God's Commands

1. Psalm 46:10 ?Be still, and know that I am God.??

2. Matthew 5:17-19 ?□o not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. For truly, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the Law until all is accomplished. Therefore whoever relaxes one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven.??

Mark 3 continues the account of Jesus's ministry, including the selection of His twelve apostles, performing miracles, and confronting accusations from religious leaders.

1st Paragraph: The chapter begins with Jesus healing a man with a shriveled hand on the Sabbath in the synagogue. When He asks the Pharisees if it is lawful to do good or evil on Sabbath, they remain silent. After looking around at them in anger and deeply distressed at their stubborn hearts, He heals man which leads Pharisees go out begin plot with Herodians how they might kill Him (Mark 3:1-6). Then Jesus withdraws to lake with His disciples and large crowd from Galilee followed. When he healed many, all those who had diseases pressed around him to touch him. And whenever impure spirits saw Him they fell down before Him cried out "You are Son God" but He gave them strict orders not let others know about Him (Mark 3:7-12).

2nd Paragraph: Next, Jesus goes up into mountain calls those he wanted they came him appoints twelve apostles so that might be with him send them out preach authority drive out demons (Mark 3:13-19). These include Simon whom he names Peter James John whom he gives name Boanerges meaning sons thunder Andrew Philip Bartholomew Matthew Thomas James son Alphaeus Thaddaeus Simon Zealot Judas Iscariot who betrays Him.

3rd Paragraph: After coming home again crowd gathers making it impossible for them even eat when his family hears about this they go take charge of him saying "He is out of his mind". Teachers law say "He is possessed by Beelzebul by prince demons drives out demons". In response Jesus speaks parable house divided against itself cannot stand similarly if Satan opposes himself divided cannot stand his end has come then talks about blasphemy against Holy Spirit which will never be forgiven marking eternal sin suggesting rejection work Holy Spirit unforgivable because it amounts rejecting grace God provides for salvation finally His mother brothers arrive standing outside send someone call Him crowd sitting around says "Who are my mother brothers?" pointing disciples says "Here are my mother brothers whoever does will God my brother sister mother" indicating spiritual bond among believers takes precedence over biological relationships.

Mark 3:1 And he entered again into the synagogue; and there was a man there which had a withered hand.

Jesus heals a man with a withered hand in the synagogue.

1: Jesus cares for us even in the most desperate of situations.

2: Miracles still happen today.

1: Isaiah 41:13 - "For I, the Lord your God, will hold your right hand, saying to you, 'Fear not, I will help you.'"

2: Hebrews 4:15-16 - "For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need."

Mark 3:2 And they watched him, whether he would heal him on the sabbath day; that they might accuse him.

This passage talks about how the Jewish leaders were watching Jesus to see if he would heal a man on the Sabbath day so they could accuse him.

1. The Power and Authority of Jesus: How Jesus Overcomes Obstacles

2. Jesus' Love and Compassion: Caring for Others Despite Opposition

1. Matthew 12:1-14 - Jesus' teaching on the Sabbath

2. Luke 6:6-11 - Jesus healing on the Sabbath

Mark 3:3 And he saith unto the man which had the withered hand, Stand forth.

Jesus commands a man with a withered hand to stand forth.

1. God is not just a healer; He is also a comforter.

2. There is power in standing up for what is right.

1. Isaiah 41:10 - Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I

will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness.

2. Psalm 46:1 - God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

Mark 3:4 And he saith unto them, Is it lawful to do good on the sabbath days, or to do evil? to save life, or to kill? But they held their peace.

Jesus challenged the religious leaders of his day by asking a question about the law and its application to doing good on the Sabbath.

1: We should strive to do good in all circumstances, even on the Sabbath.

2: We should obey God's law, but not at the expense of doing good.

1: Matthew 12:12 "Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours."

2: James 2:14-17 "What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save them? Suppose a brother or a sister is without clothes and daily food. If one of you says to them, ?□o in peace; keep warm and well fed,??but does nothing about their physical needs, what good is it? In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead."

Mark 3:5 And when he had looked round about on them with anger, being grieved for the hardness of their hearts, he saith unto the man, Stretch forth thine hand. And he stretched it out: and his hand was restored whole as the other.

Jesus was angry and grieved at the hardness of the people's hearts but still healed the man's hand.

1. Jesus' compassion and love towards those who rejected Him

2. God's power to heal despite our sins

1. Romans 5:8 - But God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

2. Daniel 4:35 - All the inhabitants of the earth are accounted as nothing, and he does according to his will among the host of heaven and among the inhabitants of the earth; and none can stay his hand or say to him, "What have you done?"

Mark 3:6 And the Pharisees went forth, and straightway took counsel with the Herodians against him, how they might destroy him.

The Pharisees conspired with the Herodians to destroy Jesus.

1: We must never forget that Jesus faced hatred and betrayal from those closest to Him.

2: Our Lord and Savior endured persecution even from those who should have believed in Him.

1: John 15:18-19 ?□f the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you. If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you.??

2: Proverbs 24:17-18 ?□ejoice not when thine enemy falleth, and let not thine heart be glad when he stumbleth: Lest the Lord see it, and it displease him, and he turn away his wrath from him.??

Mark 3:7 But Jesus withdrew himself with his disciples to the sea: and a great multitude from Galilee followed him, and from Judaea,

Jesus withdraws himself with his disciples to the sea and a great multitude from Galilee and Judaea follows him.

1. The Power of Jesus' Presence: Following Jesus Even When He Withdraws

2. Steadfast Faith: Following Jesus Despite Difficulty

1. Matthew 14:22-23 - Immediately Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead to the other side, while He dismissed the crowd. And after He had dismissed them, He went up into the hills by Himself to pray.

1. John 6:1-3 - After this, Jesus crossed the Sea of Galilee (or Tiberias). A large crowd followed Him, because they saw the signs He was performing on the sick. Then Jesus went up a mountain and sat down there with His disciples.

Mark 3:8 And from Jerusalem, and from Idumaea, and from beyond Jordan; and they about Tyre and Sidon, a great multitude, when they had heard what great things he did, came unto him.

The multitudes from Jerusalem, Idumaea, beyond Jordan, Tyre, and Sidon, heard of Jesus' great works and came to Him.

1. Jesus' Great Works Draw All People to Him

2. Jesus' Miracles Unite People from All Walks of Life

1. John 11:43-44 - And when he thus had spoken, he cried with a loud voice, Lazarus, come forth. And he that was dead came forth, bound hand and foot with graveclothes: and his face was bound about with a napkin. Jesus said unto them, Loose him, and let him go.

2. Acts 2:41-42 - Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls. And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.

Mark 3:9 And he spake to his disciples, that a small ship should wait on him because of the multitude, lest they should throng him.

Jesus instructed his disciples to get a small boat so that the crowd would not overwhelm him.

1. The Importance of Obedience: Following Jesus' Instructions in Mark 3:9.

2. The Power of Crowds: How to Avoid Being Overwhelmed in Mark 3:9.

1. Matthew 8:18-22 - Jesus Calms a Storm.

2. Luke 9:10-17 - The Feeding of the Five Thousand.

Mark 3:10 For he had healed many; insomuch that they pressed upon him for to touch him, as many as had plagues.

Jesus healed many people, and they sought to touch Him because of the miracles He performed.

1. The Power of Miracles

2. The Significance of Touch

1. Acts 3:1-10 - Peter and John healed a lame man

2. Isaiah 53:4 - He took our infirmities and bore our diseases

Mark 3:11 And unclean spirits, when they saw him, fell down before him, and cried, saying, Thou art the Son of God.

Jesus is the Son of God and is worthy of worship.

1. How Our Worship of Jesus Reflects Our Belief in His Divinity

2. The Value of Worship and What It Teaches Us About Jesus

1. Philippians 2:9-11 - Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

2. Revelation 5:12-13 - In a loud voice they were saying: ?□orthy is the Lamb, who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and praise!??Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and on the sea, and all that is in them, saying: ?□o him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and honor and glory and power, for ever and ever!??

Mark 3:12 And he straitly charged them that they should not make him known.

Jesus instructed his twelve disciples to keep his identity a secret.

1. The Power of Secrecy: The importance of honoring the wishes of Jesus Christ and how

it can help us in our faith journey.

2. The Power of Intimacy: How Jesus' special relationship with his disciples reveals the importance of a personal relationship with God.

1. Luke 9:21 - Jesus strictly warned them not to tell this to anyone.

2. Matthew 6:6 - But when you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret.

Mark 3:13 And he goeth up into a mountain, and calleth unto him whom he would: and they came unto him.

Jesus calls his followers to come to him on the mountain.

1. The call of Jesus: Responding to God's invitation.

2. Taking time to be with Jesus: The importance of seeking God.

1. Luke 5:16 ???ut Jesus often withdrew to lonely places and prayed.??

2. Psalm 27:4 ???ne thing I ask from the Lord, this only do I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to gaze on the beauty of the Lord and to seek him in his temple.??

Mark 3:14 And he ordained twelve, that they should be with him, and that he might send them forth to preach,

The passage talks about Jesus appointing twelve disciples to accompany him and to preach.

1. The Power of Christian Fellowship: How Unity Strengthens Faith

2. The Call to Preach: A Study on the Great Commission

1. Acts 1:8 - But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will

be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.

2. Matthew 28:19-20 - Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.

Mark 3:15 And to have power to heal sicknesses, and to cast out devils:

Jesus has been given the power to heal the sick and cast out demons.

1. "The Miraculous Power of Jesus: How to Receive Healing in Your Life"

2. "The Authority of Jesus: Overcoming Demonic Oppression"

1. Isaiah 53:4-5 - But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.

2. James 5:14-15 - Is any sick among you? let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord: And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him.

Mark 3:16 And Simon he surnamed Peter;

Jesus appointed the twelve disciples and gave each of them a special purpose. He also gave them new names to signify the new life they would lead in His service.

1: Jesus calls us to a new life of service and gives us the strength to do so.

2: Jesus provides us with a unique purpose and identity when we follow Him.

1: Luke 6:13 - Jesus chose twelve of them, and he named them apostles.

2: Romans 8:29 - For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son.

Mark 3:17 And James the son of Zebedee, and John the brother of James; and he surnamed them Boanerges, which is, The sons of thunder:

Jesus gave the names Boanerges, which means "sons of thunder," to James and John, the sons of Zebedee.

1. Living with Thunderous Faith

2. Reverberating the Impact of Ministry

1. Matthew 4:18-22 - Jesus calls James and John to follow Him

2. Luke 9:51-56 - Jesus talks about building His kingdom on the foundation of prayer and fasting

Mark 3:18 And Andrew, and Philip, and Bartholomew, and Matthew, and Thomas, and James the son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus, and Simon the Canaanite,

Jesus appointed 12 disciples to spread His gospel.

1: Jesus chose ordinary people to do extraordinary things.

2: The power of Jesus' love is incomparable.

1: Luke 6:13-16 - Jesus appointed 12 Apostles, and He chose them from the ordinary people.

2: John 15:13 - Jesus gives His followers the power to do extraordinary things through His incomparable love.

Mark 3:19 And Judas Iscariot, which also betrayed him: and they went into an house.

Jesus and his disciples went to a house with Judas Iscariot, who had betrayed him.

1. The Power of Betrayal - How to Avoid and Overcome Betrayal

2. The Redemption of Judas Iscariot - God's Grace and Forgiveness

1. Matthew 26:14-16 - Jesus' knowledge of Judas' betrayal

2. Psalm 41:9 - Betrayal of a close friend

Mark 3:20 And the multitude cometh together again, so that they could not so much as eat bread.

A large crowd had gathered to hear Jesus teach, and they stayed so long that they had no time to eat.

1. The Importance of Listening to Jesus: Why We Need to Make Time for What Matters Most

2. Jesus Feeds Us with His Word: How to Nourish Our Souls with Scripture

1. Hebrews 4:12 For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

2. Philippians 4:19 And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus.

Mark 3:21 And when his friends heard of it, they went out to lay hold on him: for they said, He is beside himself.

Jesus's friends thought he was out of his mind.

1: We should not judge others too quickly but instead try to understand their actions.

2: We should be careful not to let our emotions lead us to make rash decisions.

1: James 4:11-12 - "Do not speak evil against one another, brothers. The one who speaks against a brother or judges his brother, speaks evil against the law and judges the law. But if you judge the law, you are not a doer of the law but a judge."

2: Matthew 7:1-2 - "Judge not, that you be not judged. For with the judgment you pronounce you will be judged, and with the measure you use it will be measured to you."

Mark 3:22 And the scribes which came down from Jerusalem said, He hath Beelzebub, and by the prince of the devils casteth he out devils.

The scribes from Jerusalem accused Jesus of using Beelzebub, the prince of devils, to cast out devils.

1. Jesus is not of the devil, but of God, and all his power comes from God.

2. Our words and actions should always reflect the love of Jesus, not the accusations of the world.

1. Matthew 12:28-29 - ?□ut if I cast out devils by the Spirit of God, then the kingdom of God is come unto you. Or else how can one enter into a strong man?□ house, and spoil his goods, except he first bind the strong man? and then he will spoil his house.??

2. John 10:30 - ?□ and my Father are one.??

Mark 3:23 And he called them unto him, and said unto them in parables, How can Satan cast out Satan?

Jesus asked his disciples how Satan could cast out Satan in the form of a parable.

1. The Power of Jesus: How He Commands Over Satan

2. God's Authority: Satan Is Not All-Powerful

1. Matthew 12:25-29 - Jesus' power to cast out demons

2. 1 John 3:8 - Satan's ultimate defeat by Jesus

Mark 3:24 And if a kingdom be divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand.

Jesus teaches that a kingdom divided against itself cannot stand.

1. Unity in the Kingdom of God

2. The Danger of Division

1. Ephesians 4:3 - "Making every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace."

2. 1 Corinthians 1:10 - "I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree with one another in what you say and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly united in mind and thought."

Mark 3:25 And if a house be divided against itself, that house cannot stand.

This verse explains that a divided house cannot stand, emphasizing the importance of unity.

1. "A House United: The Importance of Unity,"

2. "Standing Firm: How to Unite When Divided."

1. Psalm 133:1 - "Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!"

2. Ephesians 4:3 - "Endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace."

Mark 3:26 And if Satan rise up against himself, and be divided, he cannot stand, but hath an end.

Satan cannot stand when he is divided against himself.

1: When we are divided, we are weak. We can be strong if we stand together.

2: We can defeat the powers of evil if we are united in our faith and dedication to God.

1: Ephesians 6:11-12 - ?□ut on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.??

2: Galatians 5:22-23 - ?□ut the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.??

Mark 3:27 No man can enter into a strong man's house, and spoil his goods, except he will first bind the strong man; and then he will spoil his house.

No man can enter into a strong man's house and claim victory without first binding the strong man.

1: God has given us the power to bind the strong man in our lives and overcome the strongholds that would otherwise keep us from victory.

2: We must bind the strong man in our lives before we can claim any victory.

1: Matthew 12:29 - "Or else how can one enter into a strong man's house, and spoil his goods, except he first bind the strong man? and then he will spoil his house."

2: Ephesians 6:10-11 - "Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil?□ schemes."

Mark 3:28 Verily I say unto you, All sins shall be forgiven unto the sons of men, and blasphemies wherewith soever they shall blaspheme:

The passage reveals that all sins will be forgiven to those who repent.

1: Repent and Receive Forgiveness

2: Accept God's Forgiveness and Live a Life of Holiness

1: James 5:15-16 - Prayer for Confession and Healing

2: Romans 8:1 - No Condemnation in Christ Jesus

Mark 3:29 But he that shall blaspheme against the Holy Ghost hath never forgiveness, but is in danger of eternal damnation:

Jesus warns that blasphemy against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven and will lead to eternal damnation.

1. The Danger of Blaspheming the Holy Spirit

2. Understanding the Seriousness of Blasphemy

1. Luke 12:10 ???nd everyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man will be forgiven, but anyone who speaks against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven, either in this age or in the age to come.??

2. Matthew 12:31-32 ???herefore I tell you, every sin and blasphemy will be forgiven people, but the blasphemy against the Spirit will not be forgiven. And whoever speaks a word against the Son of Man will be forgiven, but whoever speaks against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven, either in this age or in the age to come.??

Mark 3:30 Because they said, He hath an unclean spirit.

Jesus was accused of having an unclean spirit.

1: We can learn from Jesus' example of handling false accusations with grace and patience.

2: In this passage, God shows us how to respond when confronted by people who have misjudged us.

1: Matthew 5:11-12 ?lessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

2: Romans 12:14-15 Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep.

Mark 3:31 There came then his brethren and his mother, and, standing without, sent unto

him, calling him.

Jesus' family members, his mother and brothers, tried to call out to him from outside his house.

1. The importance of family and how we can show our love for them.

2. The power of faith and how it can help us in times of need.

1. Matthew 12:46-50 - Jesus' response to his family when they called out to him.

2. Ephesians 6:1-3 - Instructions to honor and obey one's parents.

Mark 3:32 And the multitude sat about him, and they said unto him, Behold, thy mother and thy brethren without seek for thee.

Jesus' mother and brothers wanted to speak with him, and a crowd of people gathered around Him.

1. Jesus' family's love for Him despite His mission and purpose

2. The importance of family relationships

1. Matthew 12:46-50 - Jesus' family's love for Him despite His mission and purpose

2. Ephesians 5:21-33 - The importance of family relationships

Mark 3:33 And he answered them, saying, Who is my mother, or my brethren?

Jesus questions the authority of His own family by asking who His mother or brethren are.

1: Jesus shows that true family is found in those that follow God.

2: Jesus shows the importance of prioritizing faith over blood ties.

1: Matthew 12:48-50 - Jesus explains that whoever does the will of His Father is a true family member.

2: Galatians 6:10 - Good works are more important than being related by blood.

Mark 3:34 And he looked round about on them which sat about him, and said, Behold my mother and my brethren!

Jesus declared that his true family was the group of people who followed him and believed in his teachings.

1. We are all part of God's Family - Mark 3:34

2. Believing in Jesus Unites Us - Mark 3:34

1. Galatians 3:26-29 - For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus.

2. Ephesians 2:19 - So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God.

Mark 3:35 For whosoever shall do the will of God, the same is my brother, and my sister, and mother.

This verse emphasizes the importance of following God's will to be part of Jesus' family.

1. "The Power of Will: Family and Belonging in Jesus' Kingdom"

2. "The Cost of Discipleship: Doing God's Will and Becoming Family"

1. Romans 12:1-2 - "Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God? mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God? his is your true and proper worship. Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God? will is? is good, pleasing and perfect will."

2. 1 John 2:15-17 - "Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the

world, love for the Father is not in them. For everything in the world?□he lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life?□omes not from the Father but from the world. The world and its desires pass away, but whoever does the will of God lives forever."

Mark 4 features Jesus teaching in parables, including the Parable of the Sower, the Parable of the Lamp, and the Parable of the Mustard Seed. It also records a miracle where Jesus calms a storm.

1st Paragraph: The chapter begins with Jesus teaching a large crowd by the lake using parables. In "The Parable of Sower", He describes a farmer who sows seed on different types soil representing various responses to God's word (Mark 4:1-9). When alone with His disciples and those around Him, He explains meaning of parable saying seed is word God and four types soil represent four responses to it - those along path where word is sown but Satan comes takes away word sown in them, others like seed sown on rocky places hear word at once receive it with joy but since they have no root last only short time when trouble persecution comes because of word quickly fall away, others like seed sown among thorns hear word worries life deceitfulness wealth desires other things come in choke making it unfruitful finally others like seed sown good soil hear word accept produce crop multiplying thirty sixty even hundred times (Mark 4:10-20).

2nd Paragraph: Then follows "The Parable of Lamp" which emphasizes that nothing hidden will remain so lamp not brought be hidden under bowl or bed instead put on stand for whatever is hidden meant be disclosed whatever concealed meant come out into open (Mark 4:21-25). This followed by "The Parable Mustard Seed" smallest all seeds ground yet when planted grows becomes largest all garden plants with such big branches birds can perch shade its branches illustrating how kingdom God starts small grows exponentially (Mark 4:26-34). All these teachings are given in form parables as per people's understanding while explanations are given privately to His disciples.

3rd Paragraph: The chapter concludes with an account where Jesus calms storm. As they cross lake in boat violent storm arises causing waves break over boat nearly swamping it. While disciples panic fearing for their lives, Jesus sleeps on cushion at stern. They wake Him up asking Him if He doesn't care if they drown. After rebuking wind telling waves "Quiet! Be still!" causing wind die down completely calm sea says them "Why are you so afraid? Do you still have no faith?" leaving disciples terrified asking each other who this man even wind waves obey him demonstrating his authority over natural elements (Mark 4:35-41).

Mark 4:1 And he began again to teach by the sea side: and there was gathered unto him a great multitude, so that he entered into a ship, and sat in the sea; and the whole multitude was by the sea on the land.

Jesus taught by the sea side to a large crowd and got into a boat to continue teaching.

1. Don't let large crowds deter you from spreading the Word of God.

2. Have faith in Jesus to guide you through difficult times.

1. Isaiah 40:31: But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.

2. Matthew 11:28-30: Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.

Mark 4:2 And he taught them many things by parables, and said unto them in his doctrine,

The passage speaks of Jesus teaching his followers through parables and doctrines.

1. To Follow Jesus' Teachings with Open Hearts and Minds

2. The Power of Parables in Our Lives

1. Matthew 13:34-35 - Jesus spoke all these things to the crowd in parables; he did not say anything to them without using a parable. 35 So was fulfilled what was spoken through the prophet: "I will open my mouth in parables, I will utter things hidden since the creation of the world."

2. Luke 8:9-10 - His disciples asked him what this parable meant. 10 He said, "The knowledge of the secrets of the kingdom of God has been given to you, but to others I speak in parables, so that, 'though seeing, they may not see; though hearing, they may not understand.'"

Mark 4:3 Hearken; Behold, there went out a sower to sow:

The parable of the sower teaches us the importance of listening to God's word.

1. "Sowing Seeds of Faith: The Parable of the Sower"

2. "The Gift of Listening: How God's Word Changes Our Lives"

1. Psalm 19:7-11 - "The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul; the testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple;"

2. James 1:22-25 - "But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves."

Mark 4:4 And it came to pass, as he sowed, some fell by the way side, and the fowls of the air came and devoured it up.

The parable of the sower explains how the Word of God is distributed, with some being taken away before it can take root.

1. Don't Let the Devil Take Away God's Word - Identifying the Enemy of Our Faith

2. Sowing Seeds of the Kingdom - Cultivating Faith with Perseverance

1. 1 Peter 5:8 - "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour."

2. Colossians 3:23 - "And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men."

Mark 4:5 And some fell on stony ground, where it had not much earth; and immediately it sprang up, because it had no depth of earth:

A seed fell on stony ground, with not much earth, yet it sprang up due to lack of depth.

1. God can do the impossible, no matter how difficult the situation is.

2. God can take the least of us and make us great.

1. Psalm 40:2 “He brought me up also out of an horrible pit, out of the miry clay, and set my feet upon a rock, and established my goings.”

2. Romans 8:31 “What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us?”

Mark 4:6 But when the sun was up, it was scorched; and because it had no root, it withered away.

This passage is about a seed that was sown, but had no root to keep it alive and so it withered away.

1. The importance of having a strong foundation in faith.

2. The power of the sun to scorch and destroy that which has no roots.

1. Matthew 13:5-6 - "Some fell on rocky places, where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly, because the soil was shallow. But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched, and they withered because they had no root."

2. Psalm 1:1-3 - "Blessed is the one who does not walk in step with the wicked or stand in the way that sinners take or sit in the company of mockers, but whose delight is in the law of the Lord, and who meditates on his law day and night. That person is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither— whatever they do prospers."

Mark 4:7 And some fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up, and choked it, and it yielded no fruit.

The parable of the sower highlights the importance of where a seed is planted, as some fall among thorns and yield no fruit.

1: Being a Fruitful Christian - Planting God's word in fertile soil.

2: Growing in Faith - Cultivating your faith by sowing in the right places.

1: Luke 8:4-15 - Understanding the parable of the sower and its importance.

2: Colossians 1:6 - Growing in the knowledge of God.

Mark 4:8 And other fell on good ground, and did yield fruit that sprang up and increased; and brought forth, some thirty, and some sixty, and some an hundred.

The parable of the sower reveals that different seeds produce different amounts of fruit.

1. "God's Abundance: The Blessing of the Hundredfold Harvest"

2. "The Ability to Produce Abundant Fruit"

1. John 15:5 - "I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing."

2. Matthew 13:23 - "As for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it. He indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty."

Mark 4:9 And he said unto them, He that hath ears to hear, let him hear.

Jesus encourages those with ears to hear to actively listen to his teachings.

1. The Power of Listening: How to Hear God's Voice

2. Cultivating a Heart of Listening: Learning to Discern God's Will

1. James 1:19 - "Be quick to hear, slow to speak, and slow to become angry."

2. Proverbs 18:13 - "He who gives an answer before he hears, it is folly and shame to him."

Mark 4:10 And when he was alone, they that were about him with the twelve asked of him the parable.

Jesus teaches the disciples about parables.

1. God's Wisdom Through Parables: How We Can Understand Jesus' Teachings

2. Parables of Jesus: Gaining Insight into the Kingdom of God

1. Matthew 13:34-35 - Jesus spoke all these things to the crowd in parables; he did not say anything to them without using a parable. So was fulfilled what was spoken through the prophet: “I will open my mouth in parables, I will utter things hidden since the creation of the world.”

2. Luke 8:9-10 - His disciples asked him what this parable meant. He said, “The knowledge of the secrets of the kingdom of God has been given to you, but to others I speak in parables, so that, ‘though seeing, they may not see; though hearing, they may not understand.’”

Mark 4:11 And he said unto them, Unto you it is given to know the mystery of the kingdom of God: but unto them that are without, all these things are done in parables:

Jesus reveals the mystery of the Kingdom of God to those He has chosen, but to those outside, He speaks in parables.

1. The Mystery of the Kingdom of God: A Call to Followers of Jesus

2. What It Means to be a Part of God's Kingdom

1. Matthew 13:10-17 - Jesus explains the parables

2. 2 Corinthians 4:3-4 - Paul speaks of the mysteries of God revealed through faith

Mark 4:12 That seeing they may see, and not perceive; and hearing they may hear, and not understand; lest at any time they should be converted, and their sins should be forgiven them.

Jesus is warning people that they may hear his words but not understand or be converted and have their sins forgiven.

1: God's Word is Powerful and Life-Changing

2: Not Everyone Will be Converted

1: Romans 10:14-17 - How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher?

2: James 1:22-25 - But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.

Mark 4:13 And he said unto them, Know ye not this parable? and how then will ye know all parables?

Jesus asked his disciples if they understood the parable and challenged them to understand all parables.

1: God provides us with the ability to understand his teachings if we open our hearts to him.

2: We must be willing to put in the effort to understand spiritual truths if we want to live in the kingdom of God.

1: Colossians 1:9-10 - For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you and asking God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all spiritual wisdom and understanding.

2: Romans 12:2 - Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

Mark 4:14 The sower soweth the word.

The passage discusses the importance of sowing the word of God.

1. God's Word: The Foundation of Our Faith

2. The Benefits of Sowing God's Word

1. Isaiah 55:10-11 - “For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven and do not return there but water the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it.”

2. James 1:21-22 - “Therefore put away all filthiness and rampant wickedness and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls. But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.”

Mark 4:15 And these are they by the way side, where the word is sown; but when they have heard, Satan cometh immediately, and taketh away the word that was sown in their hearts.

The Word of God is sown in the hearts of those who hear it, but the Devil quickly comes to take it away.

1. The Power of God's Word: Standing Strong Against the Enemy

2. Resisting the Devil's Attack on Our Hearts

1. James 4:7 - "Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you."

2. Ephesians 6:10-11 - "Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil."

Mark 4:16 And these are they likewise which are sown on stony ground; who, when they have heard the word, immediately receive it with gladness;

The parable of Jesus is about those who receive the Word of God with gladness.

1. "Gladly Receive the Word of God"

2. "The Joy of Hearing and Accepting God's Word"

1. Luke 8:13 - "Those on the rock are the ones who receive the word with joy when they hear it, but they have no root. They believe for a while, but in the time of testing they fall away."

2. Romans 10:17 - "So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ."

Mark 4:17 And have no root in themselves, and so endure but for a time: afterward, when

affliction or persecution ariseth for the word's sake, immediately they are offended.

This passage speaks about how people who do not have a strong faith may easily be offended and give up when faced with affliction or persecution for the word of God.

1: Standing Firm in the Face of Adversity

2: The Blessedness of Perseverance

1: James 1:12 - Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love him.

2: Matthew 5:10-12 - Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

Mark 4:18 And these are they which are sown among thorns; such as hear the word,

This verse speaks of those who hear the Word of God, but it is not allowed to take root in their hearts due to the distractions of the world.

1. Don't Let the World Distract You From the Word of God

2. Don't Let the Thorns of the World Strangle the Word of God

1. 1 John 2:15-17 - Do not love the world, but Love the Lord your God with all your heart.

2. Psalm 119:11 - I have hidden your word in my heart so that I may not sin against you.

Mark 4:19 And the cares of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, and the lusts of other things entering in, choke the word, and it becometh unfruitful.

The deceitfulness of riches and worldly cares can choke the Word of God, making it unfruitful.

1. How to Avoid the Deceitfulness of Riches and Worldly Cares

2. The Danger of Letting Worldly Desires Crowd Out the Word of God

1. Matthew 6:33, “But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.”

2. Ecclesiastes 5:10, “He who loves money will not be satisfied with money, nor he who loves abundance with its income; this also is vanity.”

Mark 4:20 And these are they which are sown on good ground; such as hear the word, and receive it, and bring forth fruit, some thirtyfold, some sixty, and some an hundred.

Those who hear and accept God's Word will produce fruit in their lives.

1: Accepting God's Word will bring you great rewards.

2: God's Word will bring forth abundant fruit in your life.

1: 1 Corinthians 3:6-9 - I planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase.

2: James 1:21 - Therefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls.

Mark 4:21 And he said unto them, Is a candle brought to be put under a bushel, or under a bed? and not to be set on a candlestick?

Jesus asks his listeners if it is right to hide a candle under a bushel or a bed, rather than putting it on a candlestick.

1. Illuminating the Darkness: The Meaning of Jesus' Candle Parable

2. The Sin of Concealing God's Truth

1. Matthew 5:14-16 - “You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be

hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.”

2. Ephesians 5:8-13 - “For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light (for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth) and find out what pleases the Lord. Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather expose them. It is shameful even to mention what the disobedient do in secret. But everything exposed by the light becomes visible—and everything that is illuminated becomes a light.”

Mark 4:22 For there is nothing hid, which shall not be manifested; neither was any thing kept secret, but that it should come abroad.

The passage emphasizes that nothing is hidden and everything will become known.

1. The Power of Transparency

2. Living an Open Life

1. Luke 8:17 - "For nothing is hidden that will not become evident, nor anything secret that will not be known and come to light."

2. Proverbs 28:13 - "He who conceals his transgressions will not prosper, but he who confesses and forsakes them will find compassion."

Mark 4:23 If any man have ears to hear, let him hear.

This verse is a call for those who are listening to pay attention to the words of Jesus.

1. Listening to Jesus: How to Hear and Heed His Teachings

2. The Power of Jesus' Words: Pay Attention to What He's Saying

1. Proverbs 2:1-5 - My son, if you receive my words and treasure up my commandments with you, making your ear attentive to wisdom and inclining your heart to understanding; yes, if you call out for insight and raise your voice for understanding, if you seek it like silver and search for it as for hidden treasures, then you will understand the fear of the Lord and find the knowledge of God.

2. James 1:2-4 - Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

Mark 4:24 And he said unto them, Take heed what ye hear: with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you: and unto you that hear shall more be given.

God wants us to be good listeners and will reward us for it.

1. "Listening to God's Word: Reward and Blessing"

2. "The Measure of Your Faith: The Measure You Receive"

1. James 1:19-21 - "My beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath: For the wrath of man worketh not the righteousness of God. Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls."

2. Proverbs 1:5-7 - "A wise man will hear, and will increase learning; and a man of understanding shall attain unto wise counsels: To understand a proverb, and the interpretation; the words of the wise, and their dark sayings. The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge: but fools despise wisdom and instruction."

Mark 4:25 For he that hath, to him shall be given: and he that hath not, from him shall be taken even that which he hath.

He who has will be given more, while those who have nothing will be taken away even what they have.

1: We should be thankful for what we have and use it wisely, for it can be taken away from us at any time.

2: We should use our blessings to help those around us who have less.

1: James 1:17 - Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows.

2: Ecclesiastes 11:1 - Cast your bread upon the waters, for after many days you will find it again.

Mark 4:26 And he said, So is the kingdom of God, as if a man should cast seed into the ground;

The kingdom of God is like a man sowing seed into the ground.

1. God's Faithfulness in the Work of Sowing

2. The Joy of Investing in God's Kingdom

1. 2 Corinthians 9:10-11 - “Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness. You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God.”

2. Isaiah 55:10-11 - “As the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return to it without watering the earth and making it bud and flourish, so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater, so is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.”

Mark 4:27 And should sleep, and rise night and day, and the seed should spring and grow up, he knoweth not how.

The parable of the sower illustrates the growth of God's word and how it is not always understood.

1. The Power of God's Word: Exploring the Growth of God's Word

2. Unveiling the Mystery of God's Word: An Examination of the Parable of the Sower

1. Isaiah 55:11 - So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it.

2. Psalm 19:7-8 - The law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple. The statutes of the Lord are right, rejoicing the

heart: the commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes.

Mark 4:28 For the earth bringeth forth fruit of herself; first the blade, then the ear, after that the full corn in the ear.

The earth produces fruit from itself; beginning with a blade, then an ear, and finally a full corn.

1. The Power of Growth: How Patience and Perseverance Yields Fulfillment

2. The Rewards of Faith: Reaping the Benefits of Trusting in God

1. James 5:7-8 - Be patient, therefore, brothers, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient about it, until it receives the early and the late rains. You also, be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand.

2. Galatians 6:7-9 - Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap. For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life. And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up.

Mark 4:29 But when the fruit is brought forth, immediately he putteth in the sickle, because the harvest is come.

The harvest is here and must be gathered immediately.

1: Don't wait to share the gospel, now is the time to bear fruit.

2: God calls us to be active in His mission, to reap the harvest of souls.

1: Matthew 9:37-38 Then saith he unto his disciples, The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few; Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest.

2: John 4:35-38 Say not ye, There are yet four months, and then cometh harvest? behold, I say unto you, Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest. And he that reapeth receiveth wages, and gathereth fruit unto life eternal: that both he that soweth and he that reapeth may rejoice together.

Mark 4:30 And he said, Whereunto shall we liken the kingdom of God? or with what comparison shall we compare it?

Jesus poses a question about the Kingdom of God, asking how it can be compared to other things.

1. Jesus' Question: What Can We Learn About the Kingdom of God?

2. Exploring the Mystery of the Kingdom of God

1. Luke 17:20-21 - "Once, on being asked by the Pharisees when the kingdom of God would come, Jesus replied, 'The kingdom of God does not come with your careful observation, nor will people say, 'Here it is,' or 'There it is,' because the kingdom of God is within you.'"

2. John 18:36 - "Jesus said, 'My kingdom is not of this world. If it were, my servants would fight to prevent my arrest by the Jewish leaders. But now my kingdom is from another place.'"

Mark 4:31 It is like a grain of mustard seed, which, when it is sown in the earth, is less than all the seeds that be in the earth:

Jesus compares the Kingdom of God to a mustard seed, which is the smallest of all seeds.

1. "When the Mustard Seed Grows: An Exploration of Faith"

2. "The Power of a Mustard Seed: Unleashing the Kingdom of God"

1. Jeremiah 17:7-8 - "But blessed is the one who trusts in the Lord, whose confidence is in him. They will be like a tree planted by the water that sends out its roots by the stream. It does not fear when heat comes; its leaves are always green. It has no worries in a year of drought and never fails to bear fruit."

2. Matthew 17:20 - "He replied, "Because you have so little faith. Truly I tell you, if you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you."

Mark 4:32 But when it is sown, it groweth up, and becometh greater than all herbs, and shooteth out great branches; so that the fowls of the air may lodge under the shadow of it.

The parable of the mustard seed illustrates the power of faith and how it can grow to become greater than all.

1. The Power of Faith: How It Can Grow and Make an Impact

2. The Mustard Seed: A Lesson in Faith and Perseverance

1. Matthew 13:31-32 “He put another parable before them, saying, “The kingdom of heaven is like a grain of mustard seed that a man took and sowed in his field. It is the smallest of all seeds, but when it has grown it is larger than all the garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.”

2. Luke 17:6 “And the Lord said, “If you had faith like a grain of mustard seed, you could say to this mulberry tree, ‘Be uprooted and planted in the sea,’ and it would obey you.”

Mark 4:33 And with many such parables spake he the word unto them, as they were able to hear it.

Jesus told many parables to his disciples in a way that they could understand.

1. The power of stories in teaching and learning

2. Understanding the power of Jesus’ parables

1. Luke 8:4-15 – Parable of the Sower

2. Matthew 13:3-23 – Parable of the Sower and the Seeds

Mark 4:34 But without a parable spake he not unto them: and when they were alone, he expounded all things to his disciples.

Jesus used parables to explain spiritual truths to the people.

1: Parables are a powerful tool to explain difficult concepts in a way that is easier to understand.

2: Believe in Jesus and His teachings, and He will explain spiritual truths to you.

1: John 14:26 - “But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.”

2: Luke 10:27 - “He answered, ‘“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind”; and, “Love your neighbor as yourself.”’”

Mark 4:35 And the same day, when the even was come, he saith unto them, Let us pass over unto the other side.

Jesus invites his disciples to cross to the other side of the lake.

1: Jesus' Call to Follow Him - Even when we don't know where He may take us, we can trust that His way is the best way.

2: Fear Not - Jesus' invitation to cross the lake is a reminder that He is with us, and we should have faith that He will protect us, no matter the danger.

1: Matthew 8:18-27 - Jesus calms a storm on the sea, demonstrating his power and authority even over the elements of nature.

2: John 6:16-21 - Jesus walks on water, showing his disciples that he is the master of all creation.

Mark 4:36 And when they had sent away the multitude, they took him even as he was in the ship. And there were also with him other little ships.

Jesus and his disciples used boats to cross the lake after addressing a large crowd.

1. Jesus' example of taking time to rest amidst a busy life.

2. The importance of having a supportive community.

1. Matthew 11:28-30 - "Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

2. Acts 2:42-47 - "And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. And all who believed were together and had all things in common. And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved."

Mark 4:37 And there arose a great storm of wind, and the waves beat into the ship, so that it was now full.

A great storm arose, filling the ship with water and waves.

1. Finding Strength in the Storms of Life

2. Trusting in God During Difficult Times

1. Psalm 107:23-24 – "They that go down to the sea in ships, that do business in great waters; These see the works of the Lord, and his wonders in the deep."

2. Matthew 8:23-27 – "And when he was entered into a ship, his disciples followed him. And, behold, there arose a great tempest in the sea, insomuch that the ship was covered with the waves: but he was asleep. And his disciples came to him, and awoke him, saying, Lord, save us: we perish. And he saith unto them, Why are ye fearful, O ye of little faith? Then he arose, and rebuked the winds and the sea; and there was a great calm. But the men marveled, saying, What manner of man is this, that even the winds and the sea obey him!"

Mark 4:38 And he was in the hinder part of the ship, asleep on a pillow: and they awake him, and say unto him, Master, carest thou not that we perish?

Jesus calms a storm at sea and puts his disciples' faith to the test.

1. Jesus is always in control of the storm: Trusting in Him in Times of Trouble

2. Have Faith and Courage in the Face of Fear

1. Isaiah 41:10 - "Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand."

2. Matthew 6:25-34 - Jesus' teaching on not worrying or being anxious.

Mark 4:39 And he arose, and rebuked the wind, and said unto the sea, Peace, be still. And the wind ceased, and there was a great calm.

Jesus had the power to calm the storm.

1: Jesus is our peace in the midst of life's storms.

2: Jesus can still the winds of chaos and bring us calm and rest.

1: Isaiah 26:3 - You will keep in perfect peace those whose minds are steadfast, because they trust in you.

2: Psalm 46:10 - Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth.

Mark 4:40 And he said unto them, Why are ye so fearful? how is it that ye have no faith?

Jesus asked his followers why they were so afraid, questioning why they lacked faith.

1. Trusting in God: Overcoming Fear Through Faith

2. Fear Not: Learning To Exercise Our Faith

1. Isaiah 41:10 - "Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand."

2. Philippians 4:6-7 - "Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God,

which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."

Mark 4:41 And they feared exceedingly, and said one to another, What manner of man is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?

Jesus' disciples were amazed at His power over the wind and sea, and feared Him.

1. Jesus: Our Lord and Master

2. The Power and Authority of Jesus

1. Matthew 8:26-27 - Jesus rebuked the wind and said to the waves, “Peace! Be still!” Then the wind died down and it was completely calm.

2. Psalm 89:8 - O Lord God Almighty, who is like you? You are mighty, O Lord, and your faithfulness surrounds you.

Mark 5 recounts three significant miracles performed by Jesus: the healing of a demon-possessed man, the healing of a woman with chronic bleeding, and the raising of Jairus's daughter from death.

1st Paragraph: The chapter begins with Jesus and His disciples arriving in the region of Gerasenes. Here, they encounter a man possessed by an unclean spirit living among tombs who could not be restrained even with chains. When Jesus commands spirit come out man it reveals itself to be "Legion" for it is many. The demons beg Jesus to send them into a nearby herd of pigs instead of sending them out of area. He gives them permission and they enter pigs causing about two thousand pigs rush down steep bank into lake drown (Mark 5:1-13). The herders flee report what happened in town country people come see what happened find man formerly possessed sitting there dressed in right mind ask Jesus leave their region (Mark 5:14-20).

2nd Paragraph: Upon returning across lake crowd gathers around Him as Jairus, one synagogue leaders comes falls at His feet pleads earnestly Him saying his little daughter is dying asks Him come put hands on her so she will be healed live (Mark 5:21-24). As they were going large crowd followed pressed around Him among them was woman suffering from bleeding twelve years spent all had doctors but instead getting better grew worse heard about Jesus came up behind in crowd touched his cloak because she thought "If I just touch his clothes I will be healed". Immediately bleeding stops feels body she has been freed suffering. Realizing power gone out him turns around crowd asks who touched clothes disciples say see people crowding against you yet ask 'Who touched me?' But keeps looking around see done it then woman knowing what happened her comes falls at feet trembling fear tells him whole truth says her "Daughter your faith

has healed you go peace free from your suffering" (Mark 5:25-34).

3rd Paragraph: While still speaking some people come from house Jairus synagogue leader say "Your daughter is dead why bother teacher anymore?" Ignoring what they said Jesus tells Jairus not be afraid just believe did not let anyone follow him except Peter James John brother James when they arrive at house sees commotion people crying wailing loudly goes says child not dead but asleep laughter ridicule after putting everyone out takes child's father mother disciples were with him goes where child was taking her by hand says her "Talitha koum!" which means "Little girl I say to you get up!" Immediately girl stands walks around she was twelve years old this completely astonished them gave strict orders not let anyone know about this told give something eat (Mark 5:35-43). These miracles further demonstrate authority power Christ over spiritual physical realms including death itself.

Mark 5:1 And they came over unto the other side of the sea, into the country of the Gadarenes.

The people crossed the sea to the country of the Gadarenes.

1. Let Us Cross Over: The Journey of Faith

2. Overcoming Obstacles to Reach Our Destination

1. Hebrews 11:1 "Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen."

2. Philippians 3:13-14 "Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus."

Mark 5:2 And when he was come out of the ship, immediately there met him out of the tombs a man with an unclean spirit,

The man possessed by an unclean spirit met Jesus as he exited the ship.

1: Obeying God’s Will: The Story of Jesus and the Possessed Man

2: Temptations: Jesus and the Unclean Spirit

1: Ephesians 4:27 - “and do not give the devil a foothold”

2: Matthew 4:1-11 - “Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil”

Mark 5:3 Who had his dwelling among the tombs; and no man could bind him, no, not with chains:

This passage describes a man who was living among tombs, and could not be restrained with chains.

1. The Power of the Spirit: Learn how the power of the Holy Spirit can overcome all obstacles.

2. Overcoming Imprisonment: A lesson on how to break free from the bondage of sin.

1. Acts 10:38 - "How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him."

2. 2 Corinthians 5:17 - "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new."

Mark 5:4 Because that he had been often bound with fetters and chains, and the chains had been plucked asunder by him, and the fetters broken in pieces: neither could any man tame him.

The Gadarene demoniac was uncontrollable, no one could tame him as he had broken through fetters and chains.

1. The Power of Jesus to Break Chains of Bondage

2. The Uncontrollable Nature of Sin

1. Romans 6:6-14 - We have been delivered from the bondage of sin by the power of Jesus

2. John 8:34-36 - Jesus said that everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin

Mark 5:5 And always, night and day, he was in the mountains, and in the tombs, crying, and cutting himself with stones.

The passage speaks of a man who was constantly in the mountains and tombs, crying and self-harming with stones.

1. The Battle Within: Understanding the Struggle of Self-Harm

2. Overcoming the Darkness: Finding Hope in the Midst of Pain

1. Matthew 11:28 - “Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.”

2. Psalm 34:18 - “The Lord is near to the brokenhearted and saves the crushed in spirit.”

Mark 5:6 But when he saw Jesus afar off, he ran and worshipped him,

The man was filled with fear when he saw Jesus, yet he ran to Him and worshipped Him.

1: In the face of fear, our first response should be to trust God and worship Him.

2: We can show our devotion to God by running to Him when we are filled with fear.

1: Isaiah 12:2 - "Surely God is my salvation; I will trust and not be afraid. The LORD, the LORD himself, is my strength and my defense; he has become my salvation.”

2: Psalm 27:1 - “The Lord is my light and my salvation—whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life—of whom shall I be afraid?”

Mark 5:7 And cried with a loud voice, and said, What have I to do with thee, Jesus, thou Son of the most high God? I adjure thee by God, that thou torment me not.

The man possessed by the legion of demons cries out to Jesus, asking what He has to do

with him and pleading for Jesus not to torment him.

1. The Power of Faith: Lessons from the Man Possessed by a Legion of Demons

2. When It's Time to Give Up Control and Surrender to God

1. Luke 4:33-34 "And in the synagogue there was a man, which had a spirit of an unclean devil, and cried out with a loud voice, Saying, Let us alone; what have we to do with thee, thou Jesus of Nazareth? art thou come to destroy us? I know thee who thou art; the Holy One of God."

2. Romans 10:13 "For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved."

Mark 5:8 For he said unto him, Come out of the man, thou unclean spirit.

The passage is about Jesus commanding an unclean spirit to come out of a man.

1. The Power of Jesus Christ to Command Evil Spirits

2. The Holy Spirit's Role in Overcoming Sinful Desires

1. Ephesians 6:10-11 - “Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil’s schemes.”

2. Luke 4:36 - “All the people were amazed and said to each other, ‘What words these are! With authority and power he gives orders to impure spirits and they come out!’”

Mark 5:9 And he asked him, What is thy name? And he answered, saying, My name is Legion: for we are many.

Legion was a man filled with many demons who spoke to Jesus.

1: Jesus' power is stronger than any demon, and He can deliver us from any darkness.

2: We can find hope in Jesus, no matter how desperate our situation may be.

1: Matthew 4:23-24 - Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom, and healing every disease and sickness among the people.

2: Matthew 8:16-17 - That evening many demon-possessed people were brought to Jesus. He cast out the spirits with a word and healed all the sick. This fulfilled the word of the Lord through the prophet Isaiah, who said, “He took our sicknesses and removed our diseases.”

Mark 5:10 And he besought him much that he would not send them away out of the country.

Jesus showed compassion to the demon-possessed man by not sending away the unclean spirits.

1: We can all learn from Jesus' example of showing compassion and mercy even in difficult and challenging situations.

2: Jesus always had a heart of love and understanding, showing us how to be like Him in our own lives.

1: Luke 6:36 - "Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful."

2: Matthew 7:12 - "Therefore, whatever you want others to do for you, do also the same for them, for this is the Law and the Prophets."

Mark 5:11 Now there was there nigh unto the mountains a great herd of swine feeding.

The passage talks about a great herd of swine which were near the mountains.

1. The importance of maintaining boundaries and avoiding temptations.

2. Let us follow Jesus and trust in His guidance.

1. Philippians 4:13 - I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.

2. Proverbs 3:5-6 - Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.

Mark 5:12 And all the devils besought him, saying, Send us into the swine, that we may enter into them.

Jesus cast out an unclean spirit from a man, and then allowed the spirit to enter into a herd of swine.

1. The Power of Jesus to Overcome Demonic Forces

2. The Greater Good: When Making Difficult Decisions

1. Matthew 8:28-34 - Jesus casting out the demons from two men

2. Luke 9:37-42 - Jesus casting out a demon from a boy

Mark 5:13 And forthwith Jesus gave them leave. And the unclean spirits went out, and entered into the swine: and the herd ran violently down a steep place into the sea, (they were about two thousand;) and were choked in the sea.

Jesus gave permission for the unclean spirits to enter the swine, which ran into the sea, resulting in their death.

1. The Power of Jesus: How His Words and Actions Impact the World Around Us

2. The Power of Faith: Bringing Miracles to Life

1. Acts 8:5-8 – Philip Preaching and Miracles

2. Matthew 8:28-34 – Jesus Taming the Storm and Curing the Demon-Possessed Men

Mark 5:14 And they that fed the swine fled, and told it in the city, and in the country. And they went out to see what it was that was done.

Jesus casts out a demon from a man, causing the herdsmen to flee and tell the news of the miracle.

1: Jesus is capable of wonderful miracles and his power should not be underestimated.

2: We should be willing to witness the miracles of Jesus and spread the news of his greatness.

1: Psalm 107:20 He sent his word, and healed them, and delivered them from their destructions.

2: Luke 6:19 And the whole multitude sought to touch him: for there went virtue out of him, and healed them all.

Mark 5:15 And they come to Jesus, and see him that was possessed with the devil, and had the legion, sitting, and clothed, and in his right mind: and they were afraid.

The people were amazed to see the man who had been possessed by the devil, now sitting, clothed, and in his right mind.

1. The Power of Jesus to Restore and Transform Lives

2. The Fear of God is the Beginning of Wisdom

1. Luke 8:26-37, Jesus' power to restore and cast out demons

2. Proverbs 9:10, Fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom

Mark 5:16 And they that saw it told them how it befell to him that was possessed with the devil, and also concerning the swine.

The passage explains that people who saw the story of Jesus healing the man possessed by a demon told others what happened, including the fact that the herd of swine were also affected.

1. "God's Power is Unstoppable"

2. "God's Mercy is Everlasting"

1. Psalm 115:3 - "Our God is in the heavens; He does all that He pleases."

2. Luke 6:36 - "Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful."

Mark 5:17 And they began to pray him to depart out of their coasts.

The people of Gerasenes asked Jesus to leave their region.

1. Jesus humbly accepted the wishes of the Gerasenes, demonstrating the importance of respect and humility.

2. Even in the face of opposition, Jesus continued to spread his message of love and acceptance.

1. Matthew 10:14 - And whosoever shall not receive you, nor hear your words, when ye depart out of that house or city, shake off the dust of your feet.

2. Matthew 6:14–15 - For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you: But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

Mark 5:18 And when he was come into the ship, he that had been possessed with the devil prayed him that he might be with him.

The man who was possessed by the devil asked to stay with Jesus after he had been healed.

1. The Power of Jesus to Transform Lives

2. The Desperate Need for Jesus

1. Psalm 34:4-5 “I sought the Lord, and he answered me and delivered me from all my fears. Those who look to him are radiant, and their faces shall never be ashamed.”

2. Acts 10:38 “How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power. He went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him.”

Mark 5:19 Howbeit Jesus suffered him not, but saith unto him, Go home to thy friends, and tell them how great things the Lord hath done for thee, and hath had compassion on thee.

Jesus told a man to go and share with his friends how great things the Lord had done for him and had shown compassion.

1. God's Compassion and Love - How We Should Share the Good News

2. The Power of Testimony - Proclaiming the Lord's Work in Your Life

1. Romans 10:14-15 - How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach, except they be sent?

2. Acts 4:20 - For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard.

Mark 5:20 And he departed, and began to publish in Decapolis how great things Jesus had done for him: and all men did marvel.

Jesus healed a man and the man began to tell people about the great things Jesus had done.

1: Jesus is capable of healing all of our afflictions and we should tell the world of His greatness.

2: We should be open to the power of Jesus and what He can do for our lives, and share this with others.

1: Acts 4:13-14 - "Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were unlearned and ignorant men, they marvelled; and they took knowledge of them, that they had been with Jesus."

2: Romans 1:16 - "For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek."

Mark 5:21 And when Jesus was passed over again by ship unto the other side, much

people gathered unto him: and he was nigh unto the sea.

Jesus is surrounded by many people as He passes over the sea.

1: Jesus is always surrounded by those who seek Him.

2: We should strive to be among the many who seek the Lord.

1: Matthew 7:7-8 "Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you: For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened."

2: Luke 11:9-10 "And I say unto you, Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you. For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened."

Mark 5:22 And, behold, there cometh one of the rulers of the synagogue, Jairus by name; and when he saw him, he fell at his feet,

Jairus, a ruler of the synagogue, humbly fell at Jesus' feet.

1. The Power of Humility: How Jairus' example can inspire us to seek God's will.

2. Faith in Action: Following Jairus' example of trusting in Jesus.

1. James 4:10 - “Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up.”

2. Matthew 8:10 - “When Jesus heard this, he was amazed and said to those following him, ‘Truly I tell you, I have not found anyone in Israel with such great faith.’”

Mark 5:23 And besought him greatly, saying, My little daughter lieth at the point of death: I pray thee, come and lay thy hands on her, that she may be healed; and she shall live.

Jesus heals the little girl from the point of death.

1. Jesus is a healer that can bring us back from the brink of death.

2. What we can learn from the faith of the father in Mark 5:23.

1. Isaiah 53:4-5 - Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.

2. James 5:15 - And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him.

Mark 5:24 And Jesus went with him; and much people followed him, and thronged him.

This passage describes Jesus going with a man and being followed by a large crowd of people.

1. Jesus in the Midst of Crowds: The Power of His Presence

2. The Value of Community: Jesus and the Crowds

1. Luke 8:42-48 - Jesus heals the woman with the issue of blood

2. Matthew 14:22-33 - Jesus walks on water and calms the storm

Mark 5:25 And a certain woman, which had an issue of blood twelve years,

This passage tells the story of a woman who had been bleeding for twelve years and was healed when she touched the hem of Jesus' garment.

1: The Power of Faith - We can be healed if we have faith and trust in Jesus.

2: God's Healing Touch - God can bring healing to us when we seek Him.

1: James 5:14-15 - Is any sick among you? let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord: And the prayer of

faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him.

2: Jeremiah 17:14 - Heal me, O Lord, and I shall be healed; save me, and I shall be saved: for thou art my praise.

Mark 5:26 And had suffered many things of many physicians, and had spent all that she had, and was nothing bettered, but rather grew worse,

The woman had suffered much and spent all she had, yet she was not healed.

1: Our suffering and struggles are never in vain. God will always bring us through.

2: Our faith will be tested, but God will never leave us.

1: James 1:2-4 "Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing."

2: Romans 8:28 "And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose."

Mark 5:27 When she had heard of Jesus, came in the press behind, and touched his garment.

The woman in Mark 5:27 heard of Jesus and came to press behind him and touch his garment.

1. The power of faith: How the woman in Mark 5:27 showed her unwavering faith and trust in Jesus.

2. Overcoming obstacles: How the woman in Mark 5:27 pushed through the crowd to reach Jesus.

1. Hebrews 11:1 - "Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen."

2. Luke 18:27 - "But he said, “What is impossible with man is possible with God.”

Mark 5:28 For she said, If I may touch but his clothes, I shall be whole.

This passage in Mark 5:28 emphasizes the power of faith and the ability to be healed through Jesus’s garments.

1. A on the power of faith to move mountains and heal the sick.

2. A on the power of Christ’s garments to heal physical and spiritual ailments.

1. Matthew 17:20 - "He replied, “Because you have so little faith. Truly I tell you, if you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, ‘Move from here to there,’ and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you.”

2. James 5:14-15 - "Is anyone among you sick? Let them call the elders of the church to pray over them and anoint them with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise them up. If they have sinned, they will be forgiven."

Mark 5:29 And straightway the fountain of her blood was dried up; and she felt in her body that she was healed of that plague.

The woman with the issue of blood was healed instantly when she touched Jesus.

1. Jesus' Power: The Power to Heal

2. Miracles of Jesus: An Inspiration for Faith

1. Matthew 9:20-22 - The woman with the issue of blood was healed by faith.

2. Hebrews 13:8 - Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.

Mark 5:30 And Jesus, immediately knowing in himself that virtue had gone out of him, turned him about in the press, and said, Who touched my clothes?

Jesus knew that power had gone out of Him and asked who had touched His clothes.

1. The Power of Jesus' Presence: Exploring How Jesus' Virtues Can Impact Our Lives

2. Trusting in Jesus: Understanding the Faith and Devotion of Those Who Seek His Healing

1. Acts 3:16 - And His name, through faith in His name, hath made this man strong, whom ye see and know: yea, the faith which is by Him hath given him this perfect soundness in the presence of you all.

2. 2 Corinthians 12:9 - And He said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

Mark 5:31 And his disciples said unto him, Thou seest the multitude thronging thee, and sayest thou, Who touched me?

Jesus showed that he was aware of the supernatural power of faith through his response to being touched.

1: Jesus taught that faith can be powerful and far-reaching, even when unseen.

2: Jesus showed that he is attuned to those who reach out to him in faith, no matter the size of the crowd.

1: Matthew 17:20 - For truly, I say to you, if you have faith like a grain of mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, ‘Move from here to there,’ and it will move, and nothing will be impossible for you.

2: Hebrews 11:1 - Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.

Mark 5:32 And he looked round about to see her that had done this thing.

The passage tells of Jesus looking around to find the woman who had touched him.

1. Have Faith to Reach Out to Jesus: A Study of Mark 5:32

2. Courage in the Face of Doubt: An Examination of Mark 5:32

1. Hebrews 4:16 - "Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need."

2. James 4:8 - "Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded."

Mark 5:33 But the woman fearing and trembling, knowing what was done in her, came and fell down before him, and told him all the truth.

The woman was afraid but she came to Jesus and revealed the truth.

1. Fear not, for the Lord is always with you.

2. Even when facing difficult and embarrassing situations, always trust in Jesus.

1. Isaiah 41:10 - “Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.”

2. John 16:33 - “I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world.”

Mark 5:34 And he said unto her, Daughter, thy faith hath made thee whole; go in peace, and be whole of thy plague.

This verse speaks of Jesus healing a woman's physical ailment through her faith.

1. The Power of Faith: How God Heals Through Our Belief

2. Experiencing God's Grace Through Our Faith

1. Hebrews 11:1 - "Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen."

2. James 5:15 - "And the prayer of faith will save the one who is sick, and the Lord will

raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven."

Mark 5:35 While he yet spake, there came from the ruler of the synagogue's house certain which said, Thy daughter is dead: why troublest thou the Master any further?

A messenger from the leader of the synagogue came and informed Jesus that the daughter of the man He was speaking to had died.

1. The Power of Faith: Don't Give Up Hope in Difficult Times

2. How Jesus Taught Us to Persevere in the Face of Adversity

1. Romans 5:3-5, "Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not put us to shame, because God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us."

2. Hebrews 10:35-36, "Therefore do not throw away your confidence, which has a great reward. For you have need of endurance, so that when you have done the will of God you may receive what is promised."

Mark 5:36 As soon as Jesus heard the word that was spoken, he saith unto the ruler of the synagogue, Be not afraid, only believe.

Jesus hears the plea from the ruler of the synagogue and tells him to not be afraid but to believe.

1. "Living in Faith: Overcoming Fear through Belief"

2. "Have Courage in the Face of Adversity: Believing in the Unseen"

1. Proverbs 3:5-6 - "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths."

2. Hebrews 11:1 - "Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen."

Mark 5:37 And he suffered no man to follow him, save Peter, and James, and John the

brother of James.

This passage from Mark 5:37 tells us that when Jesus was performing a miracle, only three of his disciples – Peter, James, and John – were allowed to follow him.

1: Jesus taught us to be mindful of who we allow to follow us and to value the quality of relationships and not the quantity.

2: Jesus was willing to share his private moments with his most trusted followers. We must recognize the importance of having close relationships and nurturing those relationships.

1: Proverbs 13:20 (NIV) - Walk with the wise and become wise, for a companion of fools suffers harm.

2: Proverbs 18:24 (NIV) - A man of many companions may come to ruin, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother.

Mark 5:38 And he cometh to the house of the ruler of the synagogue, and seeth the tumult, and them that wept and wailed greatly.

Jesus went to the home of the ruler of the synagogue and encountered a great commotion with people crying and wailing.

1. The Power of Jesus in Times of Turmoil

2. Finding Peace in Troubled Times

1. Isaiah 41:10 - "Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand."

2. John 14:27 - "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid."

Mark 5:39 And when he was come in, he saith unto them, Why make ye this ado, and weep? the damsel is not dead, but sleepeth.

The girl was not dead, but only sleeping.

1: Jesus brings hope to those in despair.

2: Jesus brings life to those who need it.

1: Matthew 11:28-30 - Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

2: John 11:25-26 - Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die.

Mark 5:40 And they laughed him to scorn. But when he had put them all out, he taketh the father and the mother of the damsel, and them that were with him, and entereth in where the damsel was lying.

Jesus was laughed at when he told people he could make the sick girl well, but he put them out and then entered the room where the girl was lying with her father and mother.

1. Jesus Shows His Power in the Face of Unbelief

2. Overcoming Obstacles Through Faith

1. Hebrews 11:1 - Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.

2. John 8:32 - And you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.

Mark 5:41 And he took the damsel by the hand, and said unto her, Talitha cumi; which is, being interpreted, Damsel, I say unto thee, arise.

The passage is about Jesus bringing a young girl back to life by saying, "Talitha cumi; which is, being interpreted, Damsel, I say unto thee, arise."

1. The Power of Jesus to Overcome Death

2. The Authority of Jesus to Restore Life

1. John 11:25-26 Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; 26 and whoever lives by believing in me will never die.

2. Luke 7:14-15 Then he came up and touched the coffin, and those who carried it stood still. And he said, “Young man, I say to you, arise.” 15 And the dead man sat up and began to speak, and Jesus gave him to his mother.

Mark 5:42 And straightway the damsel arose, and walked; for she was of the age of twelve years. And they were astonished with a great astonishment.

The girl was healed and able to walk immediately, to the great astonishment of all who witnessed it.

1. Miracles of Jesus: The Healing of the Girl at Age 12

2. The Power of Jesus: How Even the Impossible is Possible

1. Luke 7:13-15 - When Jesus saw her, he called her forward and said to her, “Woman, you are set free from your disability.” Then he put his hands on her, and immediately she straightened up and praised God.

2. Matthew 9:22 - Jesus turned and saw her. “Take heart, daughter,” he said, “your faith has healed you.” And the woman was healed from that moment.

Mark 5:43 And he charged them straitly that no man should know it; and commanded that something should be given her to eat.

This passage tells the story of Jesus healing a woman who had been suffering from a bleeding disorder, and instructing those present not to tell anyone.

1. The Power of Faith: How Jesus Healed a Woman with a Bleeding Disorder

2. The Blessing of Obedience: Following Jesus' Command to Keep His Miracles a Secret

1. Hebrews 11:1 - Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.

2. Matthew 7:24-25 - “Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock.

Mark 6 recounts several key events including Jesus' rejection in His hometown, the sending out of the Twelve, the beheading of John the Baptist, feeding of the five thousand, and Jesus walking on water.

1st Paragraph: The chapter begins with Jesus teaching in His hometown synagogue. However, He is met with skepticism and disbelief from locals who know Him and His family. They take offense at Him because they cannot reconcile their knowledge of His humble beginnings with His wisdom and miraculous deeds (Mark 6:1-3). This leads Jesus to remark that "A prophet is not without honor except in his own town among his relatives in his own home" (Mark 6:4). Because of their unbelief, He could not do any miracles there except lay hands on few sick people heal them (Mark 6:5-6).

2nd Paragraph: Next, Jesus sends out twelve disciples two by two giving them authority over impure spirits. They are instructed to take nothing for journey except staff no bread no bag no money belts wear sandals not put on extra shirt. They are also told to find worthy house stay until they leave town shake dust off feet as testimony against those who do not welcome them or listen to them (Mark 6:7-11). The disciples go out preach people repent cast out many demons anoint many sick people oil heal them (Mark 6:12-13). Meanwhile Herod hears about Jesus thinks John Baptist whom he beheaded has been raised dead explains flashback how Herodias held grudge against John had him arrested wanted kill him but could not because Herod feared John protected him knowing him righteous holy man enjoyed listening him though he was greatly puzzled yet liked listen him. Opportunity arises when Herod birthday banquet gives oaths whatever Herodias daughter asks even up half kingdom she asks for head John Baptist platter reluctantly king sends executioner brings head John platter gives girl girl gives mother when disciples hear this they come take body lay it tomb (Mark 6:14-29).

3rd Paragraph: When apostles return they report all have done taught then retreat deserted place rest but many recognize them run foot from all towns get there ahead them when lands sees large crowd has compassion on them because they were like sheep without shepherd so begins teach many things as day nearly over disciples suggest send crowd away buy themselves something eat but instead says give something eat themselves taking five loaves two fish looking up heaven gave thanks broke loaves gave disciples set before people also divided two fish among all ate were satisfied twelve basketfuls broken pieces bread fish left over number men ate about five thousand (Mark 6:30-44). Afterward makes disciples get into boat go ahead Bethsaida while dismisses crowd after leaving prays mountainside evening comes boat middle lake he alone land sees disciples straining rowing wind against shortly before dawn comes towards walking lake intends pass by see terrified say it's ghost cry out immediately talks takes courage says "Do not be afraid" then climbs into boat wind dies completely astonished have understood about loaves hearts were hardened later cross over land Gennesaret moor boat people recognize bring sick mats wherever hear he is beg let

touch even edge cloak all who touch it are healed (Mark 6:45-56).

Mark 6:1 And he went out from thence, and came into his own country; and his disciples follow him.

Jesus left his hometown and was followed by his disciples.

1. The Power of Following Jesus.

2. Taking the Risk to Follow Christ.

1. Matthew 16:24-25 - “Then Jesus said to his disciples, “Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me.”

2. John 10:27-28 - “My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one can snatch them out of my hand.”

Mark 6:2 And when the sabbath day was come, he began to teach in the synagogue: and many hearing him were astonished, saying, From whence hath this man these things? and what wisdom is this which is given unto him, that even such mighty works are wrought by his hands?

This passage speaks of how Jesus taught in the synagogue on the Sabbath, and the people were astonished by his teachings and the mighty works he did.

1. "Living a Life of Wonder" - Exploring how Jesus' teachings bring amazement and awe into our lives.

2. "The Power of Faith" - Examining how Jesus' teachings and works demonstrate the power of faith.

1. Matthew 13:54-56 - Jesus' teaching with authority and the amazement of the crowds.

2. Acts 2:22 - Explaining how Jesus' mighty works were signs of God's power.

Mark 6:3 Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary, the brother of James, and Joses, and

of Juda, and Simon? and are not his sisters here with us? And they were offended at him.

This passage discusses the disbelief of Jesus' family and neighbors when he returns to his hometown to preach.

1. The Power of Faith: Learn to have faith in God's plan even when it doesn't make sense.

2. Overcoming Adversity: Jesus overcame the doubts of his own people to share the good news of the gospel.

1. Hebrews 11:1 - Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.

2. John 15:18-19 - If the world hates you, keep in mind that it hated me first. If you belonged to the world, it would love you as its own. As it is, you do not belong to the world, but I have chosen you out of the world. That is why the world hates you.

Mark 6:4 But Jesus said unto them, A prophet is not without honour, but in his own country, and among his own kin, and in his own house.

Jesus teaches that a prophet cannot expect to be honored in his own home.

1: Honor those closest to you, even if they don't understand your gifts and talents.

2: Respect those who have been given a calling from God, even if you don't understand their purpose.

1: Matthew 10:40-42 “Whoever welcomes you welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me. Whoever welcomes a prophet as a prophet will receive a prophet’s reward, and whoever welcomes a righteous person as a righteous person will receive a righteous person’s reward.

2: Luke 14:7-11 When he noticed how the guests chose the places of honor, he told them this parable: “When you are invited by someone to a wedding feast, do not take the place of honor, for a person more distinguished than you may have been invited. If so, the host who invited both of you will come and say to you, ‘Give this person your seat.’ Then, humiliated, you will have to take the least important place. But when you are invited, take the lowest place, so that when your host comes, he will say to you, ‘Friend, move up to a better place.’ Then you will be honored in the presence of all the other guests.

Mark 6:5 And he could there do no mighty work, save that he laid his hands upon a few sick folk, and healed them.

Jesus was only able to perform a few healings when he visited his hometown.

1. God's power is beyond our understanding- Mark 6:5

2. The importance of faith in Jesus- Mark 6:5

1. Matthew 17:20 - “He replied, “Because you have so little faith. Truly I tell you, if you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, ‘Move from here to there,’ and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you.”

2. John 14:12 - “Very truly I tell you, whoever believes in me will do the works I have been doing, and they will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father.”

Mark 6:6 And he marvelled because of their unbelief. And he went round about the villages, teaching.

Jesus marveled at the lack of faith people had and traveled around the villages to teach.

1. Believe in the Power of Faith

2. The Importance of Spreading Knowledge

1. Hebrews 11:1 “Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen”

2. Matthew 28:19-20 “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you.”

Mark 6:7 And he called unto him the twelve, and began to send them forth by two and two; and gave them power over unclean spirits;

This passage describes Jesus calling the Twelve Apostles and sending them out two by two to preach and cast out unclean spirits.

1: Jesus sent out the Twelve Apostles to preach the gospel and cast out unclean spirits, showing us that we are called to spread the word of God and fight spiritual evil.

2: Jesus empowered the Twelve to do great work in His name and entrusted them with a great mission. We too are called by God to serve Him and work to spread His message.

1: Luke 9:1-2 - When Jesus had called the Twelve together, he gave them power and authority to drive out all demons and to cure diseases, and he sent them out to proclaim the kingdom of God and to heal the sick.

2: Matthew 28:18-20 - Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

Mark 6:8 And commanded them that they should take nothing for their journey, save a staff only; no scrip, no bread, no money in their purse:

Jesus commanded His disciples to take nothing with them on their journey except for a staff.

1. The Power of Simplicity: Learning to Travel Lightly

2. Trusting God's Provision: Embarking Upon a Life of Faith

1. Matthew 10:9-10 - "Provide neither gold, nor silver, nor brass in your purses, Nor scrip for your journey, neither two coats, neither shoes, nor yet staves: for the workman is worthy of his meat."

2. Matthew 6:25-34 - "Therefore I say unto you, Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on."

Mark 6:9 But be shod with sandals; and not put on two coats.

Jesus instructs his disciples to wear sandals and not two coats.

1. "A Call to Simplicity: Jesus' Example of Contentment"

2. "Putting on the Right Shoes: Focusing on the Necessities"

1. Matthew 6:25-34 - Jesus' teaching on not worrying about material possessions and living simply.

2. Luke 12:22-32 - Jesus' parable of the Rich Fool and warning against pursuing wealth.

Mark 6:10 And he said unto them, In what place soever ye enter into an house, there abide till ye depart from that place.

The disciples were instructed to stay in the same place until they left.

1. The Power of Obedience: Following Jesus' Instructions Even When They Don't Make Sense

2. The Journey of Faith: Trusting God in Every Season of Life

1. Matthew 7:24-27 - "Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock:"

2. 1 Peter 5:7 - "Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you."

Mark 6:11 And whosoever shall not receive you, nor hear you, when ye depart thence, shake off the dust under your feet for a testimony against them. Verily I say unto you, It shall be more tolerable for Sodom and Gomorrha in the day of judgment, than for that city.

Jesus commands his disciples to shake off the dust of unresponsive cities in protest against their rejection of the gospel.

1. "Living a Life of Witness: Our Response to Rejection"

2. "A Call to Boldness: Shaking Off the Dust"

1. Acts 13:51-52, "And they shook off the dust of their feet against them and departed unto Iconium. And the disciples were filled with joy and with the Holy Ghost."

2. Matthew 10:14-15, "And whosoever shall not receive you, nor hear your words, when ye depart out of that house or city, shake off the dust of your feet. Verily I say unto you, It shall be more tolerable for the land of Sodom and Gomorrha in the day of judgment, than for that city."

Mark 6:12 And they went out, and preached that men should repent.

Jesus sent out the disciples to preach that people should repent.

1. Repent Now: The Call of Jesus

2. The Power of Repentance: Why It Matters

1. Acts 2:38 - “Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.”

2. Luke 13:3 - “No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish.”

Mark 6:13 And they cast out many devils, and anointed with oil many that were sick, and healed them.

Jesus' disciples healed many sick people and drove out demons by anointing them with oil.

1. The Power of Faith in Action: Jesus' disciples demonstrate the power of faith through their healing of the sick and casting out of demons.

2. The Healing Power of Christ: The disciples' anointing of the sick with oil to heal them is a symbol of the healing power of Christ.

1. James 5:13-17 - Is any among you afflicted? Let him pray. Is any merry? Let him sing psalms.

2. Matthew 10:1 - And when he had called unto him his twelve disciples, he gave them power against unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all manner of sickness and all manner of disease.

Mark 6:14 And king Herod heard of him; (for his name was spread abroad:) and he said, That John the Baptist was risen from the dead, and therefore mighty works do shew forth themselves in him.

King Herod heard about Jesus and believed that John the Baptist had risen from the dead, and that the miracles Jesus performed were proof.

1: Even when we don't understand something, God's power can still be seen.

2: Nothing is impossible with God - even the resurrection of the dead.

1: Romans 4:17 - As it is written, “I have made you the father of many nations”—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

2: Luke 18:27 - But he said, “What is impossible with man is possible with God.”

Mark 6:15 Others said, That it is Elias. And others said, That it is a prophet, or as one of the prophets.

Jesus was reported to be a prophet or one of the prophets.

1. God's Word Is Alive: Learning to Discern True Prophets

2. The Power of Proclamation: How to Live Out God's Prophecies

1. 2 Corinthians 13:5 - Examine yourselves, to see whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Or do you not realize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you?—unless indeed you fail to meet the test!

2. Ephesians 4:11-13 - And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ.

Mark 6:16 But when Herod heard thereof, he said, It is John, whom I beheaded: he is risen from the dead.

Herod was shocked to hear that John the Baptist, who he had beheaded, had risen from the dead.

1. The Power of Resurrection

2. Overcoming Sin through Forgiveness

1. Ephesians 2:4-5 - But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ.

2. Romans 8:11 - If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you.

Mark 6:17 For Herod himself had sent forth and laid hold upon John, and bound him in prison for Herodias' sake, his brother Philip's wife: for he had married her.

Herod had John the Baptist imprisoned for marrying his brother Philip's wife, Herodias.

1. Loving Thy Neighbor: How Far Can We Go?

2. The Power of Jealousy and How It Can Lead to Destruction

1. Matthew 5:43-44 “You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you.

2. James 4:5 Or do you suppose that it is to no purpose that the Scripture says, “He yearns jealously over the spirit that he has made to dwell in us”?

Mark 6:18 For John had said unto Herod, It is not lawful for thee to have thy brother's wife.

John warned Herod that it was not lawful for him to have his brother's wife.

1. Marriage is a sacred covenant between two people and should be honored and respected.

2. Our actions can have consequences and it is important to be mindful of how our choices affect those around us.

1. Ephesians 5:31-33 - "Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh."

2. Romans 12:18 - "If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone."

Mark 6:19 Therefore Herodias had a quarrel against him, and would have killed him; but she could not:

Herodias had a strong dislike for John the Baptist and wanted to kill him.

1. God can protect us from all harm.

2. We must never let anger lead us to violence.

1. Psalm 121:7-8 "The Lord will keep you from all harm— he will watch over your life; the Lord will watch over your coming and going both now and forevermore."

2. James 1:20 "for the anger of man does not achieve the righteousness of God."

Mark 6:20 For Herod feared John, knowing that he was a just man and an holy, and observed him; and when he heard him, he did many things, and heard him gladly.

Herod respected John as a just and holy man, and listened to him willingly.

1. The Power of Righteousness: The Example of John

2. The Rewards of Being Just and Holy

1. Proverbs 11:18 - The wicked man earns deceptive wages, but he who sows righteousness reaps a sure reward.

2. 2 Corinthians 6:14 - Do not be unequally yoked with unbelievers. For what partnership has righteousness with lawlessness? Or what fellowship has light with darkness?

Mark 6:21 And when a convenient day was come, that Herod on his birthday made a supper to his lords, high captains, and chief estates of Galilee;

The passage describes Herod's celebration of his birthday with a feast for his lords, high captains, and chief estates of Galilee.

1. Learning to Celebrate Life’s Blessings

2. Living with Humility and Gratitude

1. Ephesians 5:20, “Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

2. Luke 12:15, “And he said unto them, Take heed, and beware of covetousness: for a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth.”

Mark 6:22 And when the daughter of the said Herodias came in, and danced, and pleased Herod and them that sat with him, the king said unto the damsel, Ask of me whatsoever thou wilt, and I will give it thee.

Herodias' daughter danced and pleased Herod and his companions, so the king said he would give her anything she asked for.

1. The Dangers of Pleasing the World

2. The Power of Self-Control in the Face of Temptation

1. Matthew 4:8-10 - Jesus' temptation by the devil

2. James 4:7 - Submit to God, resist the devil

Mark 6:23 And he sware unto her, Whatsoever thou shalt ask of me, I will give it thee, unto the half of my kingdom.

Jesus offered the woman half of his kingdom, willing to give her anything she asked for.

1: God is willing to give us anything we ask for as long as it is within his will.

2: Jesus was willing to go to great lengths to show his compassion and mercy to others.

1: Philippians 4:6-7 “Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.”

2: James 4:2-3 “You do not have, because you do not ask God. When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures.”

Mark 6:24 And she went forth, and said unto her mother, What shall I ask? And she said, The head of John the Baptist.

Herodias' daughter asked her mother what she should ask for, and Herodias told her to request the head of John the Baptist.

1. The Consequences of Sin: Examining Herodias' Request for John the Baptist's Head

2. Living Beyond Sin: Responding to Temptation in Light of God's Word

1. Matthew 4:1-11 - Jesus' temptation in the wilderness

2. Psalm 119:11 - "Your word I have hidden in my heart that I might not sin against You."

Mark 6:25 And she came in straightway with haste unto the king, and asked, saying, I will that thou give me by and by in a charger the head of John the Baptist.

Herodias's daughter requested the head of John the Baptist from King Herod in a charger.

1. The Danger of Compromising Your Faith - Mark 6:25

2. The Consequences of Unrighteousness - Mark 6:25

1. 1 Corinthians 10:12 - Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall.

2. James 4:17 - Therefore, to him who knows to do good and does not do it, to him it is sin.

Mark 6:26 And the king was exceeding sorry; yet for his oath's sake, and for their sakes which sat with him, he would not reject her.

The king was so sorry for the woman, but he was bound by his oath and would not reject her.

1. We are all bound by our promises and must seek to honor them even when they are difficult.

2. When faced with difficult decisions, we must remember to take into account all those who will be affected by our decision.

1. Ecclesiastes 5:4-5 - When thou vowest a vow unto God, defer not to pay it; for he hath no pleasure in fools: pay that which thou hast vowed. Better is it that thou shouldest not vow, than that thou shouldest vow and not pay.

2. James 5:12 - But above all things, my brethren, swear not, neither by heaven, neither by the earth, neither by any other oath: but let your yea be yea; and your nay, nay; lest ye fall into condemnation.

Mark 6:27 And immediately the king sent an executioner, and commanded his head to be brought: and he went and beheaded him in the prison,

The king immediately had John the Baptist executed.

1: We can learn from John the Baptist's example and bravely stand up for our faith.

2: Our actions have consequences, and it's important to take responsibility for them.

1: Matthew 10:28 "And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell."

2: Philippians 1:21-24 "For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain. But if I live in the flesh, this is the fruit of my labour: yet what I shall choose I wot not. For I am in a strait betwixt two, having a desire to depart, and to be with Christ; which is far better: Nevertheless to abide in the flesh is more needful for you."

Mark 6:28 And brought his head in a charger, and gave it to the damsel: and the damsel gave it to her mother.

John the Baptist was beheaded and his head was presented to a young woman who then gave it to her mother.

1. Living for the Lord: The Courage of John the Baptist

2. The Power of a Mother's Love: An Example from Mark 6:28

1. Hebrews 11:35-38 - Examples of those who lived a life of faith, including John the Baptist.

2. Proverbs 31:28-31 - The ideal qualities of a mother, demonstrated by the woman in Mark 6:28.

Mark 6:29 And when his disciples heard of it, they came and took up his corpse, and laid it in a tomb.

The disciples of Jesus took up his corpse and laid it in a tomb.

1. The Sacrificial Love of Jesus' Disciples

2. The Cost of Discipleship

1. John 15:13 - "No one has greater love than this, that someone would lay down his life for his friends."

2. Philippians 2:7-8 - "But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross."

Mark 6:30 And the apostles gathered themselves together unto Jesus, and told him all things, both what they had done, and what they had taught.

The apostles reported to Jesus about their ministry and teachings.

1. The Power of Community: Working Together to Serve God

2. Faithful Discipleship: Living Out the Gospel

1. Acts 2:42-47 - The Early Church's Commitment to Fellowship

2. Matthew 28:16-20 - Go and Make Disciples of All Nations

Mark 6:31 And he said unto them, Come ye yourselves apart into a desert place, and rest a while: for there were many coming and going, and they had no leisure so much as to eat.

The disciples were encouraged to take a break and rest in a solitary place due to the overwhelming number of people coming and going.

1. The Importance of Rest and Reflection: How Taking Time for Yourself Can Help You Serve Others Better

2. The Blessing of Solitude: Rediscovering the Value of Quiet Time

1. Matthew 11:28-30 – Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

2. Psalm 46:10 – Be still, and know that I am God.

Mark 6:32 And they departed into a desert place by ship privately.

The disciples departed into a desert place by ship privately.

1: In times of difficulty, Jesus calls us to be intentional about finding a quiet place for refuge and restoration.

2: Jesus calls us to take time away from the world to be with Him and to find rest.

1: Psalm 46:10 “Be still, and know that I am God. I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth!”

2: Matthew 11:28-30 “Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

Mark 6:33 And the people saw them departing, and many knew him, and ran afoot thither out of all cities, and outwent them, and came together unto him.

The people recognized Jesus and ran to him from all the nearby cities.

1: Jesus is so important that people ran to Him from far away cities.

2: Jesus is worthy of all our love and devotion.

1: John 15:13-14 - Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends.

2: Matthew 22:37-39 - Jesus replied, “‘You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment. A second is equally important: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’

Mark 6:34 And Jesus, when he came out, saw much people, and was moved with compassion toward them, because they were as sheep not having a shepherd: and he began to teach them many things.

Jesus was moved with compassion for the people because they were without a shepherd and he began to teach them.

1. Compassionate Love: Jesus Cares for the Lost

2. The Call to Shepherd: God's Invitation to Lead

1. Psalm 23:1-3 - The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters. He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

2. Luke 10:27 - And he answering said, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy strength, and with all thy mind; and thy neighbour as thyself.

Mark 6:35 And when the day was now far spent, his disciples came unto him, and said, This is a desert place, and now the time is far passed:

The disciples noticed that it was getting late and they were in a deserted place.

1. God is always with us, even in the most deserted of places.

2. Even in the midst of difficulty, God provides.

1. Matthew 28:20 - "And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

2. Romans 8:28 - "And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose."

Mark 6:36 Send them away, that they may go into the country round about, and into the villages, and buy themselves bread: for they have nothing to eat.

The disciples asked Jesus to send away the crowds, so they can buy bread in the surrounding villages.

1. God always provides for those who seek Him.

2. We are called to care for those who are in need.

1. Matthew 6:33 - But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.

2. Galatians 6:10 - As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith.

Mark 6:37 He answered and said unto them, Give ye them to eat. And they say unto him, Shall we go and buy two hundred pennyworth of bread, and give them to eat?

Jesus commands his followers to provide for the hungry, despite their limited resources.

1. Jesus' great example of providing for others, despite our own limitations.

2. The importance of selflessness in following Jesus.

1. Matthew 25:40 - "And the King will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.'"

2. Philippians 2:3-4 - "Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others."

Mark 6:38 He saith unto them, How many loaves have ye? go and see. And when they knew, they say, Five, and two fishes.

Jesus asked his disciples to provide for the multitude with what they had.

1. With Faith, Miracles are Possible

2. Provision in our Weakness

1. Philippians 4:13 - "I can do all things through Him who strengthens me."

2. Matthew 17:20 - "He said to them, “Because of the littleness of your faith; for truly I say to you, if you have faith the size of a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, ‘Move from here to there,’ and it will move; and nothing will be impossible to you."

Mark 6:39 And he commanded them to make all sit down by companies upon the green grass.

Jesus commanded his disciples to arrange the people in groups to rest on the green grass.

1: Jesus' commands are always for our benefit.

2: Jesus's care and compassion for others is evident in how he showed concern for people's physical needs.

1: Matthew 14:13-21 - Jesus feeds the 5,000.

2: Matthew 9:35-38 - Jesus has compassion on the crowds.

Mark 6:40 And they sat down in ranks, by hundreds, and by fifties.

Jesus fed the five thousand people with five loaves and two fish.

1: Jesus shows us the power of faith and miracles.

2: Jesus teaches us about the power of generosity.

1: John 6:5-13 - Jesus miraculously fed the five thousand men with five loaves and two fish.

2: Matthew 14:13-21 - Jesus performed a miracle to feed the five thousand.

Mark 6:41 And when he had taken the five loaves and the two fishes, he looked up to heaven, and blessed, and brake the loaves, and gave them to his disciples to set before them; and the two fishes divided he among them all.

Jesus fed the five thousand with only five loaves and two fishes.

1. Jesus demonstrated the power of trusting in God.

2. Jesus showed us the value of selfless giving.

1. Matthew 14:13-21 - Jesus Feeds the Five Thousand

2. John 6:1-14 - Jesus Feeds the Five Thousand (again)

Mark 6:42 And they did all eat, and were filled.

The crowd was filled after eating the food provided by Jesus.

1. Jesus is the source of our provision and satisfaction.

2. We can find satisfaction by putting our trust in Jesus.

1. Matthew 14:13-21 - Jesus feeds the five thousand.

2. John 6:35 - Jesus is the bread of life.

Mark 6:43 And they took up twelve baskets full of the fragments, and of the fishes.

This passage recounts the miraculous event when Jesus fed five thousand people with only five loaves of bread and two fishes.

1: God can provide for our every need if we put our trust in Him.

2: Jesus' compassion and love for us are greater than we can imagine.

1: Matthew 14:13-21 - Jesus uses five loaves and two fishes to feed the five thousand.

2: Philippians 4:19 - God will provide for all our needs according to His riches in glory.

Mark 6:44 And they that did eat of the loaves were about five thousand men.

The passage states that about five thousand men were fed with loaves of bread.

1: God's provision is more than enough for us.

2: We must remember to be thankful for all of God's blessings.

1: John 6:11 - Jesus then took the loaves, gave thanks, and distributed to those who were seated as much as they wanted.

2: Philippians 4:19 - And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus.

Mark 6:45 And straightway he constrained his disciples to get into the ship, and to go to the other side before unto Bethsaida, while he sent away the people.

Jesus commanded his disciples to depart in a ship to Bethsaida while he sent away the people.

1. Jesus' act of sending away the people is a reminder that we should be willing to sacrifice our own desires for the sake of others.

2. Jesus' willingness to send away the people demonstrates his selfless love for those around him.

1. Philippians 2:3-4 - "Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others."

2. Matthew 22:37-39 - "'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'"

Mark 6:46 And when he had sent them away, he departed into a mountain to pray.

Jesus took time away from his disciples to pray to God.

1: We must always take time to pray to God and seek His guidance.

2: Jesus is an example of how to prioritize prayer.

1: Matthew 14:23 - And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up on the mountain by himself to pray.

2: 1 Thessalonians 5:17 - Pray without ceasing.

Mark 6:47 And when even was come, the ship was in the midst of the sea, and he alone on the land.

Jesus sent his disciples away in a ship, and he stayed on the land alone.

1. The importance of trusting in God's plan, even when it seems scary.

2. Finding strength in times of loneliness.

1. Psalm 23:4 - "Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me."

2. Isaiah 41:10 - "So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand."

Mark 6:48 And he saw them toiling in rowing; for the wind was contrary unto them: and about the fourth watch of the night he cometh unto them, walking upon the sea, and would have passed by them.

Jesus showed compassion to His disciples by coming to them in their distress and giving them courage and strength to persevere.

1. God Is Always Present in Our Lives, Even in Times of Trouble

2. Let Us Strive to Live with the Same Compassion and Love Jesus Showed

1. Psalm 138:7 - Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you preserve my life; you stretch out your hand against the wrath of my enemies, and your right hand delivers me.

2. Matthew 9:36 - When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.

Mark 6:49 But when they saw him walking upon the sea, they supposed it had been a spirit, and cried out:

The disciples saw Jesus walking on the sea and thought He was a spirit.

1: Jesus is so powerful that He can even walk on water!

2: Jesus can do the miraculous, and He can do the same in our lives.

1: Matthew 14:22-33 - Jesus walking on the water and calming the storm.

2: John 3:16 - God's love for us demonstrated by sending His Son, Jesus.

Mark 6:50 For they all saw him, and were troubled. And immediately he talked with them, and saith unto them, Be of good cheer: it is I; be not afraid.

Jesus' disciples were terrified when they saw him walking on the water, but he reassured them by telling them not to be afraid.

1. Overcoming Fear Through Faith in Jesus Christ

2. Reassurance from Jesus in Troubled Times

1. Isaiah 41:10 - “Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.”

2. Psalm 23:4 - “Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.”

Mark 6:51 And he went up unto them into the ship; and the wind ceased: and they were sore amazed in themselves beyond measure, and wondered.

Jesus calms the raging sea, leaving the disciples amazed and in awe.

1: Jesus is in control of nature and can still the storms of life.

2: When we call upon Jesus, He will answer us with His power.

1: Matthew 8:23-27 - Jesus calms the storm on the sea of Galilee.

2: Psalm 107:29 - He calms the storm, and the waves are still.

Mark 6:52 For they considered not the miracle of the loaves: for their heart was hardened.

The passage highlights how the people failed to recognize the miracle of the loaves because their hearts were hardened.

1. God's power is greater than our own understanding – Matthew 19:26

2. Taking the time to recognize and appreciate God's blessings – Psalm 34:8

1. Ephesians 4:18 – “Having the understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart.”

2. 2 Corinthians 3:14 – “But their minds were blinded: for until this day remaineth the same vail untaken away in the reading of the old testament; which vail is done away in Christ.”

Mark 6:53 And when they had passed over, they came into the land of Gennesaret, and drew to the shore.

After crossing the sea, Jesus and his disciples arrived at the land of Gennesaret and stopped at its shore.

1. Jesus’ Journey to Gennesaret: The Power of Direction

2. Gennesaret: A Place of Rest for Jesus and His Disciples

1. Isaiah 30:21 – “Your ears shall hear a word behind you, saying, ‘This is the way, walk in it,’ whenever you turn to the right hand or whenever you turn to the left.”

2. Matthew 11:28-30 – “Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

Mark 6:54 And when they were come out of the ship, straightway they knew him,

Jesus' disciples immediately recognized him when they disembarked the ship.

1. Recognizing Jesus in our Everyday Lives

2. The Miraculous Power of Faith

1. John 8:19 - Then they said to him, “Where is your Father?” Jesus answered, “You know neither me nor my Father. If you knew me, you would know my Father also.”

2. Hebrews 11:1 - Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.

Mark 6:55 And ran through that whole region round about, and began to carry about in beds those that were sick, where they heard he was.

The people of the region ran to Jesus and carried the sick in their beds to receive healing.

1. We should trust in Jesus and have faith that He can heal us of any affliction.

2. Jesus is always willing to heal us and give us hope.

1. Matthew 8:14-17 - Jesus heals the sick man at Capernaum.

2. Isaiah 53:5 - He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement for our peace was upon Him, and by His stripes we are healed.

Mark 6:56 And whithersoever he entered, into villages, or cities, or country, they laid the

sick in the streets, and besought him that they might touch if it were but the border of his garment: and as many as touched him were made whole.

The people of the villages, cities, and country where Jesus went were so desperate for healing that they laid the sick in the streets and begged Jesus to let them touch the edge of his garment. Whoever touched him was healed.

1. The Power of Faith - How the faith of the people was so strong that it healed them.

2. The Power of Jesus - The miracle of Jesus healing those who touched him.

1. Matthew 14:36 - “And besought him that they might only touch the hem of his garment: and as many as touched were made perfectly whole.”

2. Acts 19:11-12 - “And God wrought special miracles by the hands of Paul: So that from his body were brought unto the sick handkerchiefs or aprons, and the diseases departed from them, and the evil spirits went out of them.”

Mark 7 recounts several key events including a dispute with Pharisees about ritual purity, the teaching about what truly defiles a person, and two significant miracles: the healing of a Syrophoenician woman's daughter and the healing of a deaf and mute man.

1st Paragraph: The chapter begins with Pharisees and some teachers of law noticing some disciples eating food with hands that were defiled, that is, unwashed. They question Jesus about this because they hold to tradition elders which requires washing hands before eating (Mark 7:1-5). Jesus responds by criticizing them for their hypocrisy in holding on to human traditions while neglecting God's commandments. He quotes Isaiah saying "These people honor me with their lips but their hearts are far from me. They worship me in vain; their teachings are merely human rules" (Mark 7:6-8). He gives example how they set aside Moses' commandment honor father mother allow Corban (gift devoted God) thus invalidating word God for sake tradition (Mark 7:9-13).

2nd Paragraph: Then Jesus calls crowd teaches nothing outside person can defile them by going into them rather it is what comes out of person that defiles them explaining evil thoughts sexual immorality theft murder adultery greed malice deceit lewdness envy slander arrogance folly all these evils come from inside make person unclean (Mark 7:14-23). Later when he enters Tyre Gentile region Syrophoenician woman begs him drive demon out her daughter first tells her "Let children be fed first for it is not right take children's bread toss dogs" she replies "Lord even dogs under table eat children's crumbs" then he tells her because this reply demon has left your daughter when she went home found child lying bed demon gone showing his power over demonic realm transcends ethnic religious boundaries (Mark 7:24-30).

3rd Paragraph: Moving on to region Decapolis encounters deaf mute man people beg him place hand on man takes him aside privately puts fingers into his ears spits touches tongue looks up heaven sighs says him "Ephphatha!" which means "Be opened!" At this man's ears are opened tongue loosened he begins speak plainly charges not tell anyone more orders given more they proclaim spread news people overwhelmed amazement say "He has done everything well makes deaf hear mute speak" demonstrating again his authority over physical ailments compassion towards those suffering regardless societal barriers (Mark 7:31-37).

Mark 7:1 Then came together unto him the Pharisees, and certain of the scribes, which came from Jerusalem.

The Pharisees and scribes from Jerusalem came together to Jesus.

1: Jesus welcomes all who come to him with open arms, no matter who they are.

2: We should always seek to follow Jesus, no matter where we come from.

1: Luke 15:2 - "And the Pharisees and scribes murmured, saying, This man receiveth sinners, and eateth with them."

2: John 8:3-11 - "And the scribes and Pharisees brought unto him a woman taken in adultery; and when they had set her in the midst, They say unto him, Master, this woman was taken in adultery, in the very act. Now Moses in the law commanded us, that such should be stoned: but what sayest thou? This they said, tempting him, that they might have to accuse him. But Jesus stooped down, and with his finger wrote on the ground, as though he heard them not. So when they continued asking him, he lifted up himself, and said unto them, He that is without sin among you, let him first cast a stone at her. And again he stooped down, and wrote on the ground. And they which heard it, being convicted by their own conscience, went out one by one, beginning at the eldest, even unto the last: and Jesus was left alone, and the woman standing in the midst."

Mark 7:2 And when they saw some of his disciples eat bread with defiled, that is to say, with unwashen, hands, they found fault.

The Pharisees criticized Jesus' disciples for eating with unwashed hands.

1: Don't let criticism sway your faith in Jesus.

2: Cleanliness is not the same as holiness.

1: Matthew 23:25-28 - Jesus rebukes the Pharisees for focusing on outward cleanliness instead of spiritual cleanliness.

2: James 4:11 - Do not speak against one another, beloved brethren.

Mark 7:3 For the Pharisees, and all the Jews, except they wash their hands oft, eat not, holding the tradition of the elders.

The Pharisees and Jews held a tradition of washing their hands before eating.

1: Jesus reminds us of the importance of tradition in our faith.

2: We can learn from the Pharisees example of adhering to tradition even in small matters.

1: Luke 11:42 - ?□ut woe unto you, Pharisees! for ye tithe mint and rue and all manner of herbs, and pass over judgment and the love of God: these ought ye to have done, and not to leave the other undone.??

2: Matthew 23:23 - ?□oe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye pay tithe of mint and anise and cummin, and have omitted the weightier matters of the law, judgment, mercy, and faith: these ought ye to have done, and not to leave the other undone.??

Mark 7:4 And when they come from the market, except they wash, they eat not. And many other things there be, which they have received to hold, as the washing of cups, and pots, brasen vessels, and of tables.

Jesus teaches his disciples that they must wash before eating food that has been bought from the market, and that the same principle applies to washing cups, pots, brass vessels, and tables.

1. How to Live a Life of Cleanliness According to Jesus

2. The Importance of Spiritual Cleanliness in Everyday Life

1. Isaiah 1:16-17 - Wash yourselves; make yourselves clean; remove the evil of your

deeds from before my eyes; cease to do evil.

17 Learn to do good; seek justice, correct oppression; bring justice to the fatherless, plead the widow?□ cause.

2. Titus 2:11-12 - For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, 12 training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age.

Mark 7:5 Then the Pharisees and scribes asked him, Why walk not thy disciples according to the tradition of the elders, but eat bread with unwashen hands?

The Pharisees and scribes asked Jesus why his disciples were not following tradition but instead eating bread with unwashed hands.

1: Our Faith in God is Stronger than the Traditions of Men

2: Following God's Ways over Man's Ways

1: Matthew 15:8-9 - This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with their lips; but their heart is far from me. But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men.

2: Colossians 2:20-23 - Wherefore if ye be dead with Christ from the rudiments of the world, why, as though living in the world, are ye subject to ordinances, (Touch not; taste not; handle not; Which all are to perish with the using;) after the commandments and doctrines of men? Which things have indeed a shew of wisdom in will worship, and humility, and neglecting of the body; not in any honour to the satisfying of the flesh.

Mark 7:6 He answered and said unto them, Well hath Esaias prophesied of you hypocrites, as it is written, This people honoureth me with their lips, but their heart is far from me.

Jesus rebukes the Pharisees for their superficial religious observance.

1: We must not be guilty of superficial religious observance, but instead pursue a heart that is devoted to God.

2: We must not be hypocrites that only honor God with our lips, but instead honor him

with our hearts.

1: Deuteronomy 11:16-17 - Take heed to yourselves, that your heart be not deceived, and ye turn aside, and serve other gods, and worship them; And then the LORD'S wrath be kindled against you, and he shut up the heaven, that there be no rain, and that the land yield not her fruit.

2: Jeremiah 29:13 - And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart.

Mark 7:7 Howbeit in vain do they worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men.

This verse states that it is pointless to worship God if one is basing their worship practices on the teachings of men instead of God.

1. The Danger of Relying on Man-Made Doctrines

2. Why We Should Rely on Biblical Doctrines

1. Colossians 2:8 - "See to it that no one takes you captive by philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the world, and not according to Christ."

2. Isaiah 29:13 - "And the Lord said: ?□ecause this people draw near with their mouth and honor me with their lips, while their hearts are far from me, and their fear of me is a commandment taught by men."

Mark 7:8 For laying aside the commandment of God, ye hold the tradition of men, as the washing of pots and cups: and many other such like things ye do.

Passage People are disregarding God's commands and instead are following their own traditions.

1. The importance of following God's commands and not our own traditions.

2. The consequences of disregarding God's commands.

1. Matthew 15:3-9 - Jesus taught the Pharisees and the Sadducees about the importance of honoring God's commands and not their own traditions.

2. Colossians 2:8 - Paul warned the Colossians about the danger of being led astray from the simplicity of the gospel by traditions.

Mark 7:9 And he said unto them, Full well ye reject the commandment of God, that ye may keep your own tradition.

The people were rejecting God's commandments in order to keep their own traditions.

1. The Power of God's Word: Embracing the Commandments Instead of Our Own Traditions

2. Rejecting the World's Traditions and Embracing God's Commandments

1. Isaiah 8:20 - "To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them."

2. Colossians 2:8 - "Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ."

Mark 7:10 For Moses said, Honour thy father and thy mother; and, Whoso curseth father or mother, let him die the death:

This passage from Mark 7:10 emphasizes the importance of honoring one's parents.

1. The Value of Honoring Parents

2. The Uniqueness of the Fifth Commandment

1. Ephesians 6:1-3

2. Exodus 20:12-17

Mark 7:11 But ye say, If a man shall say to his father or mother, It is Corban, that is to

say, a gift, by whatsoever thou mightest be profited by me; he shall be free.

Jesus criticizes a practice of the Pharisees where they neglect their duty to their parents by using the pretext of offering a gift to God as an excuse to avoid their responsibilities.

1. The importance of honoring our parents through our actions.

2. The dangers of using religious pretexts to avoid our obligations.

1. Deuteronomy 5:16 - "Honour thy father and thy mother, as the LORD thy God hath commanded thee; that thy days may be prolonged, and that it may go well with thee, in the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee."

2. Ephesians 6:2-3 - "Honour thy father and mother; which is the first commandment with promise; That it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth."

Mark 7:12 And ye suffer him no more to do ought for his father or his mother;

The passage states that people should not be hindered from helping their parents.

1: We should honor our parents by helping them in any way we can.

2: Our culture should not put obstacles in the way of people helping their parents.

1: Ephesians 6:2-3 ?□onour thy father and mother; which is the first commandment with promise; That it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth.??

2: Exodus 20:12 ?□onour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee.??

Mark 7:13 Making the word of God of none effect through your tradition, which ye have delivered: and many such like things do ye.

This verse is a reminder that traditions should never supersede the word of God.

1: We must be wary of traditions that override the word of God

2: Putting traditions before scripture leads to a lack of faith

1: Colossians 2:8 - Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ.

2: 2 Timothy 3:16 - All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness.

Mark 7:14 And when he had called all the people unto him, he said unto them, Hearken unto me every one of you, and understand:

Jesus taught the people to listen and understand.

1: Listen to Jesus and understand his teachings

2: Seek understanding and wisdom from Jesus

1: James 1:5 - If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him.

2: Proverbs 2:3-6 - Yea, if thou criest after knowledge, and liftest up thy voice for understanding; If thou seekest her as silver, and searchest for her as for hid treasures; Then shalt thou understand the fear of the Lord, and find the knowledge of God. For the Lord giveth wisdom: out of his mouth cometh knowledge and understanding.

Mark 7:15 There is nothing from without a man, that entering into him can defile him: but the things which come out of him, those are they that defile the man.

Jesus explains that it is not what goes into a person that defiles them, but what comes out of them.

1. The Power of Words: How Our Words Define Us

2. Our Actions Speak Louder Than Words

1. James 3:6-10 - The power of the tongue and how it can do both good and evil

2. Matthew 12:33-37 - Jesus' parable of the good and bad trees and the fruit they produce

Mark 7:16 If any man have ears to hear, let him hear.

This verse encourages us to be attentive to God's words and to open our hearts to hear what He is saying.

1: Listen to God's Voice - Mark 7:16

2: Open Your Ears to Hear - Mark 7:16

1: James 1:19 - "Know this, my beloved brothers: let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger."

2: Psalm 95:7-8 - "For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand. Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts..."

Mark 7:17 And when he was entered into the house from the people, his disciples asked him concerning the parable.

Jesus' disciples asked him to explain the parable he had just taught to the people.

1. The Power of Asking Questions: Exploring the importance of seeking out answers to our spiritual inquiries.

2. Taking a Step of Faith: Examining the courage needed to take a leap of faith and ask the hard questions.

1. Philippians 4:6-7 - Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.

2. Proverbs 3:5-6 - Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.

Mark 7:18 And he saith unto them, Are ye so without understanding also? Do ye not

perceive, that whatsoever thing from without entereth into the man, it cannot defile him;

Jesus questions his disciples about their understanding of what is spiritually clean, teaching that it is not what goes into a person that defiles them, but rather what comes out.

1. Jesus' Teachings on What Truly Defiles Us

2. Examining Our Hearts for True Cleanliness

1. Matthew 15:11 - "Not that which goeth into the mouth defileth a man; but that which cometh out of the mouth, this defileth a man."

2. Romans 14:14 - "I know, and am persuaded by the Lord Jesus, that there is nothing unclean of itself: but to him that esteemeth any thing to be unclean, to him it is unclean."

Mark 7:19 Because it entereth not into his heart, but into the belly, and goeth out into the draught, purging all meats?

Jesus explains that food that enters the body does not defile a person, but goes out into the draught, purging all meats.

1. Why Jesus Was Not Concerned with Food as a Source of Defilement

2. The Purging Power of Food: What Jesus Taught Us About Eating

1. Matthew 15:11 - "Not what goes into the mouth defiles a person, but what comes out of the mouth, this defiles a person."

2. Romans 14:17 - "For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking but of righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit."

Mark 7:20 And he said, That which cometh out of the man, that defileth the man.

The things we do and say come from our hearts and are what defiles us.

1. ?□hat Comes From Within Defiles Us??

2. ?□he Power of Our Words and Actions??

1. Matthew 15:11 - ?□t is not what goes into the mouth that defiles a person, but what comes out of the mouth; this defiles a person.??

2. James 3:2-12 - ?□or we all stumble in many ways. If anyone does not stumble in what he says, he is a perfect man, able also to bridle his whole body.??

Mark 7:21 For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders,

This passage emphasizes the wickedness of mankind, which originates from within the heart.

1. The Evil in our Hearts: How to Overcome Our Temptations

2. The Power of the Heart: Understanding the Depths of Human Nature

1. James 1:14-15 - But each person is tempted when they are dragged away by their own evil desire and enticed. Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death.

2. Romans 3:10-18 - As it is written: ?□here is no one righteous, not even one; there is no one who understands; there is no one who seeks God. All have turned away, they have together become worthless; there is no one who does good, not even one.

Mark 7:22 Thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lasciviousness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness:

This passage lists several sins that are condemned by the Bible, such as theft, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lasciviousness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, and foolishness.

1. "The Sins of the Heart: Recognizing the Sins that We Don't See"

2. "The Power of the Tongue: Why Blasphemy is Forbidden"

1. Proverbs 11:3 - "The integrity of the upright shall guide them: but the perverseness of transgressors shall destroy them."

2. James 4:17 - "Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin."

Mark 7:23 All these evil things come from within, and defile the man.

Jesus teaches that evil comes from within a person and defiles them.

1. "The Heart of the Matter: Why Sin Begins Within Us"

2. "The Power of the Gospel: How We Can Overcome Sin"

1. James 1:14-15 - "But each person is tempted when they are dragged away by their own evil desire and enticed. Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death."

2. Romans 6:12-14 - "Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its evil desires. Do not offer any part of yourself to sin as an instrument of wickedness, but rather offer yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life; and offer every part of yourself to him as an instrument of righteousness. For sin shall no longer be your master, because you are not under the law, but under grace."

Mark 7:24 And from thence he arose, and went into the borders of Tyre and Sidon, and entered into an house, and would have no man know it: but he could not be hid.

Jesus went to Tyre and Sidon for solitude and privacy.

1: Jesus wanted and needed time to be alone and reflect on his mission.

2: We all need time to be alone and think deeply about our lives and purpose.

1: Matthew 6:6 - ?□ut when you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.??

2: Psalm 46:10 - ?□e still, and know that I am God. I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth!??

Mark 7:25 For a certain woman, whose young daughter had an unclean spirit, heard of him, and came and fell at his feet:

A woman's daughter was possessed by an unclean spirit, and she heard of Jesus and came to Him for help.

1. The Power of Faith: How Jesus' Miracles Can Transform Our Lives

2. Overcoming Struggles: How Jesus is Our Source of Strength

1. Matthew 15:21-28 - Jesus Heals the Canaanite Woman's Daughter

2. Mark 5:24-34 - Jesus Heals the Woman with the Issue of Blood

Mark 7:26 The woman was a Greek, a Syrophenician by nation; and she besought him that he would cast forth the devil out of her daughter.

The woman was a Greek of the Syrophenician nation, and she asked Jesus to cast out the devil from her daughter.

1: Jesus shows His love and mercy for all nations, not just the Jewish people.

2: God works through us and gives us the opportunity to be His hands and feet.

1: Acts 10:34-35 - God shows no partiality, and is willing to accept people from any nation.

2: James 2:15-17 - Faith without works is dead, and we should show our faith through our actions.

Mark 7:27 But Jesus said unto her, Let the children first be filled: for it is not meet to take the children's bread, and to cast it unto the dogs.

Jesus argues that the needs of the children should be met first before helping the dogs.

1: We must prioritize the needs of our family first before helping others.

2: We should not be selfish and always remember to help those in need.

1: Philippians 2:3-4 ?□o nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.??

2: Galatians 6:10 ?□herefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.??

Mark 7:28 And she answered and said unto him, Yes, Lord: yet the dogs under the table eat of the children's crumbs.

This passage describes how a woman responded to Jesus' question about whether she believes he can heal her daughter, affirming her faith in him and offering the analogy of the dogs eating the children's crumbs.

1. Trusting in Jesus brings restoration and hope

2. God's grace overflows to even the least of us

1. Matthew 15:21-28 - Jesus' healing of the Canaanite woman's daughter

2. Romans 5:6-8 - God's abundant grace through Jesus Christ

Mark 7:29 And he said unto her, For this saying go thy way; the devil is gone out of thy daughter.

Jesus heals a woman's daughter by casting out the devil from her.

1: We must never underestimate the power of Jesus' love and healing.

2: Even when faced with the darkest of situations, Jesus can bring light and hope to all.

1: Psalm 34:18 "The LORD is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit."

2: Isaiah 43:2 "When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and when you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned; the flames will not set you ablaze."

Mark 7:30 And when she was come to her house, she found the devil gone out, and her daughter laid upon the bed.

A woman found that her daughter had been healed of her demon possession when she returned home.

1. Jesus has the power to free us from sin and its consequences.

2. God's power is greater than any evil force.

1. Luke 8:26-35 - Jesus casts out the unclean spirit from the woman.

2. Matthew 18:10 - Jesus warns his disciples to be careful not to cause little ones to stumble.

Mark 7:31 And again, departing from the coasts of Tyre and Sidon, he came unto the sea of Galilee, through the midst of the coasts of Decapolis.

Jesus departed from the coasts of Tyre and Sidon and arrived at the sea of Galilee, through the midst of the coasts of Decapolis.

1. Jesus' journey across the land illustrates His commitment to preaching the Good News to all.

2. Jesus' ministry was a testimony of His willingness to go far and wide to reach all people.

1. Matthew 4:23-25 - And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing all manner of sickness and all manner of disease among the people.

2. Mark 16:15 - And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.

Mark 7:32 And they bring unto him one that was deaf, and had an impediment in his speech; and they beseech him to put his hand upon him.

A group of people bring a deaf man with a speech impediment to Jesus in order to be healed.

1. The Power of Faith - How the faith of those who brought the deaf man to Jesus enabled a miraculous healing.

2. Persevering Through Difficult Times - How God uses our difficulties to bring us closer to Him.

1. James 5:14-15 - Is any one of you sick? He should call the elders of the church to pray over him and anoint him with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise him up.

2. Romans 8:28 - And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.

Mark 7:33 And he took him aside from the multitude, and put his fingers into his ears, and he spit, and touched his tongue;

Jesus healed a deaf man by touching his ears and tongue.

1: Jesus teaches us to be compassionate and merciful towards the less fortunate.

2: Jesus shows us the power of faith and prayer can heal the sick.

1: James 5:15 - "And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise them up. If they have sinned, they will be forgiven."

2: Isaiah 53:5 - "But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed."

Mark 7:34 And looking up to heaven, he sighed, and saith unto him, Ephphatha, that is, Be opened.

Healing of a deaf and dumb man: Jesus opened the man's ears and mouth.

1. God's Healing Compassion: How Jesus Opened a Deaf and Dumb Man

2. Miracles and Faith: The Power of Jesus to Overcome All Adversity

1. Isaiah 35:5-6 - Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then shall the lame man leap like a deer, and the tongue of the mute sing for joy.

2. Psalm 146:8 - The Lord opens the eyes of the blind; the Lord lifts up those who are bowed down; the Lord loves the righteous.

Mark 7:35 And straightway his ears were opened, and the string of his tongue was loosed, and he spake plain.

Jesus healed a deaf and mute man, allowing him to speak clearly.

1. God's power can bring healing and transformation.

2. Jesus is capable of restoring our brokenness.

1. Psalm 103:3 - He forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases.

2. Isaiah 35:5-6 - Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then shall the lame man leap like a deer, and the tongue of the mute sing for joy.

Mark 7:36 And he charged them that they should tell no man: but the more he charged them, so much the more a great deal they published it;

Jesus healed a deaf man and instructed those witnesses to not tell anyone, but they spread the news anyway.

1. The Power of Jesus: How His Miracles Demonstrate His Divine Authority

2. The Power of Witnessing: How Our Actions Impact Others

1. Luke 5:15-16 - But so much the more went there a fame abroad of him: and great multitudes came together to hear, and to be healed by him of their infirmities. And he withdrew himself into the wilderness, and prayed.

2. Acts 4:20 - For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard.

Mark 7:37 And were beyond measure astonished, saying, He hath done all things well: he maketh both the deaf to hear, and the dumb to speak.

People were astonished at Jesus' miracles, specifically the healing of deaf and mute people.

1. God's Miraculous Power: A Look at Jesus' Healing Miracles

2. Jesus: Our Healer and Redeemer

1. Isaiah 35:5-6: Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped. Then shall the lame man leap as an hart, and the tongue of the dumb sing: for in the wilderness shall waters break out, and streams in the desert.

2. Hebrews 13:8: Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, and today, and forever.

Mark 8 recounts several key events including the feeding of the four thousand, a dispute with Pharisees seeking a sign, healing of a blind man at Bethsaida, Peter's confession of Christ and Jesus predicting His death and resurrection.

1st Paragraph: The chapter begins with another large crowd gathering around Jesus without anything to eat. He expresses concern for them and decides to feed them. With seven loaves of bread and few small fish he gives thanks breaks bread gives disciples distribute people does same fish they all ate were satisfied afterwards seven basketfuls broken pieces left over about four thousand men ate after sending away crowd gets into boat goes region Dalmanutha (Mark 8:1-10). There Pharisees come begin argue him testing him asking him sign from heaven but he sighs deeply spirit says "Why does this generation ask for a sign? Truly I tell you no sign will be given to it" leaves them gets

back into boat crosses other side (Mark 8:11-13).

2nd Paragraph: While in boat with disciples they discuss have forgotten bring bread have only one loaf among them. He warns them "Watch out! Beware yeast Pharisees Herod." They discuss this among themselves saying "It is because we have no bread." Aware their discussion Jesus asks why talking about having no bread understand yet perceive not see have hearts hardened having eyes not see ears not hear do not remember when broke five loaves five thousand how many basketfuls pieces did pick up when broke seven loaves four thousand how many basketfuls pieces did pick up still not understand (Mark 8:14-21).

3rd Paragraph: When they come Bethsaida some people bring blind man beg Jesus touch him takes blind man hand leads him outside village spits on his eyes puts hands on him asks if sees anything looks up says sees people look like trees walking around puts hands on his eyes again his eyes were opened sight restored sees everything clearly sends home saying "Don't even go into village" (Mark 8:22-26). Then journey villages Caesarea Philippi way asks disciples who people say am answers include John Baptist Elijah one prophets then asks who do say am Peter replies "You are Messiah." Warns not tell anyone about this begins teach must suffer many things rejected elders chief priests teachers law must killed after three days rise again speaks plainly Peter rebukes Him turns looks at disciples rebukes Peter saying "Get behind me Satan! You do not have in mind concerns God but merely human concerns" (Mark 8:27-33). Calls crowd along with His disciples teaches whoever wants save life will lose it whoever loses life for Him gospel will save it what good is it for someone gain whole world forfeit soul what can anyone give in exchange soul if anyone ashamed Him words adulterous sinful generation Son Man will be ashamed when comes Father's glory holy angels concludes truly telling some standing here will taste death before see kingdom God come power (Mark 8:34-38).

Mark 8:1 In those days the multitude being very great, and having nothing to eat, Jesus called his disciples unto him, and saith unto them,

Jesus feeds the multitude: Everyone has enough.

1: God always provides. We are never in need.

2: Jesus is the provider of all needs.

1: Philippians 4:19 - And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus.

2: Matthew 6:25-34 - Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body

more than clothes?

Mark 8:2 I have compassion on the multitude, because they have now been with me three days, and have nothing to eat:

Jesus shows compassion on the multitude that have been with him for three days, and have nothing to eat.

1. Jesus' Compassion: How We Should Follow His Example

2. The Power of Faith: Learning From the Multitude

1. Matthew 14:14 - And Jesus went forth, and saw a great multitude, and was moved with compassion toward them, and he healed their sick.

2. John 6:5-7 - When Jesus then lifted up his eyes, and saw a great company come unto him, he saith unto Philip, Whence shall we buy bread, that these may eat? And this he said to prove him: for he himself knew what he would do.

Mark 8:3 And if I send them away fasting to their own houses, they will faint by the way: for divers of them came from far.

The disciples of Jesus were concerned about the people he was teaching, as they had come from far and would faint from hunger if sent away fasting to their own homes.

1. Jesus is concerned for our well-being, even when it may be difficult for us to do what He asks.

2. Jesus wants us to look out for the needs of others, even when it may be difficult for us to do so.

1. Matthew 25:35-36 - "For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in."

2. James 2:14-16 - "What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save them? Suppose a brother or a sister is without clothes and daily food. If one of you says to them, ?□o in peace; keep warm and well fed,??but does nothing about their physical needs, what good is it?"

Mark 8:4 And his disciples answered him, From whence can a man satisfy these men with bread here in the wilderness?

The disciples asked Jesus how they could feed a large crowd in the wilderness with only a few loaves of bread.

1. The Power of Faith: Jesus showed us that even in the most difficult situations, faith can make the impossible possible.

2. The Power of Prayer: When faced with overwhelming odds, prayer can bring us hope and strength.

1. Matthew 17:20 - "He said to them, ?ecause of your little faith. For truly, I say to you, if you have faith like a grain of mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, ?ove from here to there,??and it will move, and nothing will be impossible for you.??

2. James 5:16 - "Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working."

Mark 8:5 And he asked them, How many loaves have ye? And they said, Seven.

Jesus asked his disciples how many loaves of bread they had and they answered seven.

1. The Power of Faith: Jesus demonstrates how faith can turn even a small offering into a blessing for many.

2. The Provision of God: Jesus shows us how God can take seemingly insignificant resources and use them to provide for people's needs.

1. Matthew 14:13-21 - Jesus uses five loaves and two fish to feed five thousand people.

2. John 6:1-14 - Jesus turns five loaves and two fish into a miraculous meal for five thousand people.

Mark 8:6 And he commanded the people to sit down on the ground: and he took the seven loaves, and gave thanks, and brake, and gave to his disciples to set before them;

and they did set them before the people.

Jesus gave thanks and broke seven loaves of bread before his disciples, who then set them before the people.

1. The Power of Giving Thanks

2. The Importance of Serving Others

1. Matthew 15:36 - "And he took the seven loaves and the fishes, and he gave thanks and brake them, and gave to his disciples, and the disciples to the multitude."

2. Philippians 4:6 - "Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God."

Mark 8:7 And they had a few small fishes: and he blessed, and commanded to set them also before them.

Jesus used a few small fishes to feed a large crowd.

1: Jesus used the little things in life to do great works.

2: Jesus taught us to be content with what we have and to trust Him to provide.

1: Philippians 4:11-13 "Not that I am speaking of being in need, for I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content. I know how to be brought low, and I know how to abound. In any and every circumstance, I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need.

2: Matthew 6:25-34 ?□herefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? And which of you by being anxious can add a single hour to his span of life? And why are you anxious about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. ...

Mark 8:8 So they did eat, and were filled: and they took up of the broken meat that was

left seven baskets.

The disciples ate the bread and fish Jesus had provided and were filled, and there were still seven baskets of food leftover.

1. God is able to provide for us abundantly.

2. The power of faith and prayer.

1. Matthew 14:13-21 - The Feeding of the Five Thousand

2. Luke 17:11-19 - Jesus Cleanses Ten Lepers

Mark 8:9 And they that had eaten were about four thousand: and he sent them away.

This passage describes the miracle of Jesus feeding four thousand people with only a few loaves and fishes.

1. The Power of Jesus' Miracles: How God Can Provide Abundance in a Time of Need

2. The Compassion of Jesus: How God Cares for All of His People

1. John 6:1-14 - Jesus miraculously feeding the five thousand

2. Matthew 14:13-21 - Jesus walking on water to meet his disciples

Mark 8:10 And straightway he entered into a ship with his disciples, and came into the parts of Dalmanutha.

Jesus and his disciples entered a ship and went to Dalmanutha.

1. The Power of Obedience: Jesus' Journey to Dalmanutha

2. Following the Lord's Lead: The Journey to Dalmanutha

1. John 14:15 ?□f you love me, you will keep my commandments.??

2. Luke 9:23 ?□nd he said to them all, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me.??

Mark 8:11 And the Pharisees came forth, and began to question with him, seeking of him a sign from heaven, tempting him.

The Pharisees tempted Jesus by asking for a sign from heaven.

1. The Temptation of Jesus: Trusting in God, Not in Signs and Wonders

2. The Power of Faith: Overcoming Temptation Through the Word of God

1. Matthew 4:1-11 - Jesus is tempted by the devil.

2. Hebrews 11:1 - Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.

Mark 8:12 And he sighed deeply in his spirit, and saith, Why doth this generation seek after a sign? verily I say unto you, There shall no sign be given unto this generation.

Jesus expresses his frustration at the lack of faith of the people and refuses to give them a sign.

1. The Kingdom of God is Built on Faith, Not Signs

2. God Seeks a Faithful People

1. Hebrews 11:1 - Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.

2. John 20:29 - Jesus said to him, ?□ave you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.

Mark 8:13 And he left them, and entering into the ship again departed to the other side.

Jesus departed to the other side of the sea in a ship.

1. Jesus' Obedience: Learning to Follow God's Commands

2. The Power of Jesus: The Miracle of Crossing the Sea

1. John 6:21 - Immediately the boat was at the land to which they had gone.

2. Matthew 14:22-33 - Immediately Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go before him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds.

Mark 8:14 Now the disciples had forgotten to take bread, neither had they in the ship with them more than one loaf.

The disciples had forgotten to bring bread and only had one loaf with them.

1: We should be prepared for all situations, as the disciples were not.

2: We should be mindful of the resources we have, as the disciples had only one loaf.

1: Matthew 6:25-34 - Jesus teaches us to not worry about the future and to trust God.

2: Proverbs 21:20 - Precious treasure and oil are in a wise man? dwelling, but a foolish man devours it.

Mark 8:15 And he charged them, saying, Take heed, beware of the leaven of the Pharisees, and of the leaven of Herod.

We must be aware of the false teachings of the Pharisees and the false teachings of Herod.

1. The Danger of False Teachings

2. Seeing Through the Deceptions of the World

1. Ephesians 5:6-7 - "Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience. Therefore do not be partakers with them."

2. Colossians 2:8 - "See to it that no one takes you captive by philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the world, and not according to Christ."

Mark 8:16 And they reasoned among themselves, saying, It is because we have no bread.

The disciples reasoned that their lack of bread was the reason for Jesus' teaching.

1: Jesus reminds us to look beyond our physical needs and see the spiritual needs of those around us.

2: We need to remember that Jesus is always providing us with spiritual nourishment.

1: Matthew 6:25-34 - Jesus teaches us not to worry about our physical needs, but to seek first the Kingdom of God.

2: Psalm 23 - Even though we may walk through the valley of the shadow of death, God will provide us with comfort and sustenance.

Mark 8:17 And when Jesus knew it, he saith unto them, Why reason ye, because ye have no bread? perceive ye not yet, neither understand? have ye your heart yet hardened?

Jesus asked the people why they were questioning him about having no bread even though they had not yet perceived or understood.

1. Hardening of the Heart: Understanding God's Plan

2. Seeing Through the Eyes of Faith: Believing in God's Provision

1. Jeremiah 17:7-8 - "Blessed is the man who trusts in the Lord, whose confidence is in him. He will be like a tree planted by the water that sends out its roots by the stream. It does not fear when heat comes; its leaves are always green. It has no worries in a year of

drought and never fails to bear fruit."

2. Hebrews 3:14-15 - "We have come to share in Christ, if indeed we hold our original conviction firmly to the very end. As has just been said: "Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts as you did in the rebellion."

Mark 8:18 Having eyes, see ye not? and having ears, hear ye not? and do ye not remember?

Jesus is asking why his disciples, who have eyes to see and ears to hear, do not understand or remember what he has taught them.

1. Seeing and Believing: Understanding the Word of God

2. Hearing to Obey: Remembering What We Have Learned

1. Psalm 19:7-9 - The law of the LORD is perfect, reviving the soul; the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple; the precepts of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes;

2. Proverbs 1:7 - The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and instruction.

Mark 8:19 When I brake the five loaves among five thousand, how many baskets full of fragments took ye up? They say unto him, Twelve.

Jesus demonstrated his great power by providing food for the hungry crowd.

1. The Power of God: A Lesson from Jesus' Miraculous Feeding

2. The Blessing of Sharing: Jesus' Example of Generosity

1. Luke 9:13-17 - Jesus Feeds the Five Thousand

2. John 6:1-14 - Jesus Feeds the Four Thousand

Mark 8:20 And when the seven among four thousand, how many baskets full of fragments took ye up? And they said, Seven.

Jesus asked the disciples how many baskets they took up after feeding four thousand people with seven loaves and a few small fish. The disciples answered that they took up seven baskets.

1. God's abundance: How faith in God can provide more than enough.

2. The Power of Love: How Jesus shared his love and provided for the needs of others.

1. John 6:1-14 - Jesus feeding the 5,000 with five loaves and two fishes.

2. Matthew 14:13-21 - Jesus feeding the 4,000 with seven loaves and a few small fishes.

Mark 8:21 And he said unto them, How is it that ye do not understand?

Jesus asks his disciples why they do not understand.

1: We must understand God's Word in order to live a life filled with obedience and faith.

2: The Lord is always willing to guide us in our understanding of His Word.

1: Isaiah 40:28-31 - Hast thou not known? hast thou not heard, that the everlasting God, the LORD, the Creator of the ends of the earth, fainteth not, neither is weary? there is no searching of his understanding.

2: John 16:12-15 - I have yet many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now. Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come.

Mark 8:22 And he cometh to Bethsaida; and they bring a blind man unto him, and besought him to touch him.

The blind man was brought to Jesus in Bethsaida and asked to be healed.

1: We can turn to Jesus for healing, even in our darkest moments.

2: Jesus has the power to heal even our most difficult afflictions.

1: Isaiah 41:10 ?□ear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.??

2: James 5:14-15 ?□s anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer of faith will save the one who is sick, and the Lord will raise him up.??

Mark 8:23 And he took the blind man by the hand, and led him out of the town; and when he had spit on his eyes, and put his hands upon him, he asked him if he saw ought.

Jesus took a blind man by the hand and led him out of the town. He then spat on the man's eyes and put his hands upon him, asking if he saw anything.

1. The Power of Jesus to Heal: Examining the Miracles of Jesus in Mark 8

2. Jesus Cares for the Blind: A Study of Jesus' Compassion for the Marginalized in Mark 8

1. Isaiah 35:5-6 - Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped. Then shall the lame man leap as an hart, and the tongue of the dumb sing: for in the wilderness shall waters break out, and streams in the desert.

2. Matthew 10:8 - Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out devils: freely ye have received, freely give.

Mark 8:24 And he looked up, and said, I see men as trees, walking.

The disciples of Jesus witness him looking up and saying he can see men like trees walking.

1. Walking in Faith: Understanding What it Means to Follow Jesus

2. Don't Lose Sight of What Matters: Reflections on Seeing with Spiritual Eyes

1. Ephesians 5:15-17 - "Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, making the best use of the time, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is."

2. Isaiah 6:9-10 - "And he said, ?□o, and say to this people: ?□□□eep on hearing, but do not understand; keep on seeing, but do not perceive.??Make the heart of this people dull, and their ears heavy, and blind their eyes; lest they see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and understand with their hearts, and turn and be healed.??

Mark 8:25 After that he put his hands again upon his eyes, and made him look up: and he was restored, and saw every man clearly.

Jesus healed a man of his blindness.

1. Jesus is the ultimate source of our healing and restoration.

2. We can trust God to bring us clarity and understanding.

1. Psalm 147:3 "He healeth the broken in heart, and bindeth up their wounds."

2. Isaiah 61:1 "The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me; because the LORD hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; he hath sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound."

Mark 8:26 And he sent him away to his house, saying, Neither go into the town, nor tell it to any in the town.

Jesus sent a man away to his house with instructions not to go into the town or tell anyone about his healing.

1. Jesus Calls Us to Share His Love: The Power of Witnessing for Christ

2. How to Live a Life of Obedience to Jesus

1. Matthew 10:27 - "Whatever I tell you in the dark, speak in the light; and what you hear in the ear, preach on the housetops."

2. John 5:19-20 - "Then Jesus answered and said to them, 'Most assuredly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of Himself, but what He sees the Father do; for whatever He does, the Son also does in like manner. For the Father loves the Son, and shows Him all things that He Himself does; and He will show Him greater works than these, that you may marvel.'"

Mark 8:27 And Jesus went out, and his disciples, into the towns of Caesarea Philippi: and by the way he asked his disciples, saying unto them, Whom do men say that I am?

Jesus asked his disciples who people think he is.

1. Who Is Jesus?

2. Understanding the Nature of Jesus

1. John 8:58 - Jesus said to them, ?□ruly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I am.??

2. Colossians 1:15-17 - He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities?□ll things were created through him and for him. And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together.

Mark 8:28 And they answered, John the Baptist: but some say, Elias; and others, One of the prophets.

This passage reveals that the people were unsure which prophet Jesus was referring to when He asked, "Whom do men say that I am?". Some people responded with John the Baptist, while others said Elias, and still others said one of the prophets.

1. The Power of Perception: How We See Jesus

2. Who Do You Say That I Am?

1. John 5:39 - Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me.

2. Matthew 16:15-16 - He saith unto them, But whom say ye that I am? And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God.

Mark 8:29 And he saith unto them, But whom say ye that I am? And Peter answereth and saith unto him, Thou art the Christ.

Jesus asked his disciples who they thought he was and Peter answered that Jesus was the Christ.

1. The Power of Belief: How Peter's Faith Shaped Christianity

2. The Importance of Knowing Jesus: Understanding Who Jesus is and What He Means to Us

1. Isaiah 9:6-7 - For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.

2. John 1:41-42 - He first findeth his own brother Simon, and saith unto him, We have found the Messias, which is, being interpreted, the Christ.

Mark 8:30 And he charged them that they should tell no man of him.

This passage from Mark 8:30 tells us that Jesus commanded his followers to keep his identity a secret.

1: Keeping God's secrets: the power of discretion

2: Revealing God's secrets: the courage of faith

1: Proverbs 11:13 - A gossip betrays a confidence, but a trustworthy man keeps a secret.

2: 1 Corinthians 4:2 - Now it is required that those who have been given a trust must prove faithful.

Mark 8:31 And he began to teach them, that the Son of man must suffer many things, and be rejected of the elders, and of the chief priests, and scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again.

He taught them that the Son of Man must suffer and be rejected before rising again after three days.

1: Jesus' Suffering and Rejection - how it helps us understand the importance of God's grace.

2: The Triumph of Jesus - celebrating the victory of Jesus' resurrection.

1: Isaiah 53:5-6 - "But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed. We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to our own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all."

2: Romans 14:8-9 - "For if we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord. So then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord?. For to this end Christ died and lived again, that he might be Lord both of the dead and of the living."

Mark 8:32 And he spake that saying openly. And Peter took him, and began to rebuke him.

Jesus openly declared that he would suffer and die and Peter rebuked him for it.

1: Jesus willingly accepted suffering and death for our salvation

2: We must strive to accept God's plan even if it challenges us

1: Isaiah 53:4-6 - "Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his stripes we are healed."

2: Philippians 2:8 - "And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross."

Mark 8:33 But when he had turned about and looked on his disciples, he rebuked Peter, saying, Get thee behind me, Satan: for thou savourest not the things that be of God, but the things that be of men.

Jesus rebuked Peter for not understanding the ways of God but instead following the

ways of men.

1. Knowing the Difference Between God's Ways and Man's Ways

2. The Power of Rebuke in Following God's Ways

1. Matthew 7:13-14 - ?□nter by the narrow gate. For the gate is wide and the way is easy that leads to destruction, and those who enter by it are many. For the gate is narrow and the way is hard that leads to life, and those who find it are few.??

2. Matthew 6:24 - ?□o one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money.??

Mark 8:34 And when he had called the people unto him with his disciples also, he said unto them, Whosoever will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.

Jesus encourages us to deny ourselves and take up our crosses in order to follow him.

1. Putting Ourselves Before God: What We Need to Deny to Follow Jesus

2. Radical Love: Taking Up Our Crosses and Following Jesus

1. Matthew 16:24-26 - "Then Jesus said to his disciples, "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me."

2. Luke 9:23-25 - "Then he said to them all: ?□hoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me."

Mark 8:35 For whosoever will save his life shall lose it; but whosoever shall lose his life for my sake and the gospel's, the same shall save it.

Jesus encourages his followers to be willing to sacrifice their own lives in order to save it in the long run.

1. "Living for Jesus: The True Path to Eternal Life"

2. "The Cost of Following Christ: The Ultimate Sacrifice"

1. Romans 8:35-39 - "Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?"

2. Matthew 10:39 - "He that findeth his life shall lose it: and he that loseth his life for my sake shall find it."

Mark 8:36 For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?

The passage is a warning from Jesus that worldly success is not worth the cost of one's soul.

1. The Cost of Worldly Success: Examining the Warning of Mark 8:36

2. What Matters Most: Understanding the Value of Your Soul in Light of Mark 8:36

1. Matthew 16:26 - "For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?"

2. Ecclesiastes 1:2 - "Vanity of vanities, saith the Preacher, vanity of vanities; all is vanity."

Mark 8:37 Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?

The passage speaks on the importance of one's soul and the question of what one has to offer in exchange for it.

1. The Value of the Soul: How to Care for Your Most Precious Possession

2. The Price of Redemption: What Must We Give in Exchange for Our Souls?

1. Matthew 16:26 - "For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul?"

2. Proverbs 11:4 - "Riches do not profit in the day of wrath, but righteousness delivers from death."

Mark 8:38 Whosoever therefore shall be ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation; of him also shall the Son of man be ashamed, when he cometh in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.

The Son of Man will be ashamed of those who are ashamed of Him and His words in this sinful generation.

1: Knowing our identity in Christ and standing firm in it.

2: Not being ashamed of the gospel but boldly proclaiming it.

1: 1 John 4:17 - "Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness in the day of judgment; because as He is, so are we in this world."

2: Ephesians 6:19-20 - "And for me, that utterance may be given unto me, that I may open my mouth boldly, to make known the mystery of the gospel, For which I am an ambassador in bonds: that therein I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak."

Mark 9 recounts several key events including the Transfiguration of Jesus, the healing of a boy possessed by an impure spirit, Jesus predicting His death and resurrection again, teaching about who is greatest in the Kingdom of God and warning against causing others to sin.

1st Paragraph: The chapter begins with Jesus taking Peter, James and John up a high mountain where they witness His transfiguration. They see His clothes become dazzling white and Elijah and Moses appear talking with Him. Peter suggests building three shelters for each but as he speaks cloud appears covers them voice comes from cloud saying "This is my Son whom I love. Listen to him!" Suddenly when they look around they no longer see anyone with them except Jesus (Mark 9:2-8). As they come down mountain He orders not tell anyone what have seen until Son Man has risen dead (Mark 9:9-10).

2nd Paragraph: When they rejoin other disciples find them arguing with teachers law large crowd around them people run greet Him asks what arguing about man crowd explains brought son possessed spirit makes him mute whenever it seizes him throws him ground foams mouth gnashes teeth becomes rigid asked disciples drive out spirit but could not do so (Mark 9:14-18). After rebuking faithless generation commands bring boy him when spirit sees Jesus immediately throws boy into convulsion falls ground rolls around foaming mouth asks father how long has been like this father replies since

childhood begs if can do anything take pity help us to which Jesus responds "If you can? Everything is possible for one who believes" father exclaims "I do believe; help me overcome my unbelief!" Seeing crowd running scene rebukes impure spirit saying "You deaf mute spirit I command you come out this boy never enter him again" Spirit shrieks convulses violently comes out boy looks so much like corpse many say he's dead but Jesus takes him by hand lifts up he gets up (Mark 9:19-27). Later privately house disciples ask why couldn't drive it out He replies kind only come out prayer (or some manuscripts include fasting) (Mark 9:28-29).

3rd Paragraph: As continue journey through Galilee tries keep movements secret while teaching disciples predicting death resurrection third day but did not understand were afraid ask Him about it (Mark 9:30-32). When reach Capernaum house asks what were arguing about way confess were disputing who greatest sits down calls Twelve says whoever wants be first must be very last servant all then takes little child places among them taking child arms says whoever welcomes one these little children my name welcomes me whoever welcomes me does not welcome me but one who sent me adding anyone does miracle my name cannot soon after say anything bad about me for whoever not against us us also warns if anyone causes one these little ones believe stumble better for them large millstone hung around neck thrown sea concludes saying everyone will be salted fire salt good if loses saltiness how can make salty again have salt among yourselves peace each other demonstrating importance humility service kingdom God warning severity consequences leading others into sin importance preserving goodness purity represented by salt within community believers (Mark 9:33-50).

Mark 9:1 And he said unto them, Verily I say unto you, That there be some of them that stand here, which shall not taste of death, till they have seen the kingdom of God come with power.

Jesus foretells the coming of the Kingdom of God with power.

1. The Power of the Kingdom of God

2. Experiencing the Kingdom of God Now

Cross-

1. Acts 1:6-8 - Waiting for the promise of the Father

2. Daniel 2:44-45 - The Kingdom of God will come and never be destroyed

Mark 9:2 And after six days Jesus taketh with him Peter, and James, and John, and

leadeth them up into an high mountain apart by themselves: and he was transfigured before them.

Jesus took three of his disciples to a mountain and was transfigured before them.

1: God will do extraordinary things when He reveals Himself to us.

2: Seek out God in places where you can be alone with Him.

1: Matthew 17:1-8 - Jesus takes Peter, James, and John up a mountain and is transfigured before them.

2: 2 Corinthians 3:18 - We, with unveiled faces, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another.

Mark 9:3 And his raiment became shining, exceeding white as snow; so as no fuller on earth can white them.

Jesus' appearance was bright and white, far surpassing anything on earth.

1. The Transfiguration: God Reveals the Glory of Jesus

2. Seeing Beyond the Ordinary: Transcending the Mundane

1. 2 Corinthians 3:18 - And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another.

2. Matthew 17:1-8 - And after six days Jesus took with him Peter and James, and John his brother, and led them up a high mountain by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became white as light.

Mark 9:4 And there appeared unto them Elias with Moses: and they were talking with Jesus.

Moses and Elijah appeared to Jesus and the disciples and were speaking with Him.

1. The Importance of Having a Conversation with God

2. The Significance of Having Prophets Speak to Us

1. John 15:7 (?If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.??

2. Exodus 33:11 (?The Lord would speak to Moses face to face, as a man speaks to his friend.??

Mark 9:5 And Peter answered and said to Jesus, Master, it is good for us to be here: and let us make three tabernacles; one for thee, and one for Moses, and one for Elias.

Peter recognizes the importance of the moment and expresses his desire to stay in this special place.

1: Take time to recognize the special moments in life and express gratitude for them.

2: Cherish the moments of grace and be thankful for them.

1: Psalm 118:24 ?This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.??

2: Ephesians 5:20 ?giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.??

Mark 9:6 For he wist not what to say; for they were sore afraid.

This passage highlights the disciples' fear when they were with Jesus on the mountain and how they did not know what to say.

1: Fear can be paralyzing, but Jesus is always with us and will guide us through it.

2: Even when we don't know what to say and are afraid, God is still with us and will provide strength.

1: Isaiah 41:10 - "Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will

strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand."

2: Psalm 56:3-4 - "When I am afraid, I put my trust in you. In God, whose word I praise, in God I trust; I shall not be afraid. What can flesh do to me?"

Mark 9:7 And there was a cloud that overshadowed them: and a voice came out of the cloud, saying, This is my beloved Son: hear him.

This passage is about Jesus being transfigured, and a voice coming out of a cloud declaring him to be God's beloved Son.

1. The Transfiguration: A Sign of Jesus??Divinity

2. The Voice from Heaven: Hear Him and Obey

1. Matthew 17:5-6 - ?□hile he was still speaking, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them, and a voice from the cloud said, ?□his is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him.??

2. 2 Peter 1:17 - ?□or when He received honor and glory from God the Father, such an voice was borne to Him by the Majestic Glory: ?□his is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.??

Mark 9:8 And suddenly, when they had looked round about, they saw no man any more, save Jesus only with themselves.

The disciples of Jesus look around and find that only Jesus is present.

1. Relying on Jesus Alone - God is the only one who can meet our needs and provide for us.

2. Abiding in Jesus - When we stay in the presence of Jesus, He will be our Guide and Guardian.

1. Psalm 91:1-2 He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will abide in the shadow of the Almighty.

2. Deuteronomy 31:6 Be strong and courageous. Do not fear or be in dread of them, for it

is the Lord your God who goes with you. He will not leave you or forsake you.

Mark 9:9 And as they came down from the mountain, he charged them that they should tell no man what things they had seen, till the Son of man were risen from the dead.

Jesus instructs his disciples to keep his miracles a secret until he is resurrected.

1. The Power of Faith: Jesus' miracles demonstrate the power of faith and trust in God.

2. The Importance of Patience: Jesus teaches the importance of being patient and waiting on God's timing.

1. Matthew 17:9 - And as they were coming down the mountain, Jesus commanded them, ?ell no one the vision, until the Son of Man is raised from the dead.??

2. Acts 1:3 - After his suffering, he presented himself to them and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God.

Mark 9:10 And they kept that saying with themselves, questioning one with another what the rising from the dead should mean.

The disciples of Jesus were uncertain of what the rising from the dead meant.

1. The Power of Hope: Finding Strength in Faith

2. Overcoming Fear Through Faith

1. Romans 10:9 - "If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved."

2. Ephesians 2:4-5 - "But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ."

Mark 9:11 And they asked him, saying, Why say the scribes that Elias must first come?

Jesus teaches about the coming of Elias before the Messiah.

1. Jesus as the Messiah: The Importance of Understanding the Coming of Elias.

2. The Significance of the Coming of Elias: Preparing for Jesus as the Messiah.

1. Malachi 4:5-6 - "Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord."

2. Luke 1:17 - "And he shall go before him in the spirit and power of Elias, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just; to make ready a people prepared for the Lord."

Mark 9:12 And he answered and told them, Elias verily cometh first, and restoreth all things; and how it is written of the Son of man, that he must suffer many things, and be set at nought.

Jesus explains that Elijah will come before him and restore all things, and that he must suffer many things as written of the Son of man.

1. "The Suffering of the Son of Man"

2. "The Coming of Elijah"

1. Isaiah 53:3-5 "He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not. Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed."

2. Malachi 4:5-6 "Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord: And he shall turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers, lest I come and smite the earth with a curse."

Mark 9:13 But I say unto you, That Elias is indeed come, and they have done unto him whatsoever they listed, as it is written of him.

Elias has come and the prophecies surrounding him have been fulfilled.

1: We must remain faithful to God's Word, even when it appears He has not kept His promise.

2: We must trust that God's Word will be fulfilled in His time, no matter what we see around us.

1: Romans 4:17-21 - God's promises come true when we believe even when it doesn't make sense.

2: Matthew 24:35 - Heaven and earth may pass away but God's Word will never pass away.

Mark 9:14 And when he came to his disciples, he saw a great multitude about them, and the scribes questioning with them.

Jesus arrived to find his disciples surrounded by a large crowd of people while the scribes were questioning them.

1. Jesus Arrives in a Crisis: How to Respond in Faith

2. Standing Up for What You Believe: The Disciples' Example

1. Matthew 16:24-25 - "Then Jesus said to His disciples, 'If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it.'??

2. John 16:33 - "These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.??

Mark 9:15 And straightway all the people, when they beheld him, were greatly amazed, and running to him saluted him.

The people were amazed when they saw Jesus and ran to greet him.

1. "The Power of Jesus, Even in the Face of Uncertainty"

2. "Jesus is Worthy of Our Praise"

1. John 4:25-26 - ?□he woman said to him, ?□ know that Messiah is coming (he who is called Christ). When he comes, he will tell us all things.??Jesus said to her, ?□ who speak to you am he.?□□?

2. Luke 8:48 - ?□nd he said to her, ?□aughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace.?□□?

Mark 9:16 And he asked the scribes, What question ye with them?

The scribes asked Jesus a question.

1: We must always be ready to ask Jesus questions.

2: We must be willing to seek wisdom from Jesus.

1: James 1:5 - ?□f any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him.??

2: Psalm 27:8 - ?□y heart says of you, ?□eek his face!??Your face, Lord, do I seek.??

Mark 9:17 And one of the multitude answered and said, Master, I have brought unto thee my son, which hath a dumb spirit;

A father brings his son, who has a dumb spirit, to Jesus for healing.

1. The Power of Faith: How Jesus Can Heal Our Struggles

2. Relying on God: Trusting in the Lord for Miracles

1. Matthew 17:15-20 - Jesus??healing of a boy with a demon

2. Luke 8:26-39 - Jesus??calming of a storm and healing of a demon-possessed man

Mark 9:18 And wheresoever he taketh him, he teareth him: and he foameth, and gnasheth with his teeth, and pineth away: and I spake to thy disciples that they should cast him out; and they could not.

Jesus' disciples were unable to cast out a demon from a person, so Jesus intervened and cast the demon out himself.

1. We can trust in Jesus when we face difficulties beyond our own power.

2. We must rely on our faith and the power of Jesus to overcome obstacles.

1. Matthew 17:18-20 - Jesus acknowledges the disciples' inability to cast out the demon and explains that it is due to their lack of faith.

2. Hebrews 4:15-16 - Jesus is a compassionate High Priest who understands our weaknesses and intercedes on our behalf.

Mark 9:19 He answereth him, and saith, O faithless generation, how long shall I be with you? how long shall I suffer you? bring him unto me.

Jesus expresses his frustrations with the faithless generation he is preaching to, and tells them to bring the child with the unclean spirit to him.

1. The faithless generation: why the lack of faith amongst us?

2. The power of Jesus: why we should bring our burdens to him.

1. Matthew 17:14-20 - Jesus' conversation with the disciples about faith.

2. Hebrews 11:1 - "Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen."

Mark 9:20 And they brought him unto him: and when he saw him, straightway the spirit tare him; and he fell on the ground, and wallowed foaming.

The boy was brought to Jesus, and when He saw him the spirit immediately attacked him

and he fell on the ground and foamed.

1. The Power of God Over Demonic Activity

2. The Miraculous Nature of Jesus' Ministry

1. Matthew 8:16 - When evening came, many who were demon-possessed were brought to Jesus, and He drove out the spirits with a word.

2. Luke 4:35 - Jesus rebuked the demon, and it came out of the man, and he was healed from that moment.

Mark 9:21 And he asked his father, How long is it ago since this came unto him? And he said, Of a child.

A father asked Jesus how long his son had been suffering from a condition, to which the father replied that it had been since he was a child.

1. The Power of Faith: How Jesus Heals the Sick

2. The Blessings of Patience: Relying on God in Times of Trouble

1. Matthew 17:20 - For truly, I say to you, if you have faith like a grain of mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, ?□ove from here to there,??and it will move, and nothing will be impossible for you.

2. James 5:7-11 - Be patient, therefore, brothers, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient about it, until it receives the early and the late rains. You also, be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand. Do not grumble against one another, brothers, so that you may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing at the door. As an example of suffering and patience, brothers, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. Behold, we consider those blessed who remained steadfast. You have heard of the steadfastness of Job, and you have seen the purpose of the Lord, how the Lord is compassionate and merciful.

Mark 9:22 And ofttimes it hath cast him into the fire, and into the waters, to destroy him: but if thou canst do any thing, have compassion on us, and help us.

This passage tells the story of a father who is asking Jesus to help his son who is possessed by an evil spirit.

1. God's Compassion and Power: Learning to Trust in the Lord's Strength

2. Overcoming Adversity: Finding Hope in Times of Difficulty

1. Isaiah 41:10 - "Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand."

2. Romans 8:28 - "And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose."

Mark 9:23 Jesus said unto him, If thou canst believe, all things are possible to him that believeth.

The power of faith and belief in Jesus Christ can work wonders.

1: Faith in Jesus is the key to unlocking all possibilities.

2: Believe in Jesus and you will be able to achieve anything.

1: Hebrews 11:1 - "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen."

2: John 14:12-14 - "Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father. And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If ye shall ask any thing in my name, I will do it."

Mark 9:24 And straightway the father of the child cried out, and said with tears, Lord, I believe; help thou mine unbelief.

The father of the child in Mark 9:24 expresses his faith and asks for help in his unbelief.

1. Trust in God: The Father's Cry for Help

2. Knowing the Difference between Faith and Unbelief

1. Romans 10:17 - So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.

2. James 1:2-4 - Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

Mark 9:25 When Jesus saw that the people came running together, he rebuked the foul spirit, saying unto him, Thou dumb and deaf spirit, I charge thee, come out of him, and enter no more into him.

Jesus saw a crowd of people and rebuked a foul spirit, commanding it to leave the man and never return.

1. The Power of Christ: How Jesus Overcame the Powers of Darkness

2. The Authority of Jesus: Claiming Our Victory Through Him

1. John 16:33 - "I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world.??

2. Colossians 2:15 - "And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross."

Mark 9:26 And the spirit cried, and rent him sore, and came out of him: and he was as one dead; insomuch that many said, He is dead.

Jesus cast out an evil spirit, causing the victim to be as if dead. Many believed he was dead.

1. The Power of Jesus Over Evil

2. Miracles of Healing

1. Luke 8:26-39 - Jesus heals a man possessed by many demons

2. Matthew 17:14-20 - Jesus heals a boy with an unclean spirit

Mark 9:27 But Jesus took him by the hand, and lifted him up; and he arose.

Jesus demonstrated his power and authority over death by resurrecting a dead child.

1: Jesus has the power and authority to overcome death and bring life to those who have died.

2: Jesus can heal even the most challenging of circumstances, and bring hope to the most hopeless.

1: John 11:25-26 - Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die."

2: Romans 6:9-10 - We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. For the death he died he died to sin, once for all, but the life he lives he lives to God.

Mark 9:28 And when he was come into the house, his disciples asked him privately, Why could not we cast him out?

The disciples of Jesus ask Jesus why they were not able to cast out a demon.

1. The Power of Faith: How to Overcome Challenges with Jesus

2. Don't Lose Hope: When Faced With Seemingly Impossible Tasks

1. Matthew 17:20 - He said to them, ?□ecause of your little faith. For truly, I say to you, if you have faith like a grain of mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, ?□ove from here to there,??and it will move, and nothing will be impossible for you.

2. Ephesians 6:10-18 - Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil.

Mark 9:29 And he said unto them, This kind can come forth by nothing, but by prayer and

fasting.

This verse emphasizes the importance of prayer and fasting in order to overcome difficult spiritual battles.

1. The Power of Prayer and Fasting: How to Overcome Spiritual Battles

2. The Necessity of Prayer and Fasting: The Key to Victory

1. James 5:16 ?□herefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.??

2. Matthew 6:16-18 ?□hen you fast, do not look somber as the hypocrites do, for they disfigure their faces to show others they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full. But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, so that it will not be obvious to others that you are fasting, but only to your Father, who is unseen; and your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.??

Mark 9:30 And they departed thence, and passed through Galilee; and he would not that any man should know it.

The disciples left from where they were and traveled through Galilee, and Jesus wanted no one to know about it.

1. The Power of Secrecy - The importance of being able to keep secrets, even when it may seem counter-intuitive.

2. The Value of Privacy - Understanding the importance of having time away from the public eye.

1. Proverbs 11:13 - "A gossip betrays a confidence, but a trustworthy person keeps a secret."

2. Matthew 6:1-4 - ?□eware of practicing your righteousness before other people in order to be seen by them, for then you will have no reward from your Father who is in heaven. Thus, when you give to the needy, sound no trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may be praised by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your giving may be in secret.??

Mark 9:31 For he taught his disciples, and said unto them, The Son of man is delivered into the hands of men, and they shall kill him; and after that he is killed, he shall rise the third day.

The Son of Man is to be delivered to men, killed, and then resurrected on the third day.

1: Jesus is our saviour and will rise again.

2: We must have faith in Jesus and his resurrection.

1: 1 Corinthians 15:3-4 - For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, and that he was buried, and that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures.

2: Colossians 2:12-13 - having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through your faith in the powerful working of God, who raised him from the dead. And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses.

Mark 9:32 But they understood not that saying, and were afraid to ask him.

The disciples were afraid to ask Jesus for clarification on his words.

1. God's Word is Powerful and Intentional - Don't be Afraid to Ask Questions

2. Fear Not: Jesus Reveals the Truth - Have the Courage to Seek Clarity

1. John 16:12-15 - Jesus speaks of the Holy Spirit guiding us in truth

2. Proverbs 1:5-7 - Wisdom from the Lord is what we need to seek out

Mark 9:33 And he came to Capernaum: and being in the house he asked them, What was it that ye disputed among yourselves by the way?

Jesus came to Capernaum and asked his disciples what they had been arguing about on their way there.

1. The Power of Listening: Learning from Jesus in Mark 9:33

2. Not an Afterthought: The Importance of Asking Questions in Mark 9:33

1. James 1:19, "Know this, my beloved brothers: let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger."

2. Luke 6:31, "And as you wish that others would do to you, do so to them."

Mark 9:34 But they held their peace: for by the way they had disputed among themselves, who should be the greatest.

The people of Jesus' disciples were arguing about who was the greatest among them.

1: As Christians, we should focus on loving and serving one another, not on being the greatest.

2: Jesus teaches us to demonstrate humility and serve others, not to compete for greatness.

1: Philippians 2:3-4: ?□o nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.??

2: Matthew 23:11-12: ?□he greatest among you will be your servant. For those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.??

Mark 9:35 And he sat down, and called the twelve, and saith unto them, If any man desire to be first, the same shall be last of all, and servant of all.

This passage emphasizes that if a person desires to be first then they should act as a servant to all and be last of all.

1: Jesus calls us to be humble and serve others, putting ourselves last.

2: We should strive to be humble and serve others as Jesus taught us in Mark 9:35.

1: Philippians 2:3-4 - Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.

2: James 4:10 - Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you.

Mark 9:36 And he took a child, and set him in the midst of them: and when he had taken him in his arms, he said unto them,

Jesus showed his disciples the importance of showing love and compassion to children.

1. ?he Power of Compassion: Jesus? Love for Children??

2. ?he Sacredness of Childhood: Jesus? Call to Love and Protect Children??

1. Matthew 18:1-6

2. 1 John 4:7-21

Mark 9:37 Whosoever shall receive one of such children in my name, receiveth me: and whosoever shall receive me, receiveth not me, but him that sent me.

This passage encourages us to be welcoming and generous to children in Jesus' name.

1. "The Heart of Welcome: Welcoming Children in Jesus' Name"

2. "The Joy of Generosity: Welcoming with Open Arms"

1. Matthew 18:5 ???hoever receives one such child in my name receives me.??

2. 1 John 4:20-21 ???f anyone says, ? love God?? and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen. And this commandment we have from him: whoever loves God must also love his brother.??

Mark 9:38 And John answered him, saying, Master, we saw one casting out devils in thy name, and he followeth not us: and we forbad him, because he followeth not us.

John defends his decision to prevent a person from casting out demons in Jesus' name because the person was not one of Jesus' disciples.

1. The Power of Following Jesus: Why it Matters

2. Perseverance in Faith: What it Means to Follow Jesus

1. Matthew 16:24 - "Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me."

2. Acts 5:12-16 - "And by the hands of the apostles were many signs and wonders wrought among the people; (and they were all with one accord in Solomon's porch. And of the rest durst no man join himself to them: but the people magnified them. And believers were the more added to the Lord, multitudes both of men and women. Insomuch that they brought forth the sick into the streets, and laid them on beds and couches, that at the least the shadow of Peter passing by might overshadow some of them. There came also a multitude out of the cities round about unto Jerusalem, bringing sick folks, and them which were vexed with unclean spirits: and they were healed every one."

Mark 9:39 But Jesus said, Forbid him not: for there is no man which shall do a miracle in my name, that can lightly speak evil of me.

Jesus teaches us to forgive and accept anyone who does something in His name, no matter how they speak of Him.

1. The Power of Forgiveness

2. The Miracle of Acceptance

1. Matthew 6:14-15 "For if you forgive other people when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive others their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins."

2. Colossians 3:13 "Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you."

Mark 9:40 For he that is not against us is on our part.

Jesus encourages his followers to accept anyone who is not against them, as they are on their side.

1. "On God's Side: Accepting and Welcoming All"

2. "The Power of Unity: Working Together with Those Who Are Not Against Us"

1. Romans 12:18 - "If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone."

2. Philippians 2:3 - "Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves."

Mark 9:41 For whosoever shall give you a cup of water to drink in my name, because ye belong to Christ, verily I say unto you, he shall not lose his reward.

This passage emphasizes the importance of showing hospitality and kindness to those who belong to Christ; anyone who does so will receive a reward.

1. The Reward of Kindness: How Hospitality is Rewarded in Christ

2. The Power of a Cup of Water: How Small Acts of Kindness Can Make a Big Impact

1. Matthew 10:42 - "And whosoever shall give to drink unto one of these little ones a cup of cold water only in the name of a disciple, verily I say unto you, he shall in no wise lose his reward."

2. Hebrews 13:2 - "Be not forgetful to entertain strangers: for thereby some have entertained angels unawares."

Mark 9:42 And whosoever shall offend one of these little ones that believe in me, it is better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and he were cast into the sea.

This passage speaks of the importance of protecting and taking care of children, warning that those who harm them will be severely punished.

1. The Power of Protection: Keeping Our Children Safe

2. The Warning: Heeding the Words of Jesus

1. Proverbs 22:6 - Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old they will not turn from it.

2. Matthew 18:6 - ?□f anyone causes one of these little ones?□hose who believe in me?□o stumble, it would be better for them to have a large millstone hung around their neck and to be drowned in the depths of the sea.

Mark 9:43 And if thy hand offend thee, cut it off: it is better for thee to enter into life maimed, than having two hands to go into hell, into the fire that never shall be quenched:

The importance of avoiding sin is stressed in Mark 9:43; it is better to enter life maimed than to go to hell.

1. The Warning of Mark 9:43: The Better Way is to Avoid Sin.

2. Maimed but Saved: Learning from Mark 9:43.

1. Matthew 5:29-30: ?□f your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body be thrown into hell. And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body go into hell.??

2. Ephesians 5:3-7: ?□ut sexual immorality and all impurity or covetousness must not even be named among you, as is proper among saints. Let there be no filthiness nor foolish talk nor crude joking, which are out of place, but instead let there be thanksgiving. For you may be sure of this, that everyone who is sexually immoral or impure, or who is covetous (that is, an idolater), has no inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God. Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience. Therefore do not become partners with them.??

Mark 9:44 Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched.

This verse speaks of the eternal punishment awaiting those who reject God and His Word.

1: Hell is Real: The Destructive Consequences of Disobedience

2: The Eternal Hope of Heaven: The Reward of Obedience

1: Matthew 25:41, "Then He will also say to those on the left, 'Depart from Me, you accursed, into the eternal fire which has been prepared for the devil and his angels.'"

2: Revelation 20:14-15, "Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire. And if anyone? name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire."

Mark 9:45 And if thy foot offend thee, cut it off: it is better for thee to enter halt into life, than having two feet to be cast into hell, into the fire that never shall be quenched:

The importance of avoiding sinful behavior is highlighted, as it is better to lose something in this life than to go to Hell.

1. The Cost of Sin: Losing Something in This Life is Better than Going to Hell

2. The Choice Between Righteousness and Sin: Is it Worth the Risk?

1. Matthew 5:29-30 - "If your right eye causes you to sin, gouge it out and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to be thrown into hell. And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to go into hell."

2. Hebrews 12:1-2 - "Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God."

Mark 9:46 Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched.

This passage speaks of the unending torment of hell.

1: We must take heed to avoid the fires of hell by living holy lives.

2: We must take comfort in the promise of eternal life in Heaven.

1: John 3:16-17 - For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

2: Matthew 25:41 - Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels.'

Mark 9:47 And if thine eye offend thee, pluck it out: it is better for thee to enter into the kingdom of God with one eye, than having two eyes to be cast into hell fire:

It is better to be humble and accept God's will than to be proud and suffer the consequences.

1. The Cost of Pride: Striving for Humble Obedience.

2. Overcoming Temptation Through Trust in God.

1. Proverbs 16:18-19 - "Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall. Better to be of a lowly spirit with the poor than to divide the spoil with the proud."

2. Philippians 2:5-8 - "Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross."

Mark 9:48 Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched.

This verse speaks of the unending punishment of those who have rejected God's mercy.

1: The Unending Consequences of Rejecting God's Mercy

2: The Everlasting Nature of God's Judgment

1: Matthew 25:46 - "And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

2: Daniel 12:2 - "And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt."

Mark 9:49 For every one shall be salted with fire, and every sacrifice shall be salted with salt.

Every action done for God will be tested with fire and must be done with sincerity.

1: We must be sincere in our actions and offer them to God with an open and humble heart.

2: We must be willing to accept the trials and tests of fire that come with our actions for God.

1: James 1:2-4 - Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.

2: 1 Peter 1:6-7 - In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. These have come so that the proven genuineness of your faith?□f greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire?□ay result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed.

Mark 9:50 Salt is good: but if the salt have lost his saltness, wherewith will ye season it? Have salt in yourselves, and have peace one with another.

Salt is a metaphor for a Christian's relationship with others, and one should strive for peace with all.

1: The importance of having salt in our relationships and how to strive for peace with all.

2: The power of salt to season our lives and its necessity for strong relationships.

1: Colossians 4:6 - Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person.

2: Matthew 5:13-16 - ?ou are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled under people? feet. ?ou are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.

Mark 10 recounts several key events including teachings on divorce, blessing of the little children, encounter with a rich young man, Jesus predicting His death and resurrection for the third time, request by James and John for positions of honor in the Kingdom, healing of blind Bartimaeus.

1st Paragraph: The chapter begins with Pharisees testing Jesus by asking if it is lawful for a man to divorce his wife. He responds by asking what Moses commanded them. They reply that Moses permitted writing certificate divorce sending her away but He says this was because hardness hearts goes back creation order saying "But at beginning creation God 'made them male female' 'For this reason man will leave his father mother be united to his wife two will become one flesh.' So they are no longer two but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together let no one separate" (Mark 10:1-9). When back house disciples ask again about this says anyone divorces wife marries another woman commits adultery against her if she divorces husband marries another man she commits adultery (Mark 10:10-12).

2nd Paragraph: People were bringing little children to Him have Him touch them disciples rebuked them seeing this Jesus indignant said "Let little children come me do not hinder them for kingdom God belongs such as these. Truly I tell you anyone does not receive kingdom God like little child will never enter it" takes children in His arms places His hands on them blesses them (Mark 10:13-16). Then a rich young man comes asks what must do inherit eternal life after confirming he has kept commandments since youth Jesus looking at him loved him said "One thing you lack go sell everything you have give poor you will have treasure heaven then come follow me" at this man's face fell went away sad he had great wealth. Jesus then comments how hard it is for rich enter kingdom God easier camel go through eye needle than rich person enter kingdom God disciples amazed ask who can be saved replies "With man this impossible but not with God all things are possible with God" Peter reminds left everything follow Him assures no one who has left home brothers sisters mother father children fields sake gospel fail receive hundred times much present age homes brothers sisters mothers children fields along persecutions eternal life age come many who are first will be last last first (Mark 10:17-31).

3rd Paragraph: On way up Jerusalem takes Twelve aside way tells third time going happen Him how Son Man delivered over chief priests teachers law condemn death hand over Gentiles mock spit flog crucify three days later rise (Mark 10:32-34). Then James John Zebedee sons came asked grant sit right left glory but He said did not know what were asking could drink cup planned drink baptized baptism planned baptized affirm

could would granted those whom prepared Father rest Ten heard became indignant two brothers calls sit down says whoever wants become great among must be servant whoever wants be first slave just as Son Man did not come served serve give life ransom many blind Bartimaeus sitting roadside hears passing shouts "Jesus Son David mercy me!" Many rebuke him tell him quiet but shouts all more same words stops calls him throws cloak aside jumps up comes Jesus asks what wants do for him replies "Rabbi I want see" tells him go faith healed immediately receives sight follows way demonstrating power restore physically spiritually those who recognize need Him approach faith (Mark 10:35-52).

Mark 10:1 And he arose from thence, and cometh into the coasts of Judaea by the farther side of Jordan: and the people resort unto him again; and, as he was wont, he taught them again.

Jesus arose and returned to the coasts of Judea across the Jordan River, and the people gathered around him to listen to his teaching.

1. The Power of Jesus' Teaching: How Jesus Used His Words to Impact Lives

2. The Importance of Gathering Around Jesus: How We Can Benefit from Jesus' Presence

1. Isaiah 55:11 - “So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it.”

2. Matthew 7:28-29 - “And it came to pass, when Jesus had ended these sayings, the people were astonished at his doctrine: For he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes.”

Mark 10:2 And the Pharisees came to him, and asked him, Is it lawful for a man to put away his wife? tempting him.

The Pharisees asked Jesus if it was lawful for a man to divorce his wife, testing him.

1. The Power of Marriage: A Look at the Pharisees' Challenge to Jesus

2. The Importance of Keeping God's Laws: Examining Jesus' Response to the Pharisees

1. Malachi 2:14-16 - The Lord's warning against divorce and the importance of covenant

2. Matthew 19:3-9 - Jesus' explanation of the permanence of marriage and the exception for divorce.

Mark 10:3 And he answered and said unto them, What did Moses command you?

The Pharisees asked Jesus what Moses commanded them.

1: Jesus is testing the Pharisees to see how well they understand God's Law.

2: Even when challenged, never forget God's word.

1: Deuteronomy 6:5 - Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength.

2: Romans 13:10 - Love does no harm to a neighbor. Therefore love is the fulfillment of the law.

Mark 10:4 And they said, Moses suffered to write a bill of divorcement, and to put her away.

The Pharisees came to Jesus and asked Him about divorce and He responded by citing the example of Moses allowing for a bill of divorcement.

1. God's Plan for Marriage - Understanding Divorce in Light of Scripture

2. Loving Your Spouse through Difficult Times - How to Handle Divorce Biblically

1. Malachi 2:16 - “For the Lord God of Israel says that He hates divorce.”

2. Romans 7:2-3 - “For the married woman is bound by law to her husband while he is living; but if her husband dies, she is released from the law of her husband. So then if, while her husband is living, she is joined to another man, she shall be called an adulteress; but if her husband dies, she is free from the law, so that she is no adulteress, though she is joined to another man.”

Mark 10:5 And Jesus answered and said unto them, For the hardness of your heart he wrote you this precept.

Jesus explains that the Mosaic law was written to account for the hardness of people's hearts.

1. Knowing the Reason Behind the Law - Exploring the deeper implications of why God gave us laws.

2. God's Grace & Redemption - Understanding the Lord's willingness to forgive our transgressions.

1. Romans 3:23-25 - For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.

2. Hebrews 10:16-18 - This is the covenant that I will make with them: I will put my laws on their hearts, and write them on their minds.

Mark 10:6 But from the beginning of the creation God made them male and female.

The passage emphasizes God's creation of humanity as male and female from the beginning of time.

1. The Beauty of God's Creation: Understanding the Importance of Male and Female Roles

2. The Sacredness of Marriage: Honoring God's Plan for Man and Woman

1. Genesis 1:27 - So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.

2. Ephesians 5:31-32 - “Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.” This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church.

Mark 10:7 For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and cleave to his wife;

A man is commanded to leave his father and mother and cleave to his wife.

1. The Call to Marriage: Leaving Family and Cleaving to Spouse

2. The Power of Love: Choosing a Partner for Life

1. Ephesians 5:31 – “Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.”

2. Genesis 2:24 – “Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.”

Mark 10:8 And they twain shall be one flesh: so then they are no more twain, but one flesh.

The passage emphasizes the unity and inseparability of marriage, stating that two become one flesh through marriage.

1: Marriage is a sacred union between two individuals, a union that creates a single, inseparable unit.

2: Marriage is a covenant between two individuals that unites them as one, and should be treasured as a sacred bond.

1: Ephesians 5:31 - "For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh."

2: Genesis 2:24 - "That is why a man leaves his father and mother and is united to his wife, and they become one flesh."

Mark 10:9 What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder.

God's marriage covenant is a sacred union which should not be broken.

1. Marriage is a Covenant, Not a Contract - A Study of Mark 10:9

2. God Honors His Covenants - The Importance of Marriage as a Bond

1. Malachi 2:14-16 - The Lord's Covenant of Faithfulness in Marriage

2. Ephesians 5:22-33 - Husbands and Wives Honor the Covenant of Marriage

Mark 10:10 And in the house his disciples asked him again of the same matter.

Jesus teaches on marriage and divorce.

1: Marriage is a sacred covenant and should be respected and honored.

2: God's grace and forgiveness is available for those who have experienced divorce.

1: Ephesians 5:22-33 - Wives, submit to your husbands as to the Lord.

2: Romans 12:9-10 - Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good.

Mark 10:11 And he saith unto them, Whosoever shall put away his wife, and marry another, committeth adultery against her.

Jesus teaches that divorce is wrong and those who divorce and remarry commit adultery.

1. God's Love for Marriage: Understanding the Consequences of Divorce

2. Remaining Faithful in Marriage: What Jesus Taught About Divorce

1. Malachi 2:16 - For the Lord God of Israel says that He hates divorce, for it covers one’s garment with violence, says the Lord of hosts. Therefore take heed to your spirit, that you do not deal treacherously.

2. 1 Corinthians 7:10-11 - To the married I give this command (not I, but the Lord): A wife must not separate from her husband. But if she does, she must remain unmarried or else be reconciled to her husband. And a husband must not divorce his wife.

Mark 10:12 And if a woman shall put away her husband, and be married to another, she committeth adultery.

This passage from Mark 10:12 explains that if a woman divorces her husband and marries another man, she is committing adultery.

1. The Faithfulness of Marriage: Examining the Unforgivable Sin of Adultery

2. The Value of Marriage: Guarding the Sanctity of the Union

1. Ephesians 5:21-33 - Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.

2. Hebrews 13:4 - Marriage should be honored by all, and the marriage bed kept pure, for God will judge the adulterer and all the sexually immoral.

Mark 10:13 And they brought young children to him, that he should touch them: and his disciples rebuked those that brought them.

Jesus welcomed the children and showed kindness towards them despite the disapproval of his disciples.

1. The Power of Kindness: Jesus' Example with the Children

2. Following Jesus' Example in Welcoming the Children

1. Matthew 19:14 - "But Jesus said, 'Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven.'"

2. Matthew 18:5 - "And whoever receives one such child in my name receives me."

Mark 10:14 But when Jesus saw it, he was much displeased, and said unto them, Suffer the little children to come unto me, and forbid them not: for of such is the kingdom of God.

Jesus showed displeasure at those who prevented children from coming to him, emphasizing that the kingdom of God consists of such people.

1. "The Importance of Letting Children Come to Jesus"

2. "Including Little Ones in the Kingdom of God"

1. Luke 18:15-17 - Jesus welcoming the children

2. Matthew 18:1-5 - Jesus teaching about the importance of humility in the kingdom of God

Mark 10:15 Verily I say unto you, Whosoever shall not receive the kingdom of God as a little child, he shall not enter therein.

This verse emphasizes the importance of humility and having faith in God like a child. 1. "Finding Humility in God's Kingdom" 2. "The Power of Faith in God's Kingdom"; 1. Matthew 18:3-4 - "And said, Verily I say unto you, Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven. 4Whosoever therefore shall humble himself as this little child, the same is greatest in the kingdom of heaven." 2. Luke 18:16-17 - "But Jesus called them unto him, and said, Suffer little children to come unto me, and forbid them not: for of such is the kingdom of God. 17Verily I say unto you, Whosoever shall not receive the kingdom of God as a little child shall in no wise enter therein."

Mark 10:16 And he took them up in his arms, put his hands upon them, and blessed them.

This passage describes Jesus taking two children, placing his hands on them, and blessing them.

1. The Power of Jesus' Blessing: How Jesus' Touch Transforms Lives

2. The Power of Jesus' Love: Reaching Out to Those in Need

1. Genesis 48:14-16 - Jacob's blessing of his grandchildren

2. John 4:4-42 - Jesus healing the Samaritan woman at the well

Mark 10:17 And when he was gone forth into the way, there came one running, and kneeled to him, and asked him, Good Master, what shall I do that I may inherit eternal life?

This passage tells the story of a man who asked Jesus what he must do to inherit eternal

life.

1. The Gift of Eternal Life: How to Receive and Cherish It

2. What Must We Do to Inherit Eternal Life?

1. John 3:16 - For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

2. Romans 6:23 - For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Mark 10:18 And Jesus said unto him, Why callest thou me good? there is none good but one, that is, God.

Jesus reminds the man that only God is good.

1: We are all sinners and only God is good.

2: In order to be saved, we must recognize that only God is good and turn to Him.

1: Romans 3:10-12 - There is none righteous, no, not one.

2: 1 John 1:8-10 - If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

Mark 10:19 Thou knowest the commandments, Do not commit adultery, Do not kill, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Defraud not, Honour thy father and mother.

The passage emphasizes the importance of following the Ten Commandments, specifically those concerning adultery, murder, theft, bearing false witness, defrauding, and honoring one's parents.

1. "Living a Life of Integrity: How to Honor the Ten Commandments"

2. "God's Law of Love: Abiding by the Ten Commandments"

1. Romans 13:8-10 - "Owe no one anything, except to love each other, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. For the commandments, “You shall not commit adultery, You shall not murder, You shall not steal, You shall not covet,” and any other commandment, are summed up in this word: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law."

2. Matthew 22:34-40 - "But when the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together. And one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. “Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?” And he said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets.”"

Mark 10:20 And he answered and said unto him, Master, all these have I observed from my youth.

The man in Mark 10:20 had faithfully kept God's commandments since he was young.

1. The Power of a Faithful Life

2. The Value of Obedience to God

1. Psalm 119:9-11 “Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? by taking heed thereto according to thy word. With my whole heart have I sought thee: O let me not wander from thy commandments. Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.”

2. Matthew 19:16-19 “And, behold, one came and said unto him, Good Master, what good thing shall I do, that I may have eternal life? And he said unto him, Why callest thou me good? there is none good but one, that is, God: but if thou wilt enter into life, keep the commandments. He saith unto him, Which? Jesus said, Thou shalt do no murder, Thou shalt not commit adultery, Thou shalt not steal, Thou shalt not bear false witness, Honour thy father and thy mother: and, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.”

Mark 10:21 Then Jesus beholding him loved him, and said unto him, One thing thou lackest: go thy way, sell whatsoever thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come, take up the cross, and follow me.

Jesus loves us and encourages us to use our possessions to help others.

1. God's Love for Us: The Power of Humility and Sacrifice

2. Following Jesus: Taking Up Our Cross and Serving Others

1. Matthew 25:35-40 - For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in.

2. Philippians 2:3-4 - Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.

Mark 10:22 And he was sad at that saying, and went away grieved: for he had great possessions.

The rich young man was deeply grieved when Jesus told him to give away his possessions.

1. Living with an Open Hand: How to Generously Give Away Possessions

2. The Cost of Discipleship: The Price of Following Jesus

1. Proverbs 3:9-10 - Honor the Lord with your possessions and with the firstfruits of all your increase.

2. Luke 12:15 - Take heed and beware of covetousness, for one’s life does not consist in the abundance of the things he possesses.

Mark 10:23 And Jesus looked round about, and saith unto his disciples, How hardly shall they that have riches enter into the kingdom of God!

Jesus warns that it is difficult for those with riches to enter the kingdom of God.

1. Wealth and the Kingdom of God: Finding the Right Balance

2. The Rich Man’s Dilemma: Seeking Eternal Life

1. Luke 12:15 - “And he said unto them, Take heed, and beware of covetousness: for a man’s life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth.”

2. 1 Timothy 6:17 - “Charge them that are rich in this world, that they be not highminded, nor trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy.”

Mark 10:24 And the disciples were astonished at his words. But Jesus answereth again, and saith unto them, Children, how hard is it for them that trust in riches to enter into the kingdom of God!

Jesus warned His disciples about the difficulty of those who trust in riches to enter into the Kingdom of God.

1. The Danger of Riches: Trusting in Money Over God

2. Putting Our Trust in God: The Need for Faith Over Wealth

1. Proverbs 11:28 - “Whoever trusts in his riches will fall, but the righteous will flourish like a green leaf.”

2. Matthew 6:24 - “No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money.”

Mark 10:25 It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle, than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God.

It is difficult for those with material wealth to enter the kingdom of God.

1: We must look beyond material wealth to find true happiness and joy in the kingdom of God.

2: The kingdom of God is open to all, regardless of one's financial status.

1: Matthew 19:23-24 - Jesus said to his disciples, “Truly I tell you, it is hard for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of heaven. Again I tell you, it is easier for a camel to go

through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God.”

2: James 2:5-7 - Listen, my dear brothers and sisters: Has not God chosen those who are poor in the eyes of the world to be rich in faith and to inherit the kingdom he promised those who love him? But you have dishonored the poor. Is it not the rich who are exploiting you? Are they not the ones who are dragging you into court? Are they not the ones who are blaspheming the noble name of him to whom you belong?

Mark 10:26 And they were astonished out of measure, saying among themselves, Who then can be saved?

The disciples were astonished to learn that it is difficult for the rich to enter the Kingdom of God.

1: God's Love for All - No matter how much wealth we possess, God's love for us remains unchanged.

2: The Challenge to Follow Jesus - We must be willing to surrender our wealth and possessions to the Lord if we are to follow Him.

1: Philippians 4:11-13 - Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content. I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound: every where and in all things I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need.

2: Luke 12:22-34 - Then He said unto His disciples, Therefore I say unto you, Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat; neither for the body, what ye shall put on. The life is more than meat, and the body is more than raiment. Consider the ravens: for they neither sow nor reap; which neither have storehouse nor barn; and God feedeth them: how much more are ye better than the fowls?

Mark 10:27 And Jesus looking upon them saith, With men it is impossible, but not with God: for with God all things are possible.

God can do anything, and nothing is impossible for him.

1: God is All-Powerful and Nothing is Beyond His Ability

2: Trusting in God's Limitless Power

1: Isaiah 40:28-29 - "Have you not known? Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable.

2: Psalm 115:3 - "Our God is in the heavens; he does all that he pleases."

Mark 10:28 Then Peter began to say unto him, Lo, we have left all, and have followed thee.

Peter acknowledges to Jesus that he and the other disciples have left everything behind to follow Him.

1. The Great Exchange: What We Leave Behind When We Follow Jesus

2. The Power of Faith: What We Gain When We Follow Jesus

1. Matthew 19:27-30 - The rich young man who could not follow Jesus despite leaving everything behind

2. Luke 5:11 - The story of the miraculous catch of fish, and Peter's recognition of Jesus as the Son of God

Mark 10:29 And Jesus answered and said, Verily I say unto you, There is no man that hath left house, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my sake, and the gospel's,

No one can give up anything for the sake of Jesus and the gospel.

1. Giving Up Things for the Sake of Jesus and the Gospel

2. The Power of Sacrifice for Jesus and the Gospel

1. Matthew 19:27-30 - The Rich Young Man

2. Hebrews 11:24-26 - Moses’ Choosing to Suffer Affliction with the People of God

Mark 10:30 But he shall receive an hundredfold now in this time, houses, and brethren, and sisters, and mothers, and children, and lands, with persecutions; and in the world to come eternal life.

Jesus promises those who follow Him a hundredfold reward in this life, including houses, siblings, mothers, children, and lands, as well as persecutions. In the afterlife, they will be rewarded with eternal life.

1. No matter what life throws at you, following Jesus will always lead you to eternity.

2. The Lord promises a hundredfold reward for those who follow Him: houses, siblings, mothers, children, lands, and persecutions.

1. Matthew 19:29 - "And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or lands, for my name's sake, will receive a hundredfold and will inherit eternal life."

2. Isaiah 55:11 - "So shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it."

Mark 10:31 But many that are first shall be last; and the last first.

This passage emphasizes that God's ways are different from the world's ways, as the first shall be last and the last first.

1. "The Unconventional Ways of God: Understanding How God Works"

2. "The Paradox of the Kingdom: Being Last and First at the Same Time"

1. Luke 13:30 - "And, behold, there are last which shall be first, and there are first which shall be last."

2. James 4:6 - "But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble."

Mark 10:32 And they were in the way going up to Jerusalem; and Jesus went before them:

and they were amazed; and as they followed, they were afraid. And he took again the twelve, and began to tell them what things should happen unto him,

The disciples were amazed and afraid as Jesus led them to Jerusalem and began to tell them of his coming fate.

1. Jesus boldly leads us into the unknown, trusting God's plan for our lives.

2. Even in the face of fear, we can choose to follow Jesus and trust His plan.

1. Deuteronomy 31:8 - "It is the Lord who goes before you. He will be with you; he will not leave you or forsake you. Do not fear or be dismayed."

2. Psalm 56:3 - "When I am afraid, I put my trust in you."

Mark 10:33 Saying, Behold, we go up to Jerusalem; and the Son of man shall be delivered unto the chief priests, and unto the scribes; and they shall condemn him to death, and shall deliver him to the Gentiles:

Jesus foretold his own suffering and death.

1: Jesus’ love and obedience to God’s will led him to suffer and die for the world’s salvation.

2: Jesus’ ultimate sacrifice shows us how to live our lives with courage and faith.

1: Isaiah 53:3-5 He is despised and rejected by men, A Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. And we hid, as it were, our faces from Him; He was despised, and we did not esteem Him.

2: Philippians 2:5-8 Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross.

Mark 10:34 And they shall mock him, and shall scourge him, and shall spit upon him, and shall kill him: and the third day he shall rise again.

Jesus is mocked, scourged, and killed, but he will rise again on the third day.

1: Jesus has overcome death and offers us hope through his resurrection.

2: Jesus endured suffering and pain so that we may have life and salvation.

1: 1 Corinthians 15:54-55 - “Death has been swallowed up in victory. Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?”

2: Romans 6:9-10 - “We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. For the death he died he died to sin, once for all, but the life he lives he lives to God.”

Mark 10:35 And James and John, the sons of Zebedee, come unto him, saying, Master, we would that thou shouldest do for us whatsoever we shall desire.

The sons of Zebedee, James and John, ask Jesus to do whatever they desire.

1. Jesus is willing to provide for our needs if we ask Him.

2. The power of prayer - James and John's example of asking Jesus for what we need.

1. Matthew 7:7-11 - Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you.

2. Philippians 4:19 - And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

Mark 10:36 And he said unto them, What would ye that I should do for you?

Jesus asked his disciples what they wanted him to do for them.

1. How can we learn to ask God for help in times of need?

2. What can we learn from Jesus' example of being willing to serve others?

1. Philippians 4:6-7 - "Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."

2. Matthew 20:28 - "Even as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

Mark 10:37 They said unto him, Grant unto us that we may sit, one on thy right hand, and the other on thy left hand, in thy glory.

Jesus teaches about humility and selflessness.

1: We must be willing to put aside our own desires in order to be obedient to God and serve others.

2: We should strive to be humble and kind, and put the needs of others before our own.

1: Philippians 2:3-4 - Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves.

2: James 4:10 - Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up.

Mark 10:38 But Jesus said unto them, Ye know not what ye ask: can ye drink of the cup that I drink of? and be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with?

Jesus questioned the disciples' understanding of what it meant to follow Him and challenged them to consider the difficult paths they may have to take.

1. The Call to Discipleship: Are You Ready to Follow Jesus?

2. Embracing the Cup of Suffering: What Does it Mean to Follow Jesus?

1. Philippians 1:29 - For it has been granted to you that for the sake of Christ you should not only believe in him but also suffer for his sake.

2. Matthew 16:24 - Then Jesus said to his disciples, “Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me.

Mark 10:39 And they said unto him, We can. And Jesus said unto them, Ye shall indeed drink of the cup that I drink of; and with the baptism that I am baptized withal shall ye be baptized:

Jesus tells his disciples that they will share the same sufferings and be baptized with the same baptism as him.

1: Jesus calls us to join him in the sufferings of life and in a life of baptism.

2: Jesus calls us to share in his cup and be baptized with him.

1: Romans 8:17, "and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ—if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together."

2: Matthew 28:19, "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit."

Mark 10:40 But to sit on my right hand and on my left hand is not mine to give; but it shall be given to them for whom it is prepared.

Jesus is teaching that the seat of honor is not something that He can give to anyone, but is prepared by God.

1: We should never seek honor or recognition as it is not something that can be given to us, but is prepared by God.

2: Jesus teaches us that we should not be concerned with prestige as God is the ultimate determiner of who is given honor and respect.

1: Matthew 20:26-28 - But it shall not be so among you; but whoever desires to become great among you, let him be your servant.

2: Philippians 2:3-4 - Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself.

Mark 10:41 And when the ten heard it, they began to be much displeased with James and John.

James and John's request to receive preferential treatment in the kingdom of God caused the other ten disciples to be displeased.

1. Jesus taught us to be humble and seek God's glory, not our own - Mark 10:41

2. We should not expect special treatment, but instead be content with the gifts God has given us - Mark 10:41

1. Philippians 2:3 “Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves.”

2. James 1:17 “Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows.”

Mark 10:42 But Jesus called them to him, and saith unto them, Ye know that they which are accounted to rule over the Gentiles exercise lordship over them; and their great ones exercise authority upon them.

Jesus teaches that those in power often use their authority to oppress others.

1: We must use our authority for the good of others, not for our own benefit.

2: We must not use our power to oppress others, but to lift them up.

1: Isaiah 58:10-12 - If you spend yourselves in behalf of the hungry and satisfy the needs of the oppressed, then your light will rise in the darkness, and your night will become like the noonday.

2: James 2:1-13 - Love your neighbor as yourself, and show no partiality.

Mark 10:43 But so shall it not be among you: but whosoever will be great among you, shall be your minister:

The passage is about servanthood and how greatness is found in being a servant to one another.

1. "The Path to Greatness: Serving One Another"

2. "True Greatness: A Life of Service"

1. Philippians 2:3-4 - "Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others."

2. Matthew 20:26-28 - "Whoever would be great among you must be your servant, and whoever would be first among you must be your slave, even as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

Mark 10:44 And whosoever of you will be the chiefest, shall be servant of all.

The chiefest of us should be a servant to all.

1: We are all called to be servants of one another.

2: Leaders should lead by example and serve others.

1: Philippians 2:3-4 “Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.”

2: Matthew 20:26-27 “But whoever would be great among you must be your servant, and whoever would be first among you must be your slave.”

Mark 10:45 For even the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many.

Jesus came to serve others and give His life to be a ransom for many.

1. The Meaning of Service: What Jesus Taught Us About Giving

2. Sacrifice and Redemption: The Ransom for Many

1. Philippians 2:5-8 - Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

2. John 15:13 - Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends.

Mark 10:46 And they came to Jericho: and as he went out of Jericho with his disciples and a great number of people, blind Bartimaeus, the son of Timaeus, sat by the highway side begging.

Bartimaeus, a blind man, received his sight after Jesus healed him.

1. "A New Vision: How Jesus Gives Us a New Perspective"

2. "The Power of Faith: How Our Beliefs Can Bring Miracles"

1. John 9:35-38 - Jesus heals the man born blind.

2. Hebrews 11:1 - Faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.

Mark 10:47 And when he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to cry out, and say, Jesus, thou son of David, have mercy on me.

The blind man cried out to Jesus that he have mercy on him as he recognized Jesus as the son of David.

1. Recognizing Jesus as Our Savior

2. The Power of Recognizing Jesus

1. Matthew 1:1-25 - The genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David.

2. 1 Corinthians 1:30 - But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption.

Mark 10:48 And many charged him that he should hold his peace: but he cried the more a great deal, Thou son of David, have mercy on me.

The man cried out to Jesus for mercy, but many told him to be silent.

1. The Power of Faith - To believe that God will answer our prayers, even when others tell us to be quiet.

2. Reaching Out To Jesus - No matter how difficult the situation, He will always listen and answer our pleas for mercy.

1. Luke 18:38-39 - And he cried, saying, Jesus, thou Son of David, have mercy on me. And they which went before rebuked him, that he should hold his peace: but he cried so much the more, Thou Son of David, have mercy on me.

2. Psalm 86:15 - But thou, O Lord, art a God full of compassion, and gracious, longsuffering, and plenteous in mercy and truth.

Mark 10:49 And Jesus stood still, and commanded him to be called. And they call the blind man, saying unto him, Be of good comfort, rise; he calleth thee.

The blind man was called to Jesus by his command and was comforted.

1: Jesus calls us to his side and provides us comfort.

2: We can find strength in Jesus when we are weak.

1: Isaiah 41:10 "So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand."

2: Psalm 145:18 "The Lord is near to all who call on him, to all who call on him in truth."

Mark 10:50 And he, casting away his garment, rose, and came to Jesus.

This passage tells the story of a man who throws away his garment and approaches Jesus.

1. The Power of Letting Go: How Stepping Out in Faith Brings Us Closer to Jesus

2. The Risk of Faith: How Courageously Following Jesus Can Change Our Lives

1. Matthew 17:7-8 - And Jesus came and touched them, saying, “Rise, and have no fear.” And when they lifted up their eyes, they saw no one but Jesus only.

2. Hebrews 11:1 - Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.

Mark 10:51 And Jesus answered and said unto him, What wilt thou that I should do unto thee? The blind man said unto him, Lord, that I might receive my sight.

The blind man asked Jesus to heal him so that he could receive his sight.

1. The power of faith: the blind man's faith in Jesus led to his healing.

2. The power of prayer: Jesus showed us that all we need to do is ask for help and He will answer.

1. Matthew 21:22 - "And all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive."

2. Hebrews 11:1 - "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen."

Mark 10:52 And Jesus said unto him, Go thy way; thy faith hath made thee whole. And immediately he received his sight, and followed Jesus in the way.

Jesus healed a blind man and told him his faith had made him whole.

1. Believe and Receive: The Power of Faith

2. Following Jesus: A Life of Faith

1. James 2:17-18 - “Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone. Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: show me thy faith without thy works, and I will show thee my faith by my works.”

2. Hebrews 11:1-3 - “Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. For by it the elders obtained a good report. Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear.”

Mark 11 recounts several key events including the triumphal entry of Jesus into Jerusalem, the cursing of a barren fig tree, cleansing of the temple and a discourse on faith and prayer.

1st Paragraph: As they approach Jerusalem, at Bethphage and Bethany near Mount of Olives, Jesus sends two disciples instructing them to find a colt tied there which no one has ever ridden. They are to untie it and bring it to Him. If anyone asks why they are doing this, they should reply "The Lord needs it and will send it back here shortly" (Mark 11:1-3). They find colt as He said bring it Him throw their cloaks on colt He sits on them as He enters Jerusalem many people spread their cloaks road while others spread branches cut fields those who went ahead those who followed shouted "Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in name Lord! Blessed is coming kingdom our father David! Hosanna in highest heaven!" (Mark 11:4-10). After looking around at everything since already late goes out Bethany with Twelve (Mark 11:11).

2nd Paragraph: The next day as they leave Bethany Jesus is hungry seeing fig tree distance leaves finds nothing but leaves curses saying "May no one ever eat fruit from you again" disciples hear him say this (Mark 11:12-14). When they reach Jerusalem Jesus enters temple courts begins driving out those buying selling there overturns tables money changers benches those selling doves would not allow anyone carry merchandise through temple courts teaching them "Is it not written 'My house will be called house prayer all nations'? But you have made den robbers" chief priests teachers law hear this begin look way kill him for they feared him because whole crowd amazed teaching when evening came Jesus his disciples went out city (Mark 11:15-19).

3rd Paragraph: In morning as pass by see fig tree withered roots Peter remembers says "Rabbi look! Fig tree you cursed has withered!" Jesus replies "Have faith God. Truly I tell you if anyone says this mountain 'Go throw yourself into sea' does not doubt heart believes what says happen will be done for them. Therefore I tell you whatever ask prayer believe received yours. And when stand praying if hold anything against anyone forgive so Father heaven may forgive sins" showing power words spoken faith importance forgiveness receiving God's forgiveness (Mark 11:20-26). They arrive again Jerusalem while walking temple courts chief priests teachers law elders come question authority do these things asks whether baptism John heavenly earthly origin promising answer based their response afraid answer people held John truly prophet so reply do not know hence

refuses answer question about His own authority demonstrating wisdom dealing opposition challenging their integrity spiritual leaders end chapter (Mark 11:27-33).

Mark 11:1 And when they came nigh to Jerusalem, unto Bethphage and Bethany, at the mount of Olives, he sendeth forth two of his disciples,

Jesus sends two of his disciples to Bethphage and Bethany to prepare for his arrival in Jerusalem.

1: Jesus' humble entrance to Jerusalem, showing his humility and selflessness.

2: The importance of preparing for Jesus' arrival in our own lives.

1: Philippians 2:5-8, “Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.”

2: Matthew 21:5, “Say to the daughter of Zion, ‘Behold, your King is coming to you, humble, and mounted on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a beast of burden.’”

Mark 11:2 And saith unto them, Go your way into the village over against you: and as soon as ye be entered into it, ye shall find a colt tied, whereon never man sat; loose him, and bring him.

Jesus instructs his disciples to find a colt that no one has ever ridden and bring it back to him.

1. The Power of Faith: Jesus' instructions to his disciples to find a colt that no one has ever ridden and bring it back to him serves as a powerful example of how faith can move mountains.

2. Obedience: Jesus' command to his disciples to find a colt that no one has ever ridden and bring it back to him serves as a reminder of the importance of following God's instructions and being obedient.

1. Matthew 17:20 - "He said to them, “Because of your little faith. For truly, I say to you, if

you have faith like a grain of mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, ‘Move from here to there,’ and it will move, and nothing will be impossible for you.”

2. Philippians 2:8 - "And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross."

Mark 11:3 And if any man say unto you, Why do ye this? say ye that the Lord hath need of him; and straightway he will send him hither.

Jesus tells his disciples to tell anyone who questions them why they are taking the donkey that the Lord has need of it and it will be sent back.

1. God has a purpose and plan for everything He asks us to do.

2. We must trust in the Lord and His plan for us, even when it seems strange.

1. Jeremiah 29:11 - “For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.”

2. Romans 8:28 - “And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.”

Mark 11:4 And they went their way, and found the colt tied by the door without in a place where two ways met; and they loose him.

This passage describes how Jesus and his disciples found a colt that was tied up at a place where two ways met.

1. Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life, and He will help us find our path in life.

2. Knowing when to take a risk and trust in God’s plan can be difficult, but we should remember that Jesus is always with us.

1. John 14:6 - Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

2. Proverbs 3:5-6 - Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.

Mark 11:5 And certain of them that stood there said unto them, What do ye, loosing the colt?

The disciples of Jesus were questioned for loosing a colt.

1: Jesus' disciples were asked why they were loosing a colt, displaying the importance of right action and the power of a good explanation.

2: When Jesus' disciples were questioned for their actions, it showed that our actions are always subject to scrutiny and we must be prepared to explain them.

1: Ephesians 6:7, “Render therefore to all their due: taxes to whom taxes are due, customs to whom customs, fear to whom fear, honor to whom honor.”

2: Proverbs 3:27, “Withhold not good from them to whom it is due, when it is in the power of thine hand to do it.”

Mark 11:6 And they said unto them even as Jesus had commanded: and they let them go.

This passage describes Jesus commanding his disciples to release the donkey and her colt for him to ride.

1. The Power of Obedience - How Jesus' simple command to his disciples illustrates the importance of following God's will.

2. Finding Strength in Times of Need - How Jesus relied on his disciples to aid him in his mission and how we can rely on God in times of need.

1. Ephesians 5:15-17 - "Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, making the best use of the time, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is."

2. Philippians 4:13 - "I can do all things through him who strengthens me."

Mark 11:7 And they brought the colt to Jesus, and cast their garments on him; and he sat upon him.

Jesus was given a colt to ride and was covered with garments.

1. Jesus is our perfect King - Mark 11:7

2. The power of submission to Jesus - Mark 11:7

1. Psalm 20:7 - Some trust in chariots, and some in horses: but we will remember the name of the LORD our God.

2. Philippians 2:5-8 - Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.

Mark 11:8 And many spread their garments in the way: and others cut down branches off the trees, and strawed them in the way.

The people of Jerusalem welcomed Jesus by spreading their garments and cutting down branches from the trees and strewing them in the way.

1. God's people demonstrate their love and reverence for Jesus through acts of worship.

2. How to welcome Jesus into our lives with faith and devotion.

1. John 12:12-13 - On the next day much people that were come to the feast, when they heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem, took branches of palm trees, and went forth to meet him, and cried, Hosanna: Blessed is the King of Israel that cometh in the name of the Lord.

2. Psalm 96:7-9 - Give unto the Lord, O ye kindreds of the people, give unto the Lord glory and strength. Give unto the Lord the glory due unto his name: bring an offering, and come into his courts. O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness: fear before him, all the earth.

Mark 11:9 And they that went before, and they that followed, cried, saying, Hosanna; Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord:

The people praised Jesus as He entered Jerusalem, proclaiming "Hosanna; Blessed is he

that cometh in the name of the Lord."

1. Praising Jesus and the Power of His Name

2. The Meaning of Hosanna and Its Place in Our Lives

1. Philippians 2:9-11 - Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

2. Psalm 118:25-26 - Lord, save us! Lord, grant us success! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. From the house of the Lord we bless you.

Mark 11:10 Blessed be the kingdom of our father David, that cometh in the name of the Lord: Hosanna in the highest.

Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem is celebrated with praises and blessings to God the Father.

1: We can give glory to God the Father in all circumstances, no matter how humble or triumphant.

2: We can find strength in God the Father to remain faithful in times of difficulty and joy.

1: Psalm 118:24 - This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.

2: Philippians 4:4 - Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice.

Mark 11:11 And Jesus entered into Jerusalem, and into the temple: and when he had looked round about upon all things, and now the eventide was come, he went out unto Bethany with the twelve.

Jesus entered Jerusalem and the temple and observed all of the things within it. He then left for Bethany with the twelve disciples.

1. Jesus’ faithfulness to fulfill the prophecies of his Messiah-ship

2. The importance of following Jesus’ example of obedience

1. Isaiah 35:5-6 - “Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped. Then shall the lame man leap as an hart, and the tongue of the dumb sing: for in the wilderness shall waters break out, and streams in the desert.”

2. John 12:1-3 - “Then Jesus six days before the passover came to Bethany, where Lazarus was which had been dead, whom he raised from the dead. There they made him a supper; and Martha served: but Lazarus was one of them that sat at the table with him. Then took Mary a pound of ointment of spikenard, very costly, and anointed the feet of Jesus, and wiped his feet with her hair: and the house was filled with the odour of the ointment.”

Mark 11:12 And on the morrow, when they were come from Bethany, he was hungry:

Passage Jesus and the disciples went to Bethany and the next day when they came back, Jesus was hungry.

1. Jesus is Human: Understanding Jesus' Humanity in the New Testament

2. Feeding the Hungry: The Significance of Jesus' Hunger in Mark 11:12

1. Matthew 4:4 (“Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.”)

2. Isaiah 58:10 (“If you give food to the hungry and satisfy those who are in need, then your light will rise in the darkness.”)

Mark 11:13 And seeing a fig tree afar off having leaves, he came, if haply he might find any thing thereon: and when he came to it, he found nothing but leaves; for the time of figs was not yet.

Jesus' actions of approaching the fig tree to find something on it demonstrate his hope and faith that God will provide.

1. Hope in God and His Provision.

2. Faith in the Unseen.

1. Hebrews 11:1 - "Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen."

2. Matthew 6:25-34 - "Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them."

Mark 11:14 And Jesus answered and said unto it, No man eat fruit of thee hereafter for ever. And his disciples heard it.

Jesus told a fig tree that no one should eat its fruit again.

1: Jesus is our Provider and He is in control of all things.

2: We must have faith and trust in God's plan for our lives.

1: Matthew 6:25-34 - Do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink, or about your body, what you will wear.

2: Luke 12:22-32 - Do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.

Mark 11:15 And they come to Jerusalem: and Jesus went into the temple, and began to cast out them that sold and bought in the temple, and overthrew the tables of the moneychangers, and the seats of them that sold doves;

Jesus demonstrates his authority in the temple by casting out those who are exploiting God's house.

1: Our God is a God of justice and mercy, and those who seek to exploit his house will be met with righteous judgement.

2: Jesus is Lord of all and has authority to challenge those who are not living according to God's will.

1: Ezekiel 34:2-3: "Son of man, prophesy against the shepherds of Israel; prophesy, and say unto them, Thus saith the Lord GOD unto the shepherds; Woe be to the shepherds of Israel that do feed themselves! Should not the shepherds feed the flocks?"

2: Matthew 21:12-13: "And Jesus went into the temple of God, and cast out all them that sold and bought in the temple, and overthrew the tables of the moneychangers, and the seats of them that sold doves, And said unto them, It is written, My house shall be called the house of prayer; but ye have made it a den of thieves."

Mark 11:16 And would not suffer that any man should carry any vessel through the temple.

Jesus taught that it is important to show respect to places of worship.

1: God calls us to show respect to places of worship.

2: We should honor the places where God is worshipped.

1: 1 Peter 2:17 Show proper respect to everyone.

2: Exodus 20:7 “You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God, for the Lord will not hold anyone guiltless who misuses his name.

Mark 11:17 And he taught, saying unto them, Is it not written, My house shall be called of all nations the house of prayer? but ye have made it a den of thieves.

The passage emphasizes the importance of using a house of prayer for its intended purpose, rather than as a den of thieves.

1. The House of God Shall be Filled with Prayer, Not Thieves

2. God's House: A Place of Worship, Not Misuse

1. Jeremiah 7:11 - "Has this house, which is called by my name, become a den of robbers in your sight?"

2. Matthew 21:13 - "And he said to them, 'It is written, My house shall be called a house of prayer, but you make it a den of robbers.'"

Mark 11:18 And the scribes and chief priests heard it, and sought how they might destroy him: for they feared him, because all the people was astonished at his doctrine.

Jesus’ teachings were so powerful that they caused the scribes and chief priests to fear him and seek to destroy him.

1. The Power of Jesus’ Teachings - Luke 4:32

2. The Fear of Jesus’ Authority - Matthew 21:23-27

1. John 7:46-52 - The Response of the Jewish Leaders to Jesus' Teachings

2. Luke 19:39-40 - Jesus' Authority Rejected by the Jewish Leaders

Mark 11:19 And when even was come, he went out of the city.

Jesus went out of the city in the evening.

1. The Power of Jesus: Jesus demonstrates His power through His willingness to go out of the city in the evening.

2. Evening Walks: Taking the time to go out in the evening can be a powerful way to find peace and clarity.

1. Psalm 46:10 - "Be still, and know that I am God."

2. John 14:27 - "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid."

Mark 11:20 And in the morning, as they passed by, they saw the fig tree dried up from the roots.

The disciples saw the fig tree had dried up from the roots.

1: God can make the impossible possible.

2: Have faith and God can move mountains.

1: Matthew 17:20 - He replied, “Because you have so little faith. Truly I tell you, if you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, ‘Move from here to there,’ and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you.

2: James 1:6 - But when you ask, you must believe and not doubt, because the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind.

Mark 11:21 And Peter calling to remembrance saith unto him, Master, behold, the fig tree which thou cursedst is withered away.

Peter's faith is strengthened when he remembers how Jesus cursed the fig tree and it withered away.

1. The Power of Faith: Trusting in Jesus to Work Miracles

2. The Miracles of Jesus: How Jesus Demonstrates His Divine Power

1. Matthew 17:20-21 - Jesus says to the disciples that if they had faith like a mustard seed, nothing would be impossible for them.

2. Matthew 21:19-21 - Jesus curses the fig tree and it withers away immediately.

Mark 11:22 And Jesus answering saith unto them, Have faith in God.

Jesus encourages His disciples to have faith in God.

1. "God is Good - Have Faith in His Promises"

2. "The Power of Faith in God"

1. 1 Peter 5:7 - "Cast all your anxiety on Him because He cares for you."

2. Philippians 4:6-7 - "Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer

and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."

Mark 11:23 For verily I say unto you, That whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith.

This passage shows that faith can move mountains if we believe that what we say will come to pass.

1. The Power of Faith - How we can achieve great things if we keep faith.

2. Speak It Into Existence - The power of speaking our dreams and goals into reality.

1. Hebrews 11:1 - "Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen."

2. James 2:17 - "So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead."

Mark 11:24 Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them.

Believe and receive the things you desire when you pray.

1. Have Faith in Prayers: Believing and Reaching New Heights

2. Reaching Your Goals Through Prayer: Believing and Receiving

1. James 1:5-8 - If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you.

6 But when you ask, you must believe and not doubt, because the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind.

2. Philippians 4:6-7 - Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. 7 And the peace of God,

which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Mark 11:25 And when ye stand praying, forgive, if ye have ought against any: that your Father also which is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses.

We should forgive those who have wronged us in order for us to be forgiven by God.

1. The Power of Forgiveness - Embracing the power of forgiveness to make our lives and the lives of others better.

2. The Essential Nature of Forgiveness - Understanding the importance of forgiveness and how it applies to all aspects of our lives.

1. Ephesians 4:32 - “Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.”

2. Colossians 3:13 - “Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.”

Mark 11:26 But if ye do not forgive, neither will your Father which is in heaven forgive your trespasses.

This verse from Mark 11:26 encourages us to forgive others, as our Father in Heaven will not forgive us if we do not.

1. Forgiveness: A Key to Unlocking God's Grace

2. Why Unforgiveness Stops us from Receiving God's Blessing

1. Ephesians 4:31-32 - "Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you."

2. Luke 6:37 - "Judge not, and you will not be judged; condemn not, and you will not be condemned; forgive, and you will be forgiven."

Mark 11:27 And they come again to Jerusalem: and as he was walking in the temple,

there come to him the chief priests, and the scribes, and the elders,

Jesus is confronted by the chief priests, scribes, and elders in the temple.

1. How to respect authority even if it disagrees with us, based on Jesus' example in Mark 11:27

2. The importance of humility in the face of opposition, based on Jesus' example in Mark 11:27

1. Matthew 17:24-27 - When Jesus pays the temple tax despite Peter's disbelief.

2. Colossians 3:12-14 - To put on love, humility, and forgiveness in our interactions with others.

Mark 11:28 And say unto him, By what authority doest thou these things? and who gave thee this authority to do these things?

Jesus taught that it is important to question the authority of those that claim it.

1. The Authority of Jesus - Understanding how to recognize His authority and how to apply it in our lives.

2. Questioning Authority - Examining the credentials of those claiming authority and holding them accountable for their decisions.

1. Acts 5:27-29 - Discussing the Peter's boldness in questioning the authority of the Sanhedrin.

2. Romans 13:1-2 - Exploring the idea of submitting to the authority of governing authorities.

Mark 11:29 And Jesus answered and said unto them, I will also ask of you one question, and answer me, and I will tell you by what authority I do these things.

Jesus questions the authority of those who question his own.

1. The Authority of Jesus: the Power of His Message.

2. What Authority Do We Have to Question Jesus?

1. John 14:6 - Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

2. Matthew 28:18-20 - And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

Mark 11:30 The baptism of John, was it from heaven, or of men? answer me.

Jesus asked the people to answer whether John's baptism was from heaven or of men.

1. The importance of discerning the source of our beliefs and practices.

2. The need to recognize God's authority over our lives.

1. Galatians 1:10 - For am I now seeking the approval of man, or of God? Or am I trying to please man? If I were still trying to please man, I would not be a servant of Christ.

2. 1 Thessalonians 2:4 - But just as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel, so we speak, not to please man, but to please God who tests our hearts.

Mark 11:31 And they reasoned with themselves, saying, If we shall say, From heaven; he will say, Why then did ye not believe him?

The religious leaders were trying to decide whether to answer Jesus' question by saying that John's baptism was from heaven or from men.

1. We can learn from the religious leaders' mistake by considering our own beliefs and putting our faith in God.

2. The importance of discerning truth from falsehood and having faith in the One who is truth.

1. John 3:16-17 "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him."

2. James 1:5-6 "If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you. But when you ask, you must believe and not doubt, because the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind."

Mark 11:32 But if we shall say, Of men; they feared the people: for all men counted John, that he was a prophet indeed.

The people were afraid to answer who John the Baptist was because they believed he was a prophet.

1. The power of believing in a higher power

2. The importance of having faith in times of adversity

1. Isaiah 9:6 - "For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace."

2. Matthew 17:5 - "This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear ye him"

Mark 11:33 And they answered and said unto Jesus, We cannot tell. And Jesus answering saith unto them, Neither do I tell you by what authority I do these things.

Jesus refuses to answer the question of authority regarding His actions.

1: We must be willing to accept the authority of Jesus without questioning it.

2: We must trust in the authority of Jesus, even if we do not understand the purpose behind His actions.

1: Hebrews 11:6 - But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.

2: Romans 8:28 - And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.

Mark 12 recounts several key events including the Parable of the Tenants, questions about paying taxes to Caesar, about resurrection, the greatest commandment, and Jesus' teaching on the widow's offering.

1st Paragraph: The chapter begins with Jesus telling a parable of a man who planted a vineyard and rented it to some farmers. When he sent his servants to collect some fruit from them at harvest time, they were beaten or killed. Even his son was killed when he was sent. Jesus asks what will owner do? He will come destroy tenants give vineyard others (Mark 12:1-9). The religious leaders realized this parable was against them and sought to arrest Him but feared crowd so left Him went away (Mark 12:10-12).

2nd Paragraph: Then Pharisees Herodians sent trap Him question about paying taxes Caesar knowing their hypocrisy asks why trying trap Him asks denarius whose image inscription it has replies "Give back Caesar what is Caesar's God what is God's" leaving amazed at His answer (Mark 12:13-17). Then Sadducees who say there no resurrection ask hypothetical question about woman married seven brothers succession according law Moses none left children her death resurrection whose wife she be? He rebukes not knowing Scriptures power God saying resurrection people neither marry given marriage like angels heaven adds God not God dead living have greatly mistaken affirming reality resurrection life after death (Mark 12:18-27).

3rd Paragraph: One teachers law comes hears debating noticing answered well asks which most important commandment answers "The most important one 'Hear O Israel Lord our God Lord one Love Lord your God all heart soul mind strength.' second 'Love neighbor as yourself.' There no commandment greater these." Teacher law agrees him says right teacher say there one Lord besides him love him all heart understanding strength love neighbor oneself more important burnt offerings sacrifices seeing answered wisely says him not far kingdom God after no one dared ask any more questions (Mark 12:28-34). While teaching temple courts declares "David himself speaking by Holy Spirit declared 'The Lord said my Lord Sit right hand until put enemies under feet.' David himself calls him 'Lord.' How then can he be his son?" large crowd listened delightedly asserting divine Sonship contrast common view merely Davidic descent (Mark 12:35-37). He warns beware teachers law like walk around flowing robes be greeted respect marketplaces have most important seats synagogues places honor banquets devour widows' houses for show make lengthy prayers such men will be punished most severely showing disdain for religious hypocrisy exploitation vulnerable (Mark 12:38-40). Finally while watching people putting money into temple treasury points out poor widow put in two very small copper coins worth only few cents saying "Truly I tell you this poor widow has put more into treasury than all others. They all gave out wealth but she out poverty put in everything—all she had live on" highlighting value sacrificial giving kingdom perspective wealth generosity (Mark 11:41-44).

Mark 12:1 And he began to speak unto them by parables. A certain man planted a vineyard, and set an hedge about it, and digged a place for the winefat, and built a tower, and let it out to husbandmen, and went into a far country.

A certain man planted a vineyard and set up protective barriers, a winefat, a tower, and hired husbandmen to tend to the vineyard before leaving for a distant country.

1. Overcoming Obstacles in Our Journey for Faith

2. The Power of Preparation

1. Psalm 80:8-19

2. Luke 13:6-9

Mark 12:2 And at the season he sent to the husbandmen a servant, that he might receive from the husbandmen of the fruit of the vineyard.

The parable illustrates God sending his servants to collect fruit from the vineyard, but they were rejected and mistreated.

1. We must respect God’s messengers and give them due honor.

2. God’s grace and mercy is extended to us through his servants.

1. Isaiah 40:10-11 – “Behold, the Lord God comes with might, and His arm rules for Him; behold, His reward is with Him, and His recompense before Him. He will tend His flock like a shepherd; He will gather the lambs in His arm; He will carry them in His bosom, and gently lead those that are with young.”

2. Ephesians 6:7 – “Render therefore to all their due: taxes to whom taxes are due, customs to whom customs, fear to whom fear, honor to whom honor.”

Mark 12:3 And they caught him, and beat him, and sent him away empty.

This passage reveals that Jesus was mistreated by the religious leaders of his time.

1. The importance of standing firm in our faith, despite opposition.

2. The power of love and forgiveness in the face of mistreatment.

(Bible):

1. Matthew 5:43-44 – “You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you.”

2. 2 Timothy 2:12 – “If we endure, we will also reign with him; if we deny him, he also will deny us.”

Mark 12:4 And again he sent unto them another servant; and at him they cast stones, and wounded him in the head, and sent him away shamefully handled.

The people rejected and mistreated the servants sent by the landowner.

1. God's mercy even when we are undeserving.

2. Doing what is right even when it is difficult.

1. Luke 6:27-36 - Love your enemies.

2. Matthew 5:43-48 - Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you.

Mark 12:5 And again he sent another; and him they killed, and many others; beating some, and killing some.

Jesus sent multiple servants to preach the gospel, but many of them were killed or beaten for their faith.

1. "The Power of Perseverance in the Face of Opposition"

2. "Standing Firm in the Face of Adversity"

1. Hebrews 13:3 - "Remember them that are in bonds, as bound with them; and them which suffer adversity, as being yourselves also in the body."

2. James 1:2-4 - "My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing."

Mark 12:6 Having yet therefore one son, his wellbeloved, he sent him also last unto them, saying, They will reverence my son.

This passage speaks of God sending His beloved son, Jesus, to the world to be respected by all.

1. The importance of Jesus' presence in our lives and the reverence He deserves.

2. The immeasurable love of God in sending His beloved son to us.

1. John 3:16 - "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."

2. Hebrews 9:15 - "And for this cause he is the mediator of the new testament, that by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions that were under the first testament, they which are called might receive the promise of eternal inheritance."

Mark 12:7 But those husbandmen said among themselves, This is the heir; come, let us kill him, and the inheritance shall be our's.

The husbandmen plotted to kill the heir to gain his inheritance.

1. The Dangers of Greed and the Temptation of Wealth

2. Protecting God’s Inheritance

1. Proverbs 28:25 He that is of a proud heart stirreth up strife: but he that putteth his trust in the LORD shall be made fat.

2. James 4:13-17 Come now, you who say, “Today or tomorrow we will go into such and such a town and spend a year there and trade and make a profit”— yet you do not know

what tomorrow will bring. What is your life? For you are a mist that appears for a little time and then vanishes. Instead you ought to say, “If the Lord wills, we will live and do this or that.” As it is, you boast in your arrogance. All such boasting is evil. So whoever knows the right thing to do and fails to do it, for him it is sin.

Mark 12:8 And they took him, and killed him, and cast him out of the vineyard.

This passage tells the story of a landowner who killed a man for not honoring his agreement to tend to his vineyard.

1. The Cost of Disobedience: A Lesson from Mark 12:8

2. Fulfilling Promises and the Consequences of Not Doing So

1. Ecclesiastes 5:4-5 - When you make a vow to God, do not delay in fulfilling it. He has no pleasure in fools; fulfill your vow.

2. Matthew 21:33-41 - Jesus speaks of the landowner and his servants, and the consequences of failing to fulfill promises.

Mark 12:9 What shall therefore the lord of the vineyard do? he will come and destroy the husbandmen, and will give the vineyard unto others.

The lord will judge those who do not work faithfully and will give authority over the vineyard to someone else.

1. God will give authority to those who work faithfully.

2. The consequences of not working faithfully.

1. Galatians 6:7-9 - Do not be deceived; God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap.

2. Colossians 3:23-24 - Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men.

Mark 12:10 And have ye not read this scripture; The stone which the builders rejected is become the head of the corner:

The rejected stone has become the cornerstone of God's building.

1: God can use the least likely people and situations to bring glory to his name.

2: God's sovereignty and power are shown through his unexpected choices.

1: Matthew 21:42 - Jesus said to them, “Have you never read in the Scriptures: ‘The stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone;

2: Isaiah 28:16 - Therefore this is what the Lord God says: Look, I am laying a foundation stone in Jerusalem, a tested stone, a precious cornerstone, a sure foundation; the one who trusts will never be dismayed.

Mark 12:11 This was the Lord's doing, and it is marvellous in our eyes?

Jesus marvels at the work of God and encourages the people to do the same.

1. Marvel at the Marvelous Work of God

2. Appreciating the Wonders of God's Creation

1. Psalm 139:14 - "I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well"

2. Romans 11:33-36 - "Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways! For who has known the mind of the Lord, or who has been his counselor? Or who has given a gift to him that he might be repaid? For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be glory forever. Amen."

Mark 12:12 And they sought to lay hold on him, but feared the people: for they knew that he had spoken the parable against them: and they left him, and went their way.

This passage reveals that the people were afraid to take action against Jesus because they knew he had spoken a parable against them.

1. The Power of Christ's Word - How Jesus' words can change hearts and minds for the better.

2. The Fear of Man vs. The Fear of God - How our fear of man can lead us astray if not kept in check.

1. Proverbs 29:25 - Fear of man will prove to be a snare, but whoever trusts in the Lord is kept safe.

2. John 8:59 - So they picked up stones to throw at him, but Jesus hid himself, slipping away from the crowd.

Mark 12:13 And they send unto him certain of the Pharisees and of the Herodians, to catch him in his words.

The Pharisees and Herodians sent people to try and catch Jesus in his words.

1. God's Word is Powerful and Enduring - Mark 12:13

2. Be Careful What You Say - Mark 12:13

1. Matthew 22:15-22 - Jesus' reply to the Pharisees and Herodians

2. John 8:31-32 - Jesus' teaching on freedom in Him

Mark 12:14 And when they were come, they say unto him, Master, we know that thou art true, and carest for no man: for thou regardest not the person of men, but teachest the way of God in truth: Is it lawful to give tribute to Caesar, or not?

The religious leaders posed a question to Jesus asking if it was lawful to give tribute to Caesar.

1. Loving our Neighbors: Loving Those We Disagree With

2. Living in Obedience to God's Word, Not Man's Expectations

1. Matthew 22:37-40 - Jesus' response to the religious leaders about loving God and loving our neighbors.

2. Romans 13:1-7 - Paul's teaching about obeying authorities and paying taxes.

Mark 12:15 Shall we give, or shall we not give? But he, knowing their hypocrisy, said unto them, Why tempt ye me? bring me a penny, that I may see it.

Jesus rebuked the religious leaders for their hypocritical question regarding taxes.

1. Jesus calls us to humility and sincerity in our faith.

2. God desires us to seek Him, not just do what is expected.

1. Luke 18:9-14 - The Parable of the Pharisee and the Tax Collector

2. Matthew 23:23-28 - Jesus' denunciation of the Pharisees' hypocrisy

Mark 12:16 And they brought it. And he saith unto them, Whose is this image and superscription? And they said unto him, Caesar's.

A group of people bring a coin to Jesus and ask whose image and inscription is on it. They tell Him that it is Caesar's.

1. The Importance of Knowing Who You Are Serving

2. Serving God and Not Man

1. Romans 13:1-7

2. Psalm 29:2-4

Mark 12:17 And Jesus answering said unto them, Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's. And they marvelled at him.

Jesus teaches that people should pay taxes and give to God what rightfully belongs to Him.

1. The Priority of God: Learning to Render to God What Is His

2. Giving to Caesar and to God: Understanding the Balance

1. Romans 13:6-7 - “For because of this you also pay taxes, for the authorities are ministers of God, attending to this very thing. Render to all what is due them: tax to whom tax is due; custom to whom custom; fear to whom fear; honor to whom honor.”

2. Deuteronomy 16:16-17 - “Three times in the year all your males shall appear before the Lord your God in the place which He chooses, at the Feast of Unleavened Bread and at the Feast of Weeks and at the Feast of Booths, and they shall not appear before the Lord empty-handed. Every man shall give as he is able, according to the blessing of the Lord your God which He has given you.”

Mark 12:18 Then come unto him the Sadducees, which say there is no resurrection; and they asked him, saying,

The Sadducees asked Jesus whether there is resurrection, to which He replied affirmatively.

1: We are all destined to live forever with God in Heaven.

2: Believe in the power of resurrection and be ready to face eternity.

1: 1 Corinthians 15:35-58 - Paul's teaching on the resurrection of the dead.

2: 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 - Paul's teaching on the resurrection of believers.

Mark 12:19 Master, Moses wrote unto us, If a man's brother die, and leave his wife behind him, and leave no children, that his brother should take his wife, and raise up seed unto his brother.

The passage is about a man's duty to his deceased brother, such as taking his widow as a wife and raising up children from her.

1. The Greatest Love: Fulfilling the Commandment of Brotherly Love

2. Making Sacrifices for Others: Following the Example of Moses

1. Deuteronomy 25:5-10 - Discussing the example of the brother taking his deceased brother's wife

2. 1 John 4:7-12 - Exploring the concept of loving one another as commanded by God

Mark 12:20 Now there were seven brethren: and the first took a wife, and dying left no seed.

This passage tells the story of seven brothers, the first of whom took a wife but died and left no children.

1. The Faithfulness of God in the Face of Tragedy

2. Honoring the Memory of the Faithful

1. Romans 8:28 - "And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose."

2. Ecclesiastes 7:14 - "In the day of prosperity be joyful, and in the day of adversity consider: God has made the one as well as the other, so that man may not find out anything that will be after him."

Mark 12:21 And the second took her, and died, neither left he any seed: and the third likewise.

The passage talks about how the second man took the woman as his wife and died without leaving behind any children, and the third man did the same.

1. The importance of celebrating life and making the most of the time we have.

2. The importance of leaving a legacy behind for future generations.

1. Ecclesiastes 9:10 - "Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with all your might, for in the realm of the dead, where you are going, there is neither working nor planning nor knowledge nor wisdom."

2. Psalm 90:12 - "Teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom."

Mark 12:22 And the seven had her, and left no seed: last of all the woman died also.

The woman in Mark 12:22 was married to seven husbands and none of them left any children. In the end, the woman died.

1. The Faithfulness of God: Even in the face of death, God is faithful to sustain us.

2. The Value of Life: Every life is valuable and should be cherished.

1. Romans 8:38-39 "For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord."

2. 1 Corinthians 15:55-57 "Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting? The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ."

Mark 12:23 In the resurrection therefore, when they shall rise, whose wife shall she be of them? for the seven had her to wife.

The Sadducees asked Jesus a question regarding the resurrection and the seven brothers who had the same wife.

1: Jesus's answer to the Sadducees reveals that the nature of marriage will be different in the resurrection, and that this should lead us to focus on the spiritual aspects of life rather than the material.

2: The Sadducees' question reveals that they lacked understanding of the power and glory of the resurrection, and that we should seek to gain a deeper understanding of the coming kingdom of heaven.

1: Luke 20:34-36 - Jesus said to them, "The sons of this age marry and are given in marriage, but those who are considered worthy to attain to that age and to the

resurrection from the dead neither marry nor are given in marriage, for they cannot die anymore, because they are equal to angels and are sons of God, being sons of the resurrection.

2: 1 Corinthians 15:51-52 - Behold! I tell you a mystery. We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed.

Mark 12:24 And Jesus answering said unto them, Do ye not therefore err, because ye know not the scriptures, neither the power of God?

People who do not understand the scriptures and the power of God can easily make mistakes.

1: We should always seek to understand the scriptures and the power of God so that we can make wise decisions.

2: We should continue to grow in our knowledge of the scriptures and the power of God.

1: 2 Timothy 3:16-17 - "All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work."

2: Psalm 119:105 - "Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path."

Mark 12:25 For when they shall rise from the dead, they neither marry, nor are given in marriage; but are as the angels which are in heaven.

The dead do not marry in heaven; they are as angels in heaven.

1. The Joys of Eternal Life in Heaven

2. The Purpose of Marriage

1. Luke 20:34-36 - Jesus explains to the Sadducees that there is no marriage in the afterlife

2. 1 Corinthians 7:25-40 - Paul's teaching on the purpose of marriage and its relationship

to the Kingdom of God

Mark 12:26 And as touching the dead, that they rise: have ye not read in the book of Moses, how in the bush God spake unto him, saying, I am the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob?

The passage speaks of God's relationship to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob and that He is the God of the dead.

1. The Eternal Nature of God: How He is Always There for Us

2. God's Faithfulness to His People: Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob

1. Genesis 22:15-18

2. Romans 4:16-17

Mark 12:27 He is not the God of the dead, but the God of the living: ye therefore do greatly err.

God is the God of the living, not the dead, and those who believe otherwise are mistaken.

1. God is Alive and Working in Us Today

2. The Power of Life: Experiencing God's Presence

1. Romans 8:11 - "If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you."

2. Hebrews 13:8 - "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever."

Mark 12:28 And one of the scribes came, and having heard them reasoning together, and perceiving that he had answered them well, asked him, Which is the first commandment of all?

A scribe heard Jesus and the Pharisees reasoning together and asked Jesus which was the first commandment of all.

1. Loving God with All Your Heart

2. Putting God First in Your Life

1. Deuteronomy 6:5 - Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength.

2. Matthew 6:33 - Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously, and he will give you everything you need.

Mark 12:29 And Jesus answered him, The first of all the commandments is, Hear, O Israel; The Lord our God is one Lord:

Jesus teaches the importance of the first commandment, which is to listen to and obey God, who is the one and only Lord.

1. Listening to and Obeying God: The Foundation of Faith

2. The Unity of God: Our Sole Source of Strength

1. Deuteronomy 6:4-5 - Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God is one LORD:

2. James 1:22-25 - But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.

Mark 12:30 And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this is the first commandment.

This passage from Mark 12:30 talks about the importance of loving God with all our hearts, souls, minds, and strength, as this is the first commandment.

1. The Greatest Commandment - A on loving God with all of our hearts, souls, minds, and strength.

2. Living a Life of Obedience - A on living a life of obedience to God's commandments.

1. Deuteronomy 6:4-5 - “Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.

2. Matthew 22:37-39 - And he said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”

Mark 12:31 And the second is like, namely this, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. There is none other commandment greater than these.

Love your neighbor as yourself. There is no greater commandment than this.

1. The Golden Rule: Love Your Neighbor as Yourself

2. The Command to Love: A Message of Reconciliation

1. John 15:12 - "This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you."

2. 1 John 4:7-8 - "Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God. He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love."

Mark 12:32 And the scribe said unto him, Well, Master, thou hast said the truth: for there is one God; and there is none other but he:

The scribe acknowledges that there is only one God.

1. The Sovereignty of God - Recognizing the one true God is essential to living a life of faith.

2. Living a Life of Faith - Acknowledging the one true God is the foundation of living a holy life.

Cross-

1. Deuteronomy 6:4-5 - Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God is one Lord: and thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might.

2. Isaiah 43:10 - Ye are my witnesses, saith the Lord, and my servant whom I have chosen: that ye may know and believe me, and understand that I am he: before me there was no God formed, neither shall there be after me.

Mark 12:33 And to love him with all the heart, and with all the understanding, and with all the soul, and with all the strength, and to love his neighbour as himself, is more than all whole burnt offerings and sacrifices.

Jesus emphasized the importance of loving God and loving one's neighbor as oneself, which is greater than any burnt offerings and sacrifices.

1. Love God and Love Your Neighbor - The Greatest Commandment

2. The Power of Love - Above All Offerings

1. 1 Corinthians 13:13 - “And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.”

2. John 15:12 - “My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you.”

Mark 12:34 And when Jesus saw that he answered discreetly, he said unto him, Thou art not far from the kingdom of God. And no man after that durst ask him any question.

Jesus was impressed with a man's answer to a question and told him he was close to the kingdom of God. After this, no one else dared to ask Jesus any more questions.

1. "The Nearness of the Kingdom of God"

2. "The Discretion of Answers"

1. Matthew 5:3-12 - "Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."

2. Proverbs 15:28 - "The heart of the righteous studieth to answer: but the mouth of the

wicked poureth out evil things."

Mark 12:35 And Jesus answered and said, while he taught in the temple, How say the scribes that Christ is the son of David?

Jesus taught in the temple and asked the scribes how they could say that Christ was the son of David.

1. The importance of asking questions to further our faith

2. The power of Christ and his relationship to David

1. Romans 8:32, "He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things?"

2. Psalm 89:27, "And I will make him the firstborn, the highest of the kings of the earth."

Mark 12:36 For David himself said by the Holy Ghost, The LORD said to my Lord, Sit thou on my right hand, till I make thine enemies thy footstool.

In Mark 12:36, Jesus quotes David as saying that the LORD said to his Lord, to sit at His right hand until He subdues His enemies.

1. The Power of Jesus: Understanding the Authority of the Son of God

2. Overcoming the Enemy: Utilizing the Strength of Jesus

1. Psalm 110:1 - “The Lord says to my Lord: “Sit at my right hand until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet.”

2. Hebrews 1:3 - “The Son is the radiance of God’s glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven.”

Mark 12:37 David therefore himself calleth him Lord; and whence is he then his son? And the common people heard him gladly.

This passage shows how Jesus' teaching was accepted by the common people and how they were amazed by it.

1. The Power of Jesus' Teaching: How Jesus Connected with the Common People

2. Understanding the Miraculous: Exploring the Mystery of Jesus' Divine Sonship

1. John 4:1-26 – Jesus engaging with the Samaritan woman

2. Luke 5:1-11 – Jesus calls Simon Peter and the other fishermen to be fishers of men

Mark 12:38 And he said unto them in his doctrine, Beware of the scribes, which love to go in long clothing, and love salutations in the marketplaces,

Jesus warned His disciples to be cautious of the scribes who enjoyed wearing fancy clothing and seeking attention in the marketplaces.

1. The Danger of Pride in Appearances

2. Being Wary of Flattery

1. Proverbs 16:18 - "Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall."

2. James 4:6 - "But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble."

Mark 12:39 And the chief seats in the synagogues, and the uppermost rooms at feasts:

Jesus warned the people against seeking the most important seats in the synagogue and the most prominent places at feasts.

1. Pride Goes Before a Fall: A Study on Humility

2. The Silent Witness: Learning to Listen and Receive

1. Luke 14:7-11, Jesus tells a parable of a man who tries to take the most important seat at a wedding feast

2. Proverbs 18:12, "Before destruction the heart of man is haughty, and before honor is humility."

Mark 12:40 Which devour widows' houses, and for a pretence make long prayers: these shall receive greater damnation.

This passage warns about people who take advantage of the vulnerable for their own gain by pretending to be pious and making long prayers.

1. Our faithfulness should not be measured by the amount of time spent in prayer, but by how we treat those who are the most vulnerable.

2. We should not use our piety as a cover for our own selfishness.

1. James 1:27 - Religion that is pure and undefiled before God the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unstained from the world.

2. Matthew 23:14 - Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you devour widows' houses and for a pretense you make long prayers. Therefore you will receive greater condemnation.

Mark 12:41 And Jesus sat over against the treasury, and beheld how the people cast money into the treasury: and many that were rich cast in much.

Jesus observed the people as they gave money to the treasury. Many of the rich people gave generously.

1. The Power of Generosity: How Giving Can Transform Lives

2. The Greatest Gift: How Jesus Taught Us to Show Love Through Acts of Giving

1. 2 Corinthians 9:6-8 - “Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.”

2. 1 John 3:17 - “If anyone has material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need but has no pity on them, how can the love of God be in that person?”

Mark 12:42 And there came a certain poor widow, and she threw in two mites, which make a farthing.

This passage highlights the story of a poor widow who gives a generous offering despite her poverty.

1. "The Heart of Generosity" - A on the importance of giving with a generous heart, no matter the size of the offering.

2. "The Power of Faithful Obedience" - A on the power of living out our faith through small yet faithful acts of obedience.

1. 2 Corinthians 9:7 - "Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver."

2. Luke 21:1-4 - "As Jesus looked up, he saw the rich putting their gifts into the temple treasury. He also saw a poor widow put in two very small copper coins. 'I tell you the truth,' he said, 'this poor widow has put in more than all the others. All these people gave their gifts out of their wealth; but she out of her poverty put in all she had to live on.'"

Mark 12:43 And he called unto him his disciples, and saith unto them, Verily I say unto you, That this poor widow hath cast more in, than all they which have cast into the treasury:

Jesus praises a poor widow for her generosity in giving her last two coins to the treasury.

1. Living Generously: The Power of Sacrificial Giving

2. The Heart of God: Seeing the Value in the Smallest Gift

1. Proverbs 3:9-10 - Honor the Lord with your wealth and with the firstfruits of all your produce; then your barns will be filled with plenty, and your vats will be bursting with wine.

2. 2 Corinthians 9:7-8 - Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work.

Mark 12:44 For all they did cast in of their abundance; but she of her want did cast in all that she had, even all her living.

This passage highlights the importance of sacrificial giving.

1: When we give, we should give sacrificially; not just from our abundance, but even to the point of giving everything we have.

2: We should be generous with our giving, and not just give what we can spare, but give sacrificially.

1: 2 Corinthians 8:2-4 – “For in a severe test of affliction, their abundance of joy and their extreme poverty have overflowed in a wealth of generosity on their part. For they gave according to their means, as I can testify, and beyond their means, of their own accord, begging us earnestly for the favor of taking part in the relief of the saints.”

2: Acts 4:32-35 – “Now the full number of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one said that any of the things that belonged to him was his own, but they had everything in common. And with great power the apostles were giving their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. There was not a needy person among them, for as many as were owners of lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold and laid it at the apostles’ feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.”

Mark 13 contains Jesus' prophetic discourse about the destruction of the temple, signs of the end times, the coming of the Son of Man, and an exhortation to watchfulness.

1st Paragraph: The chapter begins with one disciple remarking on magnificent temple buildings. Jesus predicts not one stone will be left another everyone thrown down (Mark 13:1-2). Later Mount Olives opposite temple Peter James John Andrew ask privately when these things will happen what sign there all about be fulfilled. He warns them not let anyone deceive them many come in His name claiming 'I am he' deceive many wars rumors wars but end still come nation rise against nation kingdom against kingdom earthquakes various places famines these birth pains (Mark 13:3-8).

2nd Paragraph: He continues warning they will be handed over councils flogged synagogues stand before governors kings as witnesses Him gospel must first preached all nations whenever arrested brought trial not worry beforehand what say whatever

given at time say for it not speaking but Holy Spirit brother betray brother death father child children rebel against parents have put death everyone hate because Him but one stands firm end will saved when see 'abomination causes desolation' standing where does not belong reader understand flee mountains person housetop go down enter house take anything out person field go back get cloak woe pregnant nursing mothers days pray this does not take place winter Sabbath there will be distress unequaled from beginning world created by God until now never equaled again if Lord had not cut short those days no one would survive sake elect whom chosen has shortened them that time if anyone says Look here Christ Look there do not believe false christs prophets perform signs wonders deceive even elect possible vigilant therefore told everything ahead time (Mark 13:9-23).

3rd Paragraph: After distress those days sun darkened moon give light stars fall sky heavenly bodies shaken then see Son Man coming clouds great power glory send angels gather elect four winds ends earth ends heavens learn lesson fig tree soon twigs get tender leaves come out know summer near even so when see these things happening know near right door truly tell you generation certainly pass away until all these things have happened heaven earth pass away words never pass away about day hour no one knows neither angels heaven nor Son only Father vigilant keep watch do not know when time come like man going journey leaves home puts servants charge each assigned task tells one at door keep watch therefore do not know when owner house come whether evening midnight rooster crows dawn if comes suddenly find sleeping what say everyone Watch! Exhorting believers live state readiness anticipation His return given uncertainty exact timing (Mark 13:24-37).

Mark 13:1 And as he went out of the temple, one of his disciples saith unto him, Master, see what manner of stones and what buildings are here!

Jesus and his disciples were amazed at the magnificence of the temple.

1. The Magnificence of God's House: Seeing the Beauty of God's Creation

2. The Importance of Acknowledging God's Majesty in Our Lives

1. Psalm 29:2 - Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name; worship the Lord in the splendor of holiness.

2. Psalm 8:3-4 - When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place, what is man that you are mindful of him, and the son of man that you care for him?

Mark 13:2 And Jesus answering said unto him, Seest thou these great buildings? there

shall not be left one stone upon another, that shall not be thrown down.

Jesus foretells the destruction of the Temple in Jerusalem.

1. The Transience of Earthly Structures

2. The Faithfulness of Jesus' Prophecies

1. Hebrews 12:28 - Therefore, since we are receiving an unshakable kingdom, let us be filled with gratitude, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe.

2. 2 Corinthians 4:18 - So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.

Mark 13:3 And as he sat upon the mount of Olives over against the temple, Peter and James and John and Andrew asked him privately,

Jesus is teaching his disciples on the Mount of Olives, across from the temple.

1: Jesus' love for his disciples was so strong that he took time out of his day to teach them, even in the midst of a busy schedule.

2: Jesus taught his disciples not only through words but also through example, showing them that it was important to take time out of their days to learn from him.

1: Matthew 22:37 - Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.

2: John 8:31-32 - Jesus said to the people who believed in him, ?□f you continue in my word, you really are my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.??

Mark 13:4 Tell us, when shall these things be? and what shall be the sign when all these things shall be fulfilled?

Jesus warned his disciples of false prophets and taught them to be prepared for the coming of the Son of Man.

1: We must remain vigilant and prepare for the coming of the Son of Man, even if false prophets try to lead us astray.

2: Jesus' teaching in Mark 13 urges us to ask for signs of the coming of the Son of Man, so we may be ready when He comes.

1: Matthew 24:3-4 - ?□s he sat on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to him privately, saying, ?□ell us, when will these things be, and what will be the sign of your coming and of the close of the age???

2: Luke 21:7-8 - ?□nd they asked him, ?□eacher, when will these things be, and what will be the sign when these things are about to take place???And he said, ?□ee that you are not led astray. For many will come in my name, saying, ?□ am he!??and, ?□he time is at hand!??Do not go after them.??

Mark 13:5 And Jesus answering them began to say, Take heed lest any man deceive you:

Jesus warned his disciples to be aware of deception.

1: Be wary of deception and choose to seek the truth.

2: Do not be taken in by false prophets, but trust in the Lord.

1: Jeremiah 29:13 - You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart.

2: 1 Thessalonians 5:21 - Test everything; hold fast what is good.

Mark 13:6 For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many.

Many will claim to be the Messiah and will deceive many people.

1. Beware of False Prophets - Matthew 7:15-20

2. The Lies of the Enemy - Ephesians 6:10-17

1. 2 Corinthians 11:13-15

2. Acts 8:9-11

Mark 13:7 And when ye shall hear of wars and rumours of wars, be ye not troubled: for such things must needs be; but the end shall not be yet.

This passage encourages believers to not be troubled by reports of wars and other troubles, as such things are part of life, but the end of the world is not yet.

1. God's Plan for Us: Understanding that Life is Not Easy But We Can Rely on God

2. The End is Not Yet: How to Persevere in the Face of Troubles

1. Jeremiah 29:11 - "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

2. Romans 5:3-5 - Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.

Mark 13:8 For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be earthquakes in divers places, and there shall be famines and troubles: these are the beginnings of sorrows.

The beginning of sorrows includes wars, earthquakes, famines, and troubles.

1. God's Mercy in the Midst of Suffering

2. Being Prepared for Difficult Times

1. James 1:2-4 - Count it all joy, my brethren, when ye fall into divers temptations; Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.

2. Isaiah 41:10 - Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of

my righteousness.

Mark 13:9 But take heed to yourselves: for they shall deliver you up to councils; and in the synagogues ye shall be beaten: and ye shall be brought before rulers and kings for my sake, for a testimony against them.

The disciples will be persecuted for being faithful to Jesus and His teachings.

1. Standing Firm in Faith: Holding Fast to Jesus in the Face of Persecution

2. The Courageous Witness: Bearing Testimony to Jesus Despite the Threat of Harm

1. John 15:18-20 - "If the world hates you, keep in mind that it hated me first. If you belonged to the world, it would love you as its own. As it is, you do not belong to the world, but I have chosen you out of the world. That is why the world hates you. Remember what I told you: 'A servant is not greater than his master.' If they persecuted me, they will persecute you also."

2. Matthew 5:10-12 - "Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you."

Mark 13:10 And the gospel must first be published among all nations.

The gospel must be spread to all nations.

1: The Great Commission - Sharing the Gospel to All Nations

2: The Endless Possibilities of Spreading the Gospel

1: Matthew 28:19-20 - Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.

2: Acts 1:8 - But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and

unto the uttermost part of the earth.

Mark 13:11 But when they shall lead you, and deliver you up, take no thought beforehand what ye shall speak, neither do ye premeditate: but whatsoever shall be given you in that hour, that speak ye: for it is not ye that speak, but the Holy Ghost.

Christians should not worry about what to say when persecuted because the Holy Spirit will guide and give them the words to speak.

1. Trusting in the Holy Spirit - Taking Comfort in God's Guidance

2. Speaking the Truth in Trying Times - Relying on the Power of the Holy Spirit

1. John 16:13 - "However, when he, the Spirit of truth, has come, he will guide you into all truth; for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak; and he will tell you things to come."

2. Romans 8:26 - "Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered."

Mark 13:12 Now the brother shall betray the brother to death, and the father the son; and children shall rise up against their parents, and shall cause them to be put to death.

The family bond is broken as brothers betray and children rise up against their parents.

1. Betrayal in the Family: The Consequences of Breaking the Bond

2. Honor Your Father and Mother: The Blessings of Keeping the Family Bond

1. Genesis 2:24 - For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh.

2. Ephesians 6:1-3 - Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. ?□onor your father and mother?□□□hich is the first commandment with a promise???□o that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth.??

Mark 13:13 And ye shall be hated of all men for my name's sake: but he that shall endure

unto the end, the same shall be saved.

All who follow Jesus will experience hatred, but those who persevere will be saved.

1: Enduring through Trials - Mark 13:13

2: The Power of Perseverance - Mark 13:13

1: James 1:2-4 - Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance.

2: 1 Peter 5:8-9 - Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. Resist him, standing firm in the faith.

Mark 13:14 But when ye shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing where it ought not, (let him that readeth understand,) then let them that be in Judaea flee to the mountains:

Jesus warns His followers to flee to the mountains when they see the abomination of desolation spoken of by Daniel the prophet.

1. God's Warnings: Heeding the Words of Prophets

2. Fleeing to the Mountains: Heeding the Call of Jesus

1. Daniel 11:31 - "...and they shall pollute the sanctuary of strength, and shall take away the daily sacrifice, and they shall place the abomination that maketh desolate."

2. Matthew 24:15-16 - "When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, (whoso readeth, let him understand:) Then let them which be in Judaea flee into the mountains."

Mark 13:15 And let him that is on the housetop not go down into the house, neither enter therein, to take any thing out of his house:

Jesus instructs his followers to stay on the roof of their houses and not go back inside to retrieve anything.

1. The Importance of Faithful Obedience to Jesus' Instructions

2. Preparing for Unexpected Situations with Faith and Resilience

1. Matthew 7:24-27 - Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock:

2. Galatians 6:9 - And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.

Mark 13:16 And let him that is in the field not turn back again for to take up his garment.

Jesus instructs the disciples that if someone is in the field, not to turn back and take their garment.

1. The importance of staying focused on the task at hand.

2. The value of humility and contentment.

1. Philippians 4:11-13 - "Not that I am speaking of being in need, for I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content. I know how to be brought low, and I know how to abound. In any and every circumstance, I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need.

2. James 4:13-15 - Come now, you who say, ?□oday or tomorrow we will go into such and such a town and spend a year there and trade and make a profit?□□?yet you do not know what tomorrow will bring. What is your life? For you are a mist that appears for a little time and then vanishes. Instead you ought to say, ?□f the Lord wills, we will live and do this or that.??

Mark 13:17 But woe to them that are with child, and to them that give suck in those days!

Jesus warns of the difficulties faced by pregnant women and nursing mothers during a time of tribulation.

1. The Difficulties of Maternity: Lessons from the Bible

2. How to Support Mothers in Difficult Times

1. Isaiah 66:7-9

2. Jeremiah 6:24-26

Mark 13:18 And pray ye that your flight be not in the winter.

Jesus instructs his disciples to pray that their flight from danger is not in the winter, when the weather and other difficulties might be more severe.

1. Facing Fear With Faith: Learning to Trust in God in Times of Trouble

2. Seeking Strength in Adversity: Finding Comfort and Confidence in Difficult Times

1. Isaiah 43:2 - "When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you."

2. Psalm 46:1 - "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble."

Mark 13:19 For in those days shall be affliction, such as was not from the beginning of the creation which God created unto this time, neither shall be.

The passage warns of a time of great affliction that has never been seen before and will never be seen again.

1. The Lord is Warning Us of a Time of Great Suffering - Mark 13:19

2. How to Prepare for Times of Trouble - Mark 13:19

1. Isaiah 2:12-21 - God? judgment on all who have ignored His warnings

2. Matthew 24:4-14 - Jesus? warnings of the end times and instructions on how to remain faithful.

Mark 13:20 And except that the Lord had shortened those days, no flesh should be saved: but for the elect's sake, whom he hath chosen, he hath shortened the days.

The Lord has shortened the days for the sake of those He has chosen.

1: God's Faithfulness to His Elect

2: God's Mercy to All Who Believe

1: Romans 8:28-39 - And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.

2: 2 Thessalonians 2:13-17 - But we ought always to give thanks to God for you, brothers beloved by the Lord, because God chose you as the firstfruits to be saved, through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth.

Mark 13:21 And then if any man shall say to you, Lo, here is Christ; or, lo, he is there; believe him not:

Jesus warns His followers not to believe anyone who claims to be the messiah or to know where He is.

1. The Dangers of False Prophets

2. Following Jesus??Example: Keeping a Discernment of False Prophets

1. 1 John 4:1-3 - "Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world. By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you heard was coming and now is in the world already."

2. 2 Corinthians 11:13-15 - "For such men are false apostles, deceitful workmen, disguising themselves as apostles of Christ. And no wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light. So it is no surprise if his servants, also, disguise themselves as servants of righteousness. Their end will correspond to their deeds."

Mark 13:22 For false Christs and false prophets shall rise, and shall shew signs and wonders, to seduce, if it were possible, even the elect.

False prophets will attempt to deceive even God's chosen people with signs and wonders.

1. The dangers of false prophets and the importance of discerning truth.

2. Understanding how God's chosen people can be deceived and how to stay vigilant.

1. Jeremiah 14:14 - "The prophets are prophesying lies in my name. I have not sent them or appointed them or spoken to them. They are prophesying to you false visions, divinations, idolatries and the delusions of their own minds."

2. 2 Peter 2:1-3 - "But there were also false prophets among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you. They will secretly introduce destructive heresies, even denying the sovereign Lord who bought them?□ringing swift destruction on themselves. Many will follow their depraved conduct and will bring the way of truth into disrepute. In their greed these teachers will exploit you with fabricated stories."

Mark 13:23 But take ye heed: behold, I have foretold you all things.

This passage reminds us to be aware and be on guard, as Jesus has already warned us of what is to come.

1. "Be Ready: Heed the Warnings of Jesus"

2. "Be on Guard: Jesus' Forewarning Prepares Us"

1. 1 Peter 5:8 - "Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour."

2. 1 Thessalonians 5:6 - "So then let us not sleep, as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober."

Mark 13:24 But in those days, after that tribulation, the sun shall be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light,

Jesus warns of a time of great tribulation followed by a period of darkness.

1. Don't Fear the Dark: How to Prepare for Difficult Times

2. God's Promise of Light: Finding Hope in Difficult Circumstances

1. Isaiah 60:19-20 - The Lord will be your everlasting light, and your God will be your glory.

2. Matthew 5:14-16 - You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden.

Mark 13:25 And the stars of heaven shall fall, and the powers that are in heaven shall be shaken.

The stars and powers in Heaven will be shaken.

1. God's Unshakable Kingdom: How the Stars of Heaven Will Fall

2. The Power of Heaven: How Our Faith Remains Unshaken

1. Isaiah 34:4 - "And all the host of heaven shall be dissolved, and the heavens shall be rolled together as a scroll: and all their host shall fall down, as the leaf falleth off from the vine, and as a falling fig from the fig tree."

2. Hebrews 12:26-27 - "Whose voice then shook the earth: but now he hath promised, saying, Yet once more I shake not the earth only, but also heaven. And this word, Yet once more, signifieth the removing of those things that are shaken, as of things that are made, that those things which cannot be shaken may remain."

Mark 13:26 And then shall they see the Son of man coming in the clouds with great power and glory.

Jesus will return in power and glory, visible to all.

1. When Jesus Comes: The Power and Glory of His Return

2. The Clouds of His Coming: An Exhortation to Be Ready

1. Matthew 24:30 - "Then will appear the sign of the Son of Man in heaven. And then all the peoples of the earth will mourn when they see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven, with power and great glory."

2. Rev 1:7 - "Look, he is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see him, even those who pierced him; and all the peoples of the earth will mourn because of him. So shall it be! Amen."

Mark 13:27 And then shall he send his angels, and shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from the uttermost part of the earth to the uttermost part of heaven.

Jesus will send his angels to gather his elect from all parts of the world.

1. The Power of God?□ Angels: How Jesus Sends His Messengers to Gather His Elect

2. The Fulfillment of God?□ Promise: How Jesus Sends His Angels to Bring the Elect Home

1. Isaiah 27:13 "And it shall come to pass in that day, that the great trumpet shall be blown, and they shall come which were ready to perish in the land of Assyria, and the outcasts in the land of Egypt, and shall worship the LORD in the holy mount at Jerusalem."

2. Matthew 24:30??1 "And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. And he shall send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other."

Mark 13:28 Now learn a parable of the fig tree; When her branch is yet tender, and putteth forth leaves, ye know that summer is near:

The fig tree is a parable of the coming of summer.

1. The Fig Tree: A Parable of Hope

2. The Fig Tree: An Illustration of Preparation

1. Isaiah 40:31 - But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.

2. James 5:7-8 - Be patient therefore, brethren, unto the coming of the Lord. Behold, the husbandman waiteth for the precious fruit of the earth, and hath long patience for it, until he receive the early and latter rain. Be ye also patient; stablish your hearts: for the coming of the Lord draweth nigh.

Mark 13:29 So ye in like manner, when ye shall see these things come to pass, know that it is nigh, even at the doors.

Jesus is emphasizing the need to be prepared for the end times.

1: Be prepared for the end times, as Jesus has said it is near.

2: Jesus' warning to be prepared for the end times is a reminder to not be complacent.

1: Matthew 24:42-44 Therefore be alert, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. But know this: had the master of the house known in which watch of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and not allowed his house to be broken into. Therefore, be alert also for you do not know the day when the Son of Man is coming.

2: 1 Thessalonians 5:1-5 Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. When they say, ?□here is peace and security,??then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! But you, brothers and sisters, are not in darkness, for that day to overtake you like a thief. No, all of you are children of the light and children of the day. We are not of the night or of the darkness.

Mark 13:30 Verily I say unto you, that this generation shall not pass, till all these things be done.

This verse suggests that all prophecies will be fulfilled in the same generation.

1. Our faithfulness in this generation will determine the future of the next.

2. We must remain steadfast in our beliefs and be a shining example of God's love.

1. Matthew 24:34-36 - "Truly I tell you, this generation will certainly not pass away until all these things have happened. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away."

2. Hebrews 10:35-36 - "So do not throw away your confidence; it will be richly rewarded. You need to persevere so that when you have done the will of God, you will receive what he has promised."

Mark 13:31 Heaven and earth shall pass away: but my words shall not pass away.

God's word will never pass away.

1: Believing in God's Word and His Promises

2: Standing Firm on God's Word in the Midst of Difficulties

1: Matthew 24:35 - Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away.

2: Isaiah 40:8 - The grass withers and the flowers fade, but the word of our God stands forever.

Mark 13:32 But of that day and that hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels which are in heaven, neither the Son, but the Father.

No one knows when the end of the world will come, not even the angels in heaven or the Son, only the Father.

1: God alone knows when the world will end, so do not be preoccupied with the matter and instead focus on living a life that is pleasing to God.

2: The end of the world is an unknown, but we can be sure that God will be with us in the midst of the uncertainty.

1: Matthew 6:25-34 - Do not worry, instead seek God's kingdom and righteousness.

2: Psalm 46:1-3 - God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

Mark 13:33 Take ye heed, watch and pray: for ye know not when the time is.

Be alert and ready for the coming of the Lord.

1. Be Ready: Preparing for the Coming of the Lord

2. The Urgency of the Moment: Watch and Pray

1. Romans 13:11-14 - Knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed.

2. Luke 12:35-40 - Let your loins be girded about, and your lights burning; And ye yourselves like unto men that wait for their lord, when he will return from the wedding; that when he cometh and knocketh, they may open unto him immediately.

Mark 13:34 For the Son of man is as a man taking a far journey, who left his house, and gave authority to his servants, and to every man his work, and commanded the porter to watch.

The Son of Man is a traveler who has given authority to his servants and entrusted them with their tasks. He has also commanded the porter to watch.

1. The importance of tasks entrusted to us by the Lord.

2. The importance of staying alert and vigilant in life.

1. Matthew 25:14-30 - The Parable of the Talents.

2. 1 Peter 5:8-9 - Be sober and watchful for the devil prowls around like a roaring lion.

Mark 13:35 Watch ye therefore: for ye know not when the master of the house cometh, at even, or at midnight, or at the cockcrowing, or in the morning:

Jesus instructs his followers to be constantly vigilant and to watch for his return, as no one knows when it will be.

1. "Be Prepared: Living in Anticipation of Christ's Return"

2. "Be Alert: Being Ready for Christ's Second Coming"

1. 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11 ??Paul's instructions about the coming of the Lord and how to live in light of that.

2. Matthew 24:36-44 ??Jesus' teachings about his return and how to remain prepared.

Mark 13:36 Lest coming suddenly he find you sleeping.

Jesus encourages his disciples to be vigilant and remain awake, as they do not know when the Son of Man will return.

1. "Ready and Waiting: How to Remain Alert and Prepared for the Lord's Return"

2. "Wake Up and Watch: The Importance of Living in Expectation of the Lord's Return"

1. Ephesians 5:14-17 - "Therefore be careful how you walk, not as unwise men but as wise, making the most of your time, because the days are evil. So then do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. And do not get drunk with wine, for that is dissipation, but be filled with the Spirit."

2. Colossians 4:5 - "Conduct yourselves with wisdom toward outsiders, making the most of the opportunity."

Mark 13:37 And what I say unto you I say unto all, Watch.

Jesus tells his disciples to stay vigilant and watchful.

1. "Wake Up! Be Alert and Ready for Jesus"

2. "Be Prepared for Jesus' Return"

1. Matthew 24:42 - "Therefore keep watch, because you do not know on what day your

Lord will come."

2. 1 Peter 4:7 - "The end of all things is near. Therefore be alert and of sober mind so that you may pray."

Mark 14 recounts several key events including the plot to kill Jesus, His anointing at Bethany, the Last Supper, Jesus' prayer in Gethsemane, His arrest and trial before the Sanhedrin, and Peter's denial.

1st Paragraph: The chapter begins with chief priests and teachers of law looking for some sly way to arrest Jesus and kill Him. But they decided not during festival fear people may riot (Mark 14:1-2). While Bethany home Simon leper woman came broke alabaster jar very expensive perfume made pure nard poured it on His head. Some those present rebuked her waste could have been sold more than year's wages given poor but Jesus defends her saying she done beautiful thing Him poor will always have them can help anytime want but will not always have Him she did what she could poured perfume body beforehand prepare burial truly wherever gospel preached throughout world what she has done will also be told memory her (Mark 14:3-9).

2nd Paragraph: Then Judas Iscariot one Twelve went chief priests betray him delighted hear this promised give money so watched for opportunity hand over (Mark 14:10-11). On first day Festival Unleavened Bread when it was customary sacrifice Passover lamb disciples ask where want us go make preparations eat Passover He sends two disciples into city tells them follow man carrying jar water say owner house Teacher asks 'Where guest room where I may eat Passover with my disciples?' He show large upper room furnished ready make preparations there evening comes reclines table Twelve while eating says truly one betray one eating gives bread dipped into bowl says one who dips bread into bowl with me Son Man go as written about him woe man betrays Son Man better for that man if he had not been born (Mark 14:12-21). During meal takes bread giving thanks breaks gives them saying "Take this is my body" then takes cup giving thanks offers them all drink saying "This is my blood covenant which poured out many truly tell you will no longer drink fruit vine until day drink new kingdom God" after singing hymn go out Mount Olives tells disciples fall away even though all fall away will not assures Peter today yes tonight before rooster crows twice yourself disown three times but Peter insists even if have die with you never disown still declares vehemently (Mark 14:22-31).

3rd Paragraph: They went place called Gethsemane Jesus tells disciples sit while prays deeply distressed troubled says soul overwhelmed sorrow point death stay here keep watch goes little farther falls ground prays if possible hour might pass him "Abba Father everything possible take cup from me Yet not what I want but what you want" returns finds sleeping asks Peter Simon asleep couldn't keep watch one hour? Watch pray fall into temptation spirit willing flesh weak again goes away prays same thing returns again finds sleeping because eyes heavy did know what say comes third time says enough hour come look Son Man delivered hands sinners rise let us go here comes betrayer while speaking Judas appears crowd armed swords clubs sent chief priests teachers law betrayer arranged signal ahead time going kiss man arrest lead away under guard they arrest Jesus all disciples desert him young man wearing nothing but linen garment

followed Jesus when they seized him fled naked leaving his garment behind (Mark 14:32-52). They took Jesus high priest where chief priests elders teachers law assembled Peter followed distance right into courtyard high priest there sat with guards warmed himself fire chief priests whole Sanhedrin looked for evidence against Jesus so could put death but did not find many testified falsely against him but their statements did not agree then some stood up gave false testimony against him "We heard him say 'I will destroy this temple made human hands in three days will build another not made human hands'" yet even their testimony did not agree then high priest stood up before them asked Jesus "Are you not going answer? What these men testifying against you?" But remained silent gave no answer again high priest asked "Are you Messiah Son Blessed One?" says "I am and you will see Son Man sitting at right hand Mighty One coming clouds heaven" High Priest tore clothes said do we need any more witnesses have heard blasphemy what think? They all condemned worthy death some began spit him blindfold hit saying Prophesy! guards took charge beat (Mark 14:53-65). Meanwhile Peter below courtyard one servant girls high priest came by saw warming himself looked closely said You also were with Nazarene Jesus denied it saying don't know understand what talking about went out into entryway rooster crowed servant girl saw said those standing around This fellow one them again denied it after little while those standing near said Peter surely one them are Galilean He began call down curses swore I don't know this man talking about immediately rooster crowed second time Peter remembered word Jesus had spoken to him "Before rooster crows twice disown three times." And he broke down wept (Mark 14:66-72).

Mark 14:1 After two days was the feast of the passover, and of unleavened bread: and the chief priests and the scribes sought how they might take him by craft, and put him to death.

Two days before the Passover feast, the chief priests and scribes plotted to capture and kill Jesus.

1: God's will is greater than human plans - Proverbs 19:21

2: Humility before God - 1 Peter 5:5-6

1: Matthew 26:3-5

2: John 11:45-53

Mark 14:2 But they said, Not on the feast day, lest there be an uproar of the people.

Some people in the crowd objected to Jesus being anointed on the feast day, as it could cause an uproar.

1. Learning to trust God's timing even when it goes against the grain.

2. Understanding the importance of humility and submission in achieving God's will.

1. Isaiah 55:8-9 - "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts."

2. James 4:7-10 - "Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded. Be afflicted, and mourn, and weep: let your laughter be turned to mourning, and your joy to heaviness. Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up."

Mark 14:3 And being in Bethany in the house of Simon the leper, as he sat at meat, there came a woman having an alabaster box of ointment of spikenard very precious; and she brake the box, and poured it on his head.

This passage describes a woman anointing Jesus with a very expensive ointment of spikenard.

1: God values and blesses acts of extravagant devotion from those who love Him.

2: Jesus is worthy of our most precious gifts and offerings.

1: 2 Corinthians 9:7 - Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

2: Luke 7:36-50 - Jesus was anointed with costly perfume by a sinful woman.

Mark 14:4 And there were some that had indignation within themselves, and said, Why was this waste of the ointment made?

This passage talks about those who were indignant about the woman's waste of the ointment made.

1. Believing in the Power of Generosity

2. Releasing Your Grasp on Material Things

1. 2 Corinthians 9:6-7 - ?□emember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.??

2. Matthew 25:40 - ?□he King will reply, ?□ruly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.?□□?

Mark 14:5 For it might have been sold for more than three hundred pence, and have been given to the poor. And they murmured against her.

This passage shows how Jesus' disciples were upset with Mary for pouring expensive oil on his feet instead of giving it to the poor.

1: Jesus teaches us through this story to put others before ourselves, even if it means sacrificing something we value.

2: We should always be willing to give sacrificially to those in need, as Jesus demonstrated through Mary's actions.

1: Galatians 6:10 - So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith.

2: Philippians 2:3-4 - Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.

Mark 14:6 And Jesus said, Let her alone; why trouble ye her? she hath wrought a good work on me.

Jesus defends a woman for performing a good work on him.

1. The example of Jesus in defending those who do good

2. The importance of showing gratitude for good works done

1. Matthew 5:7, ?□lessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy.??

2. Galatians 6:10, ?□s we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith.??

Mark 14:7 For ye have the poor with you always, and whensoever ye will ye may do them good: but me ye have not always.

The poor will always be present and we should be ready to help them whenever we can, but Jesus will not always be with us.

1. Be generous in your giving to those in need, for it is a way to serve Jesus.

2. Jesus will not always be with us, so let us use the opportunity to serve Him while He is here.

1. Philippians 4:19 And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus.

2. James 1:27 Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unstained from the world.

Mark 14:8 She hath done what she could: she is come aforehand to anoint my body to the burying.

A woman has done what she was able to do, which was to come early to anoint Jesus' body in preparation for his funeral.

1. The Power of A Small Gesture: How the Woman's Action in Mark 14:8 Reveals Great Faith

2. Doing What We Can: How Our Actions, No Matter How Small, Can Make a Difference

1. 1 Corinthians 13:1-3 - "Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity, I am become as sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal. And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge; and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, and have not charity, I am nothing. And

though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, and have not charity, it profiteth me nothing."

2. Matthew 7:12 - "Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them: for this is the law and the prophets."

Mark 14:9 Verily I say unto you, Wheresoever this gospel shall be preached throughout the whole world, this also that she hath done shall be spoken of for a memorial of her.

This passage speaks of a woman's generous act of pouring expensive perfume on Jesus' feet, and the act being remembered as an example of selfless love and devotion.

1: The Cost of Devotion - a look at the woman's selfless act of pouring expensive perfume on Jesus' feet.

2: Living a Life of Generosity - a look at how we can emulate the woman's example of generosity.

1: Luke 6:38 - Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom.

2: 2 Corinthians 9:7 - Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver.

Mark 14:10 And Judas Iscariot, one of the twelve, went unto the chief priests, to betray him unto them.

Judas Iscariot betrayed Jesus to the chief priests.

1: The consequences of betrayal and its impact in our lives.

2: The contrast between loyalty and betrayal.

1: Matthew 26:14-16 - Then one of the twelve, called Judas Iscariot, went unto the chief priests, and said unto them, What will ye give me, and I will deliver him unto you? And they covenanted with him for thirty pieces of silver.

2: John 13:21-30 - When Jesus had thus said, he was troubled in spirit, and testified, and

said, Verily, verily, I say unto you, that one of you shall betray me.

Mark 14:11 And when they heard it, they were glad, and promised to give him money. And he sought how he might conveniently betray him.

This passage tells of Jesus being betrayed by Judas for money.

1. Betrayal and Forgiveness - How Jesus Forgave Even His Betrayers

2. The Power of Money - How Greed Can Lead to Betrayal

1. John 13:21-30 - Jesus Washes the Disciples' Feet

2. Psalm 41:9 - Even My Close Friend, in Whom I Trusted, Who Ate My Bread, Has Lift His Heel Against Me

Mark 14:12 And the first day of unleavened bread, when they killed the passover, his disciples said unto him, Where wilt thou that we go and prepare that thou mayest eat the passover?

Jesus and his disciples prepared to eat the Passover.

1. How Christ's Last Supper can Inspire our Lives Today

2. The Power of Preparation in Fellowship

1. Luke 22:14-20 - The account of Jesus and His disciples sharing the Last Supper

2. Matthew 26:17-30 - Jesus' instruction to His disciples to prepare the Passover meal

Mark 14:13 And he sendeth forth two of his disciples, and saith unto them, Go ye into the city, and there shall meet you a man bearing a pitcher of water: follow him.

Jesus sends two of his disciples into the city, telling them to follow a man carrying a pitcher of water.

1. The power of Jesus' instructions: how following his commands can lead us to unexpected places.

2. The importance of obedience: trusting in God even when we don't know the outcome.

1. Matthew 10:7-8 - "And as you go, proclaim saying, 'The kingdom of heaven is at hand.' Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse lepers, cast out demons."

2. John 15:14 - "You are my friends if you do what I command you."

Mark 14:14 And wheresoever he shall go in, say ye to the goodman of the house, The Master saith, Where is the guestchamber, where I shall eat the passover with my disciples?

Jesus tells his disciples to ask the owner of the house where he can eat the Passover meal with them.

1. The Power of Invitation: Learning to Extend and Receive God's Grace

2. The Uniqueness of the Passover: Remembering the Gift of Salvation

1. John 13:13-17 - Jesus washing the disciples feet

2. Deuteronomy 16:1-8 - Instructions for the Passover observance

Mark 14:15 And he will shew you a large upper room furnished and prepared: there make ready for us.

This passage is about Jesus telling his disciples to prepare a large upper room for their last supper.

1. The Importance of Preparation: Lessons from Jesus' Last Supper

2. Making Room for Christ: Allowing Him to Transform Our Lives.

1. Philippians 2:5-8 - Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus,

who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men.

2. Matthew 26:17-19 - On the first day of Unleavened Bread, when they sacrificed the Passover lamb, his disciples said to him, ?□here will you have us go and prepare for you to eat the Passover???And he sent two of his disciples and said to them, ?□o into the city, and a man carrying a jar of water will meet you. Follow him.??

Mark 14:16 And his disciples went forth, and came into the city, and found as he had said unto them: and they made ready the passover.

The disciples followed Jesus' instructions and prepared for the passover.

1. Obedience Brings Blessings - Following Jesus' instructions brings us closer to Him and leads to blessings.

2. The Power of Faith - Jesus' instructions were followed by faith and lead to a successful passover.

1. Hebrews 11:6 - But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.

2. John 14:31 - But that the world may know that I love the Father; and as the Father gave me commandment, even so I do. Arise, let us go hence.

Mark 14:17 And in the evening he cometh with the twelve.

The evening Jesus came to the disciples with the twelve.

1: Jesus always shows up when we need Him the most.

2: Don't be afraid to invite Jesus into your life.

1: John 14:27 "Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid."

2: Romans 8:38-39 "For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor

principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord."

Mark 14:18 And as they sat and did eat, Jesus said, Verily I say unto you, One of you which eateth with me shall betray me.

Jesus predicted that one of those who were eating with him would betray him.

1. Betrayal in the Bible: How Jesus Handled His Betrayal

2. Turning Away From Betrayal and Toward Faithfulness

1. Psalm 41:9 - Even my own familiar friend, in whom I trusted, who ate my bread, has lifted his heel against me.

2. 1 John 2:15-17 - Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, love for the Father is not in them. For everything in the world?□he lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life?□omes not from the Father but from the world. The world and its desires pass away, but whoever does the will of God lives forever.

Mark 14:19 And they began to be sorrowful, and to say unto him one by one, Is it I? and another said, Is it I?

Jesus' disciples questioned who would betray him.

1. Jesus' faithfulness and steadfastness in the face of betrayal

2. The importance of accountability in relationships

1. Matthew 26:21-25 - Jesus predicts his betrayal

2. John 13:1-11 - Jesus washes the disciples' feet

Mark 14:20 And he answered and said unto them, It is one of the twelve, that dippeth with me in the dish.

Jesus reveals that Judas is the one who will betray him.

1: Jesus models grace and mercy even in his darkest hour, setting an example for us to follow.

2: Jesus teaches us to be humble and to embrace our fate, trusting God's will no matter what.

1: Romans 8:28 - And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.

2: Matthew 26:39 - And he went a little further, and fell on his face, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt.

Mark 14:21 The Son of man indeed goeth, as it is written of him: but woe to that man by whom the Son of man is betrayed! good were it for that man if he had never been born.

The Son of Man will go as it is written, but woe to the one who betrays Him. It would have been better if he had never been born.

1. The Dangers of Betrayal

2. The Power of Our Choices

1. Matthew 26:24 - "The Son of Man goes as it is written of Him, but woe to that man by whom He is betrayed!"

2. John 3:16 - "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life."

Mark 14:22 And as they did eat, Jesus took bread, and blessed, and brake it, and gave to them, and said, Take, eat: this is my body.

Jesus instructs his disciples to eat bread as a symbol of his body.

1. The Bread of Life: Understanding the Significance of Jesus' Words at the Last Supper

2. The Power of Symbolic Actions: How Jesus Used Symbols to Communicate His Message

1. John 6:35 - "And Jesus said unto them, I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst."

2. Luke 22:19 - "And he took bread, and gave thanks, and brake it, and gave unto them, saying, This is my body which is given for you: this do in remembrance of me."

Mark 14:23 And he took the cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them: and they all drank of it.

Jesus shared the cup of wine during the Last Supper to signify his imminent sacrifice and to establish a lasting covenant with his disciples.

1. The Importance of Sacrificial Love

2. The Power of Covenant in Our Lives

1. Ephesians 5:2 - ?nd walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweetsmelling savour.??

2. Luke 22:19-20 - ?nd he took bread, and gave thanks, and brake it, and gave unto them, saying, This is my body which is given for you: this do in remembrance of me. Likewise also the cup after supper, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood, which is shed for you.??

Mark 14:24 And he said unto them, This is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many.

Jesus institutes the New Covenant through His sacrifice of His blood.

1. Jesus' Sacrifice: The Foundation of the New Covenant

2. The Meaning and Significance of Jesus' Blood

1. Hebrews 9:14-15 - How Christ's Death Establishes the New Covenant

2. Romans 3:24-25 - The Redemption of Sin Through Jesus' Sacrifice

Mark 14:25 Verily I say unto you, I will drink no more of the fruit of the vine, until that day that I drink it new in the kingdom of God.

This verse highlights Jesus' determination to stay true to his mission until the end, even when it was difficult.

1. ?taying True to Your Mission??- A focusing on Jesus' example of perseverance in the face of adversity.

2. ?he Joy of Heaven??- A focusing on the hope of joy and eternal life in the kingdom of God.

1. Romans 8:18 - For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.

2. Hebrews 12:1-2 - Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Mark 14:26 And when they had sung an hymn, they went out into the mount of Olives.

During the Last Supper, Jesus and His disciples sang a hymn before departing for the Mount of Olives.

1. The Power of Worship During Difficult Times

2. How to Find Strength for the Journey Ahead

1. Psalms 100:2 - "Serve the Lord with gladness! Come into his presence with singing!"

2. Luke 10:2 - "He told them, ?he harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field."

Mark 14:27 And Jesus saith unto them, All ye shall be offended because of me this night: for it is written, I will smite the shepherd, and the sheep shall be scattered.

Jesus explains that He will suffer and His disciples will be scattered.

1: Don't be Offended by Jesus - Mark 14:27

2: The Smiting of the Shepherd - Mark 14:27

1: Isaiah 53:5-6 - He was wounded for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned?□very one?□o his own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

2: Zechariah 13:7 - Awake, O sword, against my shepherd, against the man who stands next to me,??declares the Lord of hosts. ?□trike the shepherd, and the sheep will be scattered; I will turn my hand against the little ones.

Mark 14:28 But after that I am risen, I will go before you into Galilee.

This passage from Mark 14:28 speaks of Jesus' promise to his disciples that he will go before them into Galilee after he is risen from the dead.

1. The Promise of Resurrection: Embracing a New Life

2. Put Your Trust in Jesus: He Will Lead You Through Troubled Times

1. John 14:1-3 ?□et not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also.

2. Romans 8:28 And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.

Mark 14:29 But Peter said unto him, Although all shall be offended, yet will not I.

Peter declared his commitment to Jesus, even when all others abandoned Him.

1. The Strength of Unwavering Commitment

2. Standing Firm in the Face of Adversity

1. Hebrews 3:12-14 - See how Jesus endured against all odds

2. James 1:12 - Reflect on God's faithfulness in the midst of trials and temptations

Mark 14:30 And Jesus saith unto him, Verily I say unto thee, That this day, even in this night, before the cock crow twice, thou shalt deny me thrice.

Jesus predicts Peter's denial.

1: We must stay firm in our faith and trust in God even in the face of temptation.

2: It is important to keep our promises and to be honest with ourselves and God.

1: Matthew 26:33-35 - "Peter answered and said unto him, Though all men shall be offended because of thee, yet will I never be offended. Jesus said unto him, Verily I say unto thee, That this night, before the cock crow, thou shalt deny me thrice. Peter said unto him, Though I should die with thee, yet will I not deny thee. Likewise also said all the disciples."

2: Luke 22:31-34 - "And the Lord said, Simon, Simon, behold, Satan hath desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat: But I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not: and when thou art converted, strengthen thy brethren. And he said unto him, Lord, I am ready to go with thee, both into prison, and to death. And he said, I tell thee, Peter, the cock shall not crow this day, before that thou shalt thrice deny that thou knowest me."

Mark 14:31 But he spake the more vehemently, If I should die with thee, I will not deny thee in any wise. Likewise also said they all.

The disciples affirmed their commitment to stand with Jesus even unto death.

1: We must remain committed to Jesus, no matter the cost.

2: We should stand by Jesus in every circumstance, even in the face of death.

1: Matthew 16:24-25 - Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me. For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it.

2: Hebrews 13:5-6 - Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee. So that we may boldly say, The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me.

Mark 14:32 And they came to a place which was named Gethsemane: and he saith to his disciples, Sit ye here, while I shall pray.

Jesus tells his disciples to wait while he prays in Gethsemane.

1: The importance of prayer in times of distress.

2: Learning to trust in God's plan and timing.

1: James 5:13-16 - The power of prayer in times of suffering.

2: Isaiah 40:31 - Putting your trust in the Lord.

Mark 14:33 And he taketh with him Peter and James and John, and began to be sore amazed, and to be very heavy;

Jesus was filled with sorrow as he took Peter, James, and John with him.

1. Facing the Depths of Emotion: Learning to Embrace Sorrow

2. The Power of Presence: The Comfort of Companionship

1. Isaiah 53:3 - He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief.

2. John 11:35 - Jesus wept.

Mark 14:34 And saith unto them, My soul is exceeding sorrowful unto death: tarry ye here, and watch.

Jesus informs his disciples that his soul is sorrowful unto death and tells them to stay and watch.

1. Jesus in Gethsemane: The Power of Compassion and Self-Sacrifice

2. The Sorrow and Strength of Jesus: An Examination of the Passion

1. Psalm 22:1-2 - My God, My God, why have you forsaken me? Why are you so far from saving me, so far from the words of my groaning?

2. Philippians 2:8 - Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

Mark 14:35 And he went forward a little, and fell on the ground, and prayed that, if it were possible, the hour might pass from him.

Jesus showed humility and submission to God by praying for the hour to pass from him.

1. The Power of Humility and Submission to God

2. Following Jesus??Example of Prayer

1. Philippians 2:8-10 ?□nd being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.??

2. James 5:13 ?□s anyone among you suffering? Let him pray. Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing praise.??

Mark 14:36 And he said, Abba, Father, all things are possible unto thee; take away this cup from me: nevertheless not what I will, but what thou wilt.

Jesus prays to God asking for the cup of suffering to be taken away, but that he will accept God's will.

1. Trusting In God's Plan - A Study of Jesus' Prayer in Mark 14:36

2. Submitting to God's Will - A Reflection on Jesus' Prayer in Mark 14:36

1. Romans 8:28 - And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.

2. James 4:15 - For that ye ought to say, If the Lord will, we shall live, and do this, or that.

Mark 14:37 And he cometh, and findeth them sleeping, and saith unto Peter, Simon, sleepest thou? couldest not thou watch one hour?

Jesus asked Peter why he couldn't stay awake for one hour.

1. The importance of staying alert and awake in prayer.

2. The power of Jesus to see what we cannot.

1. Ephesians 6:18 - Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints.

2. Luke 21:36 - Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man.

Mark 14:38 Watch ye and pray, lest ye enter into temptation. The spirit truly is ready, but the flesh is weak.

We must stay vigilant and pray for strength to resist temptation.

1: We can be strong in the Lord and the power of His might.

2: In times of temptation, we can call upon God for His strength.

1: Philippians 4:13 - "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me."

2: 2 Corinthians 10:3-5 - "For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh: (For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;) Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ."

Mark 14:39 And again he went away, and prayed, and spake the same words.

Jesus prayed a second time in the Garden of Gethsemane.

1. The Power of Persistent Prayer: Learning from Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane

2. When the Going Gets Tough: Drawing Strength from Jesus' Example in Gethsemane

1. Luke 22:44, "And being in an agony he prayed more earnestly: and his sweat was as it were great drops of blood falling down to the ground."

2. Hebrews 5:7, "Who in the days of his flesh, when he had offered up prayers and supplications with strong crying and tears unto him that was able to save him from death, and was heard in that he feared."

Mark 14:40 And when he returned, he found them asleep again, (for their eyes were heavy,) neither wist they what to answer him.

The disciples of Jesus fell asleep while Jesus prayed in the garden of Gethsemane. They were so tired, they did not know how to answer Him when He returned.

1. Our Relationship with Jesus: Staying Awake and Ready to Respond

2. Persevering in Prayer: The Power of Jesus? Intercession

1. Hebrews 4:15-16 - ? or we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are? et he did not sin. Let us then approach God? throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.??

2. Ephesians 6:18 - ?□nd pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord?□ people.??

Mark 14:41 And he cometh the third time, and saith unto them, Sleep on now, and take your rest: it is enough, the hour is come; behold, the Son of man is betrayed into the hands of sinners.

Jesus came to the disciples three times and told them to rest, because the time had come for Him to be betrayed into the hands of sinners.

1. Jesus' Love for Us in His Final Hours

2. The Courage of Christ in the Face of Betrayal

1. Romans 8:31 - "What, then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?"

2. Hebrews 12:2 - "Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God."

Mark 14:42 Rise up, let us go; lo, he that betrayeth me is at hand.

Jesus declares that the one who will betray Him is nearby.

1. The Betrayal of Jesus: Understanding His Sacrifice

2. Standing Firm in the Face of Betrayal

1. Matthew 26:45 - Then he cometh to the disciples, and saith unto them, Sleep on now, and take your rest: behold, the hour is at hand, and the Son of man is betrayed into the hands of sinners.

2. Psalm 41:9 - Even my own familiar friend in whom I trusted, which did eat of my bread, hath lifted up his heel against me.

Mark 14:43 And immediately, while he yet spake, cometh Judas, one of the twelve, and

with him a great multitude with swords and staves, from the chief priests and the scribes and the elders.

Judas betrays Jesus with a large crowd of people.

1. How Jesus??Betrayal Reflects Our Own Struggles with Temptation

2. The Power of Forgiveness in the Face of Betrayal

1. Matthew 26:47-56 ??Jesus??arrest and Peter?□ denial of Him

2. John 13:1-20 ??Jesus washing the disciples??feet and Judas leaving to betray Him

Mark 14:44 And he that betrayed him had given them a token, saying, Whomsoever I shall kiss, that same is he; take him, and lead him away safely.

The betrayer had given a sign to identify Jesus; he was to be kissed.

1: Love in the midst of Betrayal - How Jesus' love for us never wavered even when he was betrayed.

2: The Token of Love - How Jesus' love for us is evidenced by the way he was betrayed.

1: John 13:34-35 - "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."

2: 1 John 4:19-21 - "We love Him because He first loved us. If someone says, ?□ love God,??and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen, how can he love God whom he has not seen? And this commandment we have from Him: that he who loves God must love his brother also."

Mark 14:45 And as soon as he was come, he goeth straightway to him, and saith, Master, master; and kissed him.

Jesus arrives and greets His master with affection.

1. The Power of Kindness in Jesus's Love

2. The Example of Jesus: A Loving Greeting

1. Luke 22:47-48 ?□nd while he yet spake, behold a multitude, and he that was called Judas, one of the twelve, went before them, and drew near unto Jesus to kiss him. But Jesus said unto him, Judas, betrayest thou the Son of man with a kiss???

2. 1 Corinthians 16:20 ?□ll the brethren greet you. Greet ye one another with an holy kiss.??

Mark 14:46 And they laid their hands on him, and took him.

The disciples arrested Jesus.

1: Jesus?□ example of obedience and humility despite suffering.

2: The importance of trusting God when going through difficult times.

1: Philippians 2:5-8 ?□ave this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross."

2: John 15:13 ?□reater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends.??

Mark 14:47 And one of them that stood by drew a sword, and smote a servant of the high priest, and cut off his ear.

One of the people standing with Jesus drew a sword and cut off the ear of a servant of the high priest.

1. Jesus Teaches Us To Be Non-Violent - Matthew 5:39

2. The Power Of Forgiveness - Ephesians 4:32

1. Luke 22:50-51 - Jesus heals the servant's ear

2. Matthew 26:52 - Jesus' response to violence is to show mercy and forgiveness

Mark 14:48 And Jesus answered and said unto them, Are ye come out, as against a thief, with swords and with staves to take me?

Jesus questioned the purpose of the crowd coming to arrest Him with swords and staves.

1: We should not use force or violence to get our way, but instead be humble and use God's love to find peace.

2: We should not be quick to judge, but instead take time to understand the motives of those around us.

1: Matthew 5:9 - "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God."

2: James 1:19 - "My dear brothers and sisters, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry."

Mark 14:49 I was daily with you in the temple teaching, and ye took me not: but the scriptures must be fulfilled.

Jesus reminded His disciples of His presence among them in the temple and the importance of the scriptures being fulfilled.

1. Jesus: Our Perfect Example of Obedience

2. The Power of Scripture: Fulfilling the Word of God

1. Luke 4:16-21 (Jesus in the synagogue)

2. Psalm 119:105 (Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path)

Mark 14:50 And they all forsook him, and fled.

Jesus' disciples abandoned him when he was arrested.

1. "The Power of Faith: Standing by Jesus Despite Fleeing Disciples"

2. "The Strength of Hope: Jesus' Example of Perseverance in Adversity"

1. Hebrews 13:5-6 - "Keep your life free from love of money, and be content with what you have, for he has said, ?□ will never leave you nor forsake you.??

2. Isaiah 41:10 - "Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand."

Mark 14:51 And there followed him a certain young man, having a linen cloth cast about his naked body; and the young men laid hold on him:

A young man follows Jesus while wearing a linen cloth around his body, and other young men seize him.

1. The Power of Following Jesus No Matter the Cost

2. Living Out Your Faith in Bold Ways

1. Matthew 16:24-25 - ?□hen Jesus said to his disciples, ?□hoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me.?□□?

2. 2 Timothy 2:3-4 - ?□hare in suffering as a good soldier of Christ Jesus. No soldier gets entangled in civilian pursuits, since his aim is to please the one who enlisted him.??

Mark 14:52 And he left the linen cloth, and fled from them naked.

Jesus, while being arrested in the Garden of Gethsemane, left the linen cloth he was wearing and fled from his captors, leaving him naked.

1. The Power of Faith: Jesus' willingness to trust God and follow His plan despite the consequences.

2. Stripped of Our Pride: How Jesus humbled Himself in order to complete His mission.

1. Matthew 26:36-45 - Jesus' prayer in the Garden of Gethsemane.

2. Philippians 2:5-11 - Jesus' example of humility and obedience.

Mark 14:53 And they led Jesus away to the high priest: and with him were assembled all the chief priests and the elders and the scribes.

The chief priests, elders, and scribes led Jesus away to the high priest.

1) The Power of Community - how strength in numbers can be used for both good and bad

2) The Power of Influence - how a leader's example affects those around them

1) Acts 4:23-31 - Peter and John's boldness in the face of opposition

2) Romans 12:1-2 - being transformed by the renewing of one's mind

Mark 14:54 And Peter followed him afar off, even into the palace of the high priest: and he sat with the servants, and warmed himself at the fire.

Peter denied Jesus in the face of adversity.

1: We must stand strong in our faith and not be swayed by our fears.

2: We must seek strength and courage from God in the face of opposition.

1: Joshua 1:9 - "Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.??

2: Isaiah 41:10 - ?□ear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.??

Mark 14:55 And the chief priests and all the council sought for witness against Jesus to put him to death; and found none.

The chief priests and the council searched for evidence against Jesus to put him to death, but they found none.

1. God is our protector and will never abandon us in our time of need.

2. No one can stand against us if we have God's protection.

1. Romans 8:31 "What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?"

2. 1 John 4:4 "Little children, you are from God and have overcome them, for he who is in you is greater than he who is in the world."

Mark 14:56 For many bare false witness against him, but their witness agreed not together.

This passage highlights how many witnesses gave false testimonies against Jesus, yet their testimonies were inconsistent and did not agree.

1: Let us remember to be honest in all our words and actions, for God sees all.

2: We should be careful to not give false witness against anyone, for it is not in line with God's will.

1: Exodus 20:16 - ?□ou shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.??

2: Proverbs 12:17 - ?□hoever speaks the truth gives honest evidence, but a false witness utters deceit.??

Mark 14:57 And there arose certain, and bare false witness against him, saying,

The false witnesses in the trial of Jesus bore false witness against him.

1: We must always be truthful and never bear false witness against another.

2: Love your neighbor as yourself and do not speak falsely against them.

1: Ephesians 4:25 - "Therefore, having put away falsehood, let each one of you speak the truth with his neighbor, for we are members one of another."

2: Proverbs 14:5 - "A faithful witness does not lie, but a false witness breathes out lies."

Mark 14:58 We heard him say, I will destroy this temple that is made with hands, and within three days I will build another made without hands.

Jesus predicted the destruction of Jerusalem's temple and his own resurrection.

1: Jesus predicted his own resurrection and the destruction of the temple, and these predictions came true.

2: Jesus is a powerful and trustworthy source of information. He said that the temple would be destroyed and he would rise again, and these promises were fulfilled.

1: John 2:19-22 - Jesus answered and said to them, ?□estroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.??

2: Matthew 26:61 - And said, This fellow said, I am able to destroy the temple of God, and to build it in three days.

Mark 14:59 But neither so did their witness agree together.

Witnesses in the trial of Jesus did not agree in their testimony.

1. God is Faithful Even in the Face of Unfaithfulness

2. Standing Firm in the Face of Adversity

1. Philippians 4:13 - I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.

2. Jeremiah 29:11 - For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope.

Mark 14:60 And the high priest stood up in the midst, and asked Jesus, saying, Answerest thou nothing? what is it which these witness against thee?

The high priest questions Jesus after multiple witnesses speak against Him.

1. "The Power of Witnessing: Examining Our Own Motives and Actions"

2. "The Sovereignty of God: Understanding His Plan in Times of Trials"

1. John 8:46 - "Which of you convicts me of sin?"

2. Isaiah 43:2 - "When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you."

Mark 14:61 But he held his peace, and answered nothing. Again the high priest asked him, and said unto him, Art thou the Christ, the Son of the Blessed?

Jesus was questioned by the high priest and remained silent in response.

1: Our faith should be strong enough that, even when questioned, we remain steadfast.

2: We should never compromise our beliefs, even when put under pressure.

1: Romans 8:35-39 - Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

2: Hebrews 13:6 - So we can confidently say, ?□he Lord is my helper; I will not fear; what can man do to me???

Mark 14:62 And Jesus said, I am: and ye shall see the Son of man sitting on the right hand of power, and coming in the clouds of heaven.

Jesus identifies himself as the Son of Man and foreshadows his return.

1: God's Justice Will Prevail - Jesus' identification of himself as the Son of Man shows us that God will see justice done and his power will be seen in the world.

2: Be Ready for Jesus' Return - Jesus' identification of himself as the Son of Man shows us that his return is certain and we must be prepared.

1: Daniel 7:13-14 - ?□ saw in the night visions, and behold, with the clouds of heaven there came one like a son of man, and he came to the Ancient of Days and was presented before him. And to him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve him; his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom one that shall not be destroyed.??

2: Matthew 24:30 - ?□hen will appear in heaven the sign of the Son of Man, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.??

Mark 14:63 Then the high priest rent his clothes, and saith, What need we any further witnesses?

The high priest was so convinced of Jesus??guilt that he tore his clothes in a sign of mourning.

1: We must have conviction in our faith and be willing to stand for what we believe in.

2: We must be sure of our convictions before making any decisions.

1: Matthew 21:25-27 - Jesus teaches that we must be sure to have the right foundation before building anything.

2: Proverbs 14:15 - The prudent man takes care to consider his steps.

Mark 14:64 Ye have heard the blasphemy: what think ye? And they all condemned him to be guilty of death.

Jesus was condemned to death by the people for blasphemy.

1: Christ's death on the cross was a sacrifice for our sins, and should be remembered as such.

2: God's love and mercy is greater than our own, even if we are guilty of sin.

1: Romans 5:8 - ?□ut God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.??

2: John 3:16 - ?□or God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.??

Mark 14:65 And some began to spit on him, and to cover his face, and to buffet him, and to say unto him, Prophesy: and the servants did strike him with the palms of their hands.

This verse speaks of the mistreatment Jesus endured before his crucifixion.

1. The Power of Forgiveness - Understanding Jesus' willingness to forgive those who wronged him.

2. The Strength of Perseverance - Reflecting on Jesus' courage in the face of adversity.

1. Colossians 3:13 - "bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive."

2. Ephesians 4:32 - "Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you."

Mark 14:66 And as Peter was beneath in the palace, there cometh one of the maids of the high priest:

Peter denies Jesus three times in the courtyard of the high priest's palace.

1. We can learn from Peter's mistakes and find strength and courage in Jesus.

2. When we are faced with difficult decisions, we should have faith and trust in God's plan.

1. Romans 8:28 - "And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose."

2. 1 Corinthians 10:13 - "No temptation has overtaken you except what is common to mankind. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can endure it."

Mark 14:67 And when she saw Peter warming himself, she looked upon him, and said, And thou also wast with Jesus of Nazareth.

Peter denied Jesus three times and was confronted by a servant girl.

1. The Power of Denial - How Peter's Denial of Jesus Can Teach Us About Our Own Struggles with Faith

2. Living a Life of Courage in the Face of Adversity - How Peter's Actions Can Inspire Us to Overcome Difficulties

1. James 1:2-4 - Count it all joy when facing trials

2. 1 Corinthians 10:13 - No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.

Mark 14:68 But he denied, saying, I know not, neither understand I what thou sayest. And he went out into the porch; and the cock crew.

He denied Jesus and went out into the porch when the cock crew.

1. The Power of Denial: How to Resist Temptation

2. The Significance of the Cock's Crow: Learning from Peter's Mistake

1. James 1:14-15: "But each person is tempted when they are dragged away by their own evil desire and enticed. Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death."

2. Luke 22:31-32: ?imon, Simon, Satan has asked to sift all of you as wheat. But I have prayed for you, Simon, that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned back, strengthen your brothers.??

Mark 14:69 And a maid saw him again, and began to say to them that stood by, This is one of them.

This passage recounts how Jesus was identified by a servant girl when He was brought before the high priest.

1. Jesus is the Fulfillment of Prophecy ??How God's Plan for Salvation Came True

2. The Resilience of Faith ??How We Can Follow Jesus in Difficult Times

1. Isaiah 53:2-3 ??"For he shall grow up before him as a tender plant, and as a root out of a dry ground: he hath no form nor comeliness; and when we shall see him, there is no beauty that we should desire him. He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not."

2. Matthew 16:21 ??"From that time forth began Jesus to shew unto his disciples, how that he must go unto Jerusalem, and suffer many things of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised again the third day."

Mark 14:70 And he denied it again. And a little after, they that stood by said again to Peter, Surely thou art one of them: for thou art a Galilaean, and thy speech agreeth thereto.

Peter denied Jesus three times despite his promise to remain faithful.

1. The Power of Hope in the Face of Adversity

2. The Strength of Faith Despite Temptation

1. Romans 5:3-5 - "More than that, we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not put us to shame."

2. Hebrews 11:1 - "Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of

things not seen."

Mark 14:71 But he began to curse and to swear, saying, I know not this man of whom ye speak.

The high priest asked Jesus if he was the Messiah, and Jesus responded by not answering the question and instead the high priest began to curse and swear.

1. Jesus' Self-Control: How Jesus Responded to Persecution

2. Finding Our Voice: Standing Up for What We Believe

1. John 15:13 - Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one? life for one? friends.

2. Isaiah 50:7 - For the Lord God helps me; therefore I have not been disgraced; therefore I have set my face like a flint, and I know that I shall not be put to shame.

Mark 14:72 And the second time the cock crew. And Peter called to mind the word that Jesus said unto him, Before the cock crow twice, thou shalt deny me thrice. And when he thought thereon, he wept.

This passage speaks of Peter's denial of Jesus three times and the reminder of Jesus' words before it happened.

1. The Power of Our Words: How Our Words Reveal Our Hearts

2. Learning to Trust in the Lord's Timing

1. Proverbs 18:21 - Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and those who love it will eat its fruit.

2. Psalm 31:24 - Be strong and let your heart take courage, all you who wait for the Lord.

Mark 15 recounts several key events including Jesus' trial before Pilate, His crucifixion, death, and burial.

1st Paragraph: The chapter begins with Jesus being brought before Pilate by the chief priests. They accuse Him of many things but He makes no reply, much to Pilate's amazement. During the festival, it was custom for Pilate to release a prisoner requested by the crowd. Barabbas was in prison with rebels who had committed murder during an uprising. The crowd asked for Barabbas to be released which was stirred up by the chief priests. When asked what he should do with 'the king of Jews', they shouted "Crucify him!" Even after asking why and what crime he committed, they shouted even louder "Crucify him!" Wanting to satisfy the crowd, Pilate released Barabbas and handed Jesus over to be crucified after flogging Him (Mark 15:1-15).

2nd Paragraph: The soldiers took Jesus into palace (Praetorium) called together whole company soldiers put purple robe on Him twisted together crown thorns set on Him began call out "Hail king Jews!" Again again struck head staff spit on him falling knees paid homage him when had mocked took off purple robe put his own clothes on led out crucify him Simon Cyrene father Alexander Rufus passing way country forced carry cross brought place called Golgotha means place skull offered wine mixed myrrh did not take it crucified divided clothes casting lots see get what part written notice charge against read KING JEWS crucified two rebels one right other left those passed hurled insults shaking their heads saying "So! You who are going destroy temple rebuild three days come down cross save yourself!" same way chief priests teachers law mocked among themselves said saved others cannot save himself let Christ King Israel come down now cross that we may see believe those crucified with also heaped insults on him (Mark 15:16-32).

3rd Paragraph: At noon darkness came over whole land until three afternoon at three in afternoon Jesus cried out loud voice "Eloi Eloi lema sabachthani?" which means "My God my God why have you forsaken me?" Some those standing near heard this said Listen calling Elijah someone ran filled sponge wine vinegar put stick offered drink saying Now leave see if Elijah comes take down but Jesus gave loud cry breathed last veil temple torn two top bottom centurion stood front saw breathed last said Surely man Son God! Some women watching distance among Mary Magdalene Mary mother James younger Joses Salome these women followed cared needs Galilee also many other women came up Jerusalem when evening came because Preparation Day day before Sabbath Joseph Arimathea prominent member Council good upright man not consented decision action council went boldly Pilate asked body Jesus surprised hear already dead summoned centurion asked if died long time ago confirmed centurion gave body Joseph bought linen cloth took down body wrapped linen placed tomb cut rock rolled stone against entrance tomb Mary Magdalene Mary mother Joses saw where laid recounting final moments life death burial preparation resurrection (Mark 15:33-47).

Mark 15:1 And straightway in the morning the chief priests held a consultation with the elders and scribes and the whole council, and bound Jesus, and carried him away, and delivered him to Pilate.

The chief priests held a consultation and bound Jesus before delivering him to Pilate.

1. Jesus was the ultimate sacrificial lamb, willingly submitting to be bound and delivered to Pilate in fulfillment of God's will.

2. No matter how much opposition we may face in life, we must remain steadfast in our faith and trust that God's plan will prevail.

1. Isaiah 53:7 - He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth; like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent, so he opened not his mouth.

2. Romans 8:28 - And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.

Mark 15:2 And Pilate asked him, Art thou the King of the Jews? And he answering said unto him, Thou sayest it.

The passage reveals Jesus' response to Pilate's question as to whether he was the King of the Jews.

1. The Power of Our Words: Living a Life of Authenticity

2. Defending Our Faith: Jesus' Example of Courageous Confidence

1. Proverbs 18:21 - Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and those who love it will eat its fruit.

2. Luke 4:3-4 - And the devil said to him, ?□f you are the Son of God, command this stone to become bread.??4 And Jesus answered him, ?□t is written, ?□an shall not live by bread alone.?□□?

Mark 15:3 And the chief priests accused him of many things: but he answered nothing.

This passage illustrates Jesus' silence in the face of accusations from the chief priests.

1: We should strive to follow Jesus' example of dignified silence in the face of unjust accusations.

2: The power of Jesus' example of standing strong in the face of adversity can help us to

remain faithful in challenging times.

1: 1 Peter 2:21-23 - "For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps: Who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth: Who, when he was reviled, reviled not again; when he suffered, he threatened not; but committed himself to him that judgeth righteously."

2: 1 Peter 3:15-16 - "But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear: Having a good conscience; that, whereas they speak evil of you, as of evildoers, they may be ashamed that falsely accuse your good conversation in Christ."

Mark 15:4 And Pilate asked him again, saying, Answerest thou nothing? behold how many things they witness against thee.

Pilate asked Jesus a second time, pointing out the numerous accusations against him.

1. The Power of Witness: How to Respond When Others Accuse Us

2. Standing Firm in the Face of Accusation

1. Matthew 10:17-20 - Jesus? instructions to his disciples on how to respond to accusations

2. James 1:19 - ? herefore, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath.??

Mark 15:5 But Jesus yet answered nothing; so that Pilate marvelled.

Pilate marveled when Jesus remained silent in response to his questioning.

1. The Power of Silence: How Jesus Used His Words Wisely

2. The Significance of Jesus? Obedience: How His Submission to God Exemplifies Righteousness

1. Isaiah 53:7 - He was oppressed and afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth; he was led like a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before its shearers is silent, so he did not

open his mouth.

2. James 1:19 - My dear brothers and sisters, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry.

Mark 15:6 Now at that feast he released unto them one prisoner, whomsoever they desired.

At the feast, Pilate released one prisoner to the people, and they could choose whoever they wanted.

1. "Be Kind to All: A Lesson from Pilate"

2. "The Power of Choice: Making the Right Decision"

1. Luke 6:31 "Do to others as you would have them do to you."

2. Matthew 7:12 "So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets."

Mark 15:7 And there was one named Barabbas, which lay bound with them that had made insurrection with him, who had committed murder in the insurrection.

Barabbas was a criminal who had committed murder during an insurrection.

1. Don't Follow the Wrong Crowd: Lessons from Barabbas

2. The Cost of Justice and Mercy: Examining Barabbas's Story

1. Luke 6:27-36 - Love your enemies and do good to those who hate you.

2. Colossians 3:12-17 - Put on compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience.

Mark 15:8 And the multitude crying aloud began to desire him to do as he had ever done unto them.

A large crowd of people asked Jesus to do what he had done for them in the past.

1. The Power of Requesting God's Help

2. The Blessing of Following Jesus' Example

1. James 4:3 - "You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, to spend it on your passions."

2. Luke 11:9-10 - "And I tell you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened."

Mark 15:9 But Pilate answered them, saying, Will ye that I release unto you the King of the Jews?

Pilate asked the people if he should release Jesus, the King of the Jews.

1: Through the example of Jesus, we should remain humble and be willing to serve others.

2: We should not be afraid to stand up for what we believe, but do so with grace and humility.

1: Philippians 2:5-8 - Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men.

2: Matthew 20:25-28 - But Jesus called them to him and said, ?□ou know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them. It shall not be so among you. But whoever would be great among you must be your servant, and whoever would be first among you must be your slave, even as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.??

Mark 15:10 For he knew that the chief priests had delivered him for envy.

Jesus was delivered to the chief priests for his execution, and they did so out of envy.

1. The Power of Envy: How to Overcome the Urge to Compete

2. The Blessing of Forgiveness: Jesus' Example of Mercy in the Face of Betrayal

1. Proverbs 14:30 - ?□ heart at peace gives life to the body, but envy rots the bones.??

2. Luke 6:27-36 - ?□ut I tell you who hear me: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you.??

Mark 15:11 But the chief priests moved the people, that he should rather release Barabbas unto them.

The chief priests asked Pilate to release Barabbas instead of Jesus.

1. Trust in God's plan even when we don't understand it.

2. Don't be swayed by the opinion of the majority.

1. Romans 8:28 - And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.

2. James 4:6 - But he gives more grace. Therefore it says, ?□od opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble.??

Mark 15:12 And Pilate answered and said again unto them, What will ye then that I shall do unto him whom ye call the King of the Jews?

Pilate asked the people what he should do with Jesus who they called the King of the Jews.

1. The Power of Choice: Reflections on Mark 15:12

2. The Crucial Question: What Do We Do with Jesus?

1. John 18:36-37 - Jesus's response to Pilate

2. Luke 23:13-15 - Pilate's conversations with the people about Jesus

Mark 15:13 And they cried out again, Crucify him.

The people demanded that Jesus be crucified.

1. Jesus' Death on the Cross: The Ultimate Sacrifice

2. The Power of the People: Why We Must Respond to the Will of the Masses

1. Luke 23:21 - "But they kept shouting, ?□rucify him! Crucify him!??

2. Philippians 2:8 - "And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death?□ven death on a cross!"

Mark 15:14 Then Pilate said unto them, Why, what evil hath he done? And they cried out the more exceedingly, Crucify him.

The crowd demanded that Jesus be crucified, despite Pilate's question of what wrong Jesus had done.

1: Jesus' death on the cross was the ultimate sacrifice of love.

2: Jesus' death and resurrection brings us salvation and hope.

1: John 3:16 - "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life."

2: Romans 5:8 - "But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us."

Mark 15:15 And so Pilate, willing to content the people, released Barabbas unto them, and delivered Jesus, when he had scourged him, to be crucified.

Pilate yielded to the crowd's demands and released Barabbas, while handing Jesus over

to be crucified after he was scourged.

1. The Power of Groupthink: An Analysis of the Crowd's Influence on Pilate

2. Jesus: Our Ultimate Example of Courage in the Face of Adversity

1. Matthew 27:25-26 "And all the people answered and said, His blood be on us, and on our children. Then released he Barabbas unto them: and when he had scourged Jesus, he delivered him to be crucified."

2. Hebrews 12:2-3 "Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God."

Mark 15:16 And the soldiers led him away into the hall, called Praetorium; and they call together the whole band.

The soldiers took Jesus to the Praetorium and gathered the whole band.

1. The Power of Unity: Jesus' example of being surrounded by a unified group of people.

2. The Strength of Standing Firm: Jesus' perseverance in the face of adversity.

1. Ephesians 4:1-3 - Unity in the Body of Christ

2. Hebrews 12:2 - Jesus as the ultimate example of perseverance.

Mark 15:17 And they clothed him with purple, and platted a crown of thorns, and put it about his head,

Jesus was mocked and scorned, being clad in a robe of purple and a crown of thorns.

1. The Power of Humility: Overcoming Mockery and Rejections

2. Christ's Unfailing Love: Bearing the Pain of Rejection

1. Isaiah 53:3-5 - He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not.

2. 1 Peter 2:21-23 - For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps: Who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth: Who, when he was reviled, reviled not again; when he suffered, he threatened not; but committed himself to him that judgeth righteously.

Mark 15:18 And began to salute him, Hail, King of the Jews!

The crowd mocked Jesus and called him "King of the Jews".

1. The Power of Mockery: Understanding Jesus' Suffering and Our Own

2. The Kingdom of God: The Hope of the Jews and the World

1. Isaiah 53:3-5 - He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not.

4 Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted.

2. John 18:33-37 - Pilate then went out unto them, and said, What accusation bring ye against this man? They answered and said unto him, If he were not a malefactor, we would not have delivered him up unto thee. Pilate therefore said unto them, Take ye him, and judge him according to your law. The Jews therefore said unto him, It is not lawful for us to put any man to death: That the saying of Jesus might be fulfilled, which he spake, signifying what death he should die.

Mark 15:19 And they smote him on the head with a reed, and did spit upon him, and bowing their knees worshipped him.

Roman soldiers spat upon and struck Jesus with a reed, then knelt in mock worship.

1. The Worthiness of Jesus in the Face of Adversity

2. The Power of Humility in the Face of Mockery

1. Philippians 2:5-11

2. Isaiah 53:3-5

Mark 15:20 And when they had mocked him, they took off the purple from him, and put his own clothes on him, and led him out to crucify him.

The purple robe was taken off Jesus and his own clothes were put on him before he was taken out to be crucified.

1. Jesus' Humiliation and Obedience - Philippians 2:5-11

2. The Ultimate Sacrifice - John 3:16

1. Isaiah 53:7 - He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth; like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent, so he opened not his mouth.

2. Matthew 27:35-44 - And when they had crucified him, they divided his garments among them by casting lots. Then they sat down and kept watch over him there. And over his head they put the charge against him, which read, ?□his is Jesus, the King of the Jews.??Then two robbers were crucified with him, one on the right and one on the left.

Mark 15:21 And they compel one Simon a Cyrenian, who passed by, coming out of the country, the father of Alexander and Rufus, to bear his cross.

Simon was asked to carry Jesus' cross, showing his faith and dedication.

1: When faced with a difficult challenge, we should be willing to follow Jesus faithfully, no matter the cost.

2: Our faithfulness to Christ is demonstrated by our willingness to take up our cross and follow Him.

1: Matthew 16:24-25 - "Then Jesus said to his disciples, ?□hoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will find it."

2: Luke 9:23 - "Then he said to them all: ?□hoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me.??

Mark 15:22 And they bring him unto the place Golgotha, which is, being interpreted, The place of a skull.

The people brought Jesus to Golgotha, which is known as the Place of a Skull.

1. How Jesus' Death Shows God's Love for Us

2. The Meaning of Golgotha

1. John 3:16 - For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

2. Isaiah 53:10 - Yet it was the Lord's will to crush him and cause him to suffer, and though the Lord makes his life an offering for sin, he will see his offspring and prolong his days, and the will of the Lord will prosper in his hand.

Mark 15:23 And they gave him to drink wine mingled with myrrh: but he received it not.

Jesus refused to accept a drink meant to dull the pain of death.

1: We can choose to accept God's will even in difficult circumstances.

2: Jesus endured the pain of death for us out of love.

1: Philippians 4:13 - "I can do all things through him who strengthens me."

2: Hebrews 12:2 - "Looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God."

Mark 15:24 And when they had crucified him, they parted his garments, casting lots upon them, what every man should take.

Jesus' death was marked by the Roman soldiers who cast lots to divide his garments among them.

1. The Power of Jesus' Sacrifice - How Jesus' death changed the world and the lengths He went to show His love for us.

2. The Heart of a Servant - The humility and selfless example Jesus set for us on the cross.

1. Philippians 2:7-8 - He made Himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to death?□ven death on a cross!

2. Isaiah 53:3-6 - He was despised and rejected by mankind, a man of suffering, and familiar with pain. Like one from whom people hide their faces he was despised, and we held him in low esteem. Surely he took up our pain and bore our suffering, yet we considered him punished by God, stricken by him, and afflicted. But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed.

Mark 15:25 And it was the third hour, and they crucified him.

Jesus was crucified at the third hour.

1. The Risen Christ - Unshakable Faith in Times of Suffering

2. The Crucifixion of Jesus - A Testament to His Unfailing Love

1. Romans 5:8 - "But God demonstrates His own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us."

2. Philippians 2:5-8 - "In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death??even death on a cross!"

Mark 15:26 And the superscription of his accusation was written over, THE KING OF THE JEWS.

The Roman soldiers wrote "The King of the Jews" over Jesus as a mockery of his claim to royalty.

1. Jesus was mocked by the world but was still the true king of kings.

2. Jesus humbled himself to be mocked and crucified for our salvation.

1. Philippians 2:6-8 - Jesus humbled himself and took the form of a servant.

2. Revelation 19:16 - Jesus is King of kings and Lord of lords.

Mark 15:27 And with him they crucify two thieves; the one on his right hand, and the other on his left.

Jesus was crucified between two criminals.

1. The Greatest Sacrifice: How Jesus Demonstrated His Unconditional Love For Us

2. The Power of Forgiveness: How Jesus Forgave Even His Crucifixion Perpetrators

1. Romans 5:8 - But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

2. Luke 23:39-43 - One of the criminals who hung there hurled insults at him: ?□ren?□ you the Messiah? Save yourself and us!??But the other criminal rebuked him. ?□on?□ you fear God,??he said, ?□ince you are under the same sentence? We are punished justly, for we are getting what our deeds deserve. But this man has done nothing wrong.??Then he said, ?□esus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.??Jesus answered him, ?□ruly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise.??

Mark 15:28 And the scripture was fulfilled, which saith, And he was numbered with the transgressors.

Jesus was crucified alongside two criminals, fulfilling a prophecy written in the scriptures.

1. The Power of God's Word: How Jesus Fulfilled the Prophecy of Mark 15:28

2. The Unfathomable Cost of Our Redemption: Understanding the Sacrifice of Jesus in Mark 15:28

1. Isaiah 53:12 - "Therefore I will divide him a portion with the great, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong; because he hath poured out his soul unto death: and he was numbered with the transgressors; and he bare the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors."

2. Luke 22:37 - "For I say unto you, that this that is written must yet be accomplished in me, And he was reckoned among the transgressors: for the things concerning me have an end."

Mark 15:29 And they that passed by railed on him, wagging their heads, and saying, Ah, thou that destroyest the temple, and buildest it in three days,

The passersby of Jesus mocked him, saying that he destroyed and rebuilt the temple in three days.

1. God can do the impossible: Understanding the power of Jesus.

2. The power of faith: Overcoming mockery and derision.

1. Hebrews 11:1 - "Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen."

2. John 2:18-22 - "So the Jews said to him, ?□hat sign do you show us for doing these things???Jesus answered them, ?□estroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.?? The Jews then said, ?□t has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and will you raise it up in three days???But he was speaking about the temple of his body. When therefore he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this, and they believed the Scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken."

Mark 15:30 Save thyself, and come down from the cross.

The people of Jerusalem mocked Jesus while He was on the cross by telling Him to save Himself and come down.

1. The Power of Unbelief: How the rejection of Jesus on the cross reveals the depths of human unbelief

2. The Paradox of Salvation: How Jesus?□ death on the cross brought about eternal salvation

1. John 19:25-27 - Near the cross of Jesus stood his mother, his mother?□ sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw his mother there, and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to his mother, "Dear woman, here is your son," and to the disciple, "Here is your mother."

2. Philippians 2:8-9 - And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death?□ven death on a cross! Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name.

Mark 15:31 Likewise also the chief priests mocking said among themselves with the scribes, He saved others; himself he cannot save.

The chief priests and scribes mocked Jesus, saying that while he was able to save others, he could not save himself.

1: The power of Jesus??love and sacrifice for us, even in the face of those who mocked him.

2: The importance of standing up for what we believe in, even when faced with ridicule.

1: John 15:13 - "Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one?□ life for one?□ friends."

2: 1 Corinthians 16:13-14 - "Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith; be courageous; be strong. Do everything in love."

Mark 15:32 Let Christ the King of Israel descend now from the cross, that we may see and believe. And they that were crucified with him reviled him.

The people who were watching Jesus' crucifixion mockingly asked for Him to come down from the cross so that they may believe.

1. The Power of Faith: Jesus??Crucifixion as an Example

2. The Degradation of Mockery: Jesus??Crucifixion as a Warning

1. Hebrews 12:2 - "fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God."

2. John 3:16 - "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life."

Mark 15:33 And when the sixth hour was come, there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour.

At the sixth hour, darkness fell over the whole land until the ninth hour.

1. The Power of Darkness - Examining the darkness that comes in the midst of our struggles and what we can learn from it.

2. The Value of Light - Exploring the importance of seeking the light of hope in times of darkness.

1. Psalm 23:4 - Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

2. Romans 8:18 - I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us.

Mark 15:34 And at the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, saying, Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani? which is, being interpreted, My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?

Jesus cried out to God in anguish at the ninth hour, asking why he had been forsaken.

1. Faith in the Dark: Learning to Trust God in Uncertain Times

2. Unanswered Prayers: How to Deal with Disappointment

1. 2 Corinthians 1:8-10 - For we do not want you to be unaware, brothers, of the affliction we experienced in Asia. For we were so utterly burdened beyond our strength that we despaired of life itself. Indeed, we felt that we had received the sentence of death. But that was to make us rely not on ourselves but on God who raises the dead.

2. Psalm 22:1-2 - My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? Why are you so far from saving me, from the words of my groaning? O my God, I cry by day, but you do not answer, and by night, but I find no rest.

Mark 15:35 And some of them that stood by, when they heard it, said, Behold, he calleth Elias.

This passage recounts how some of those nearby heard Jesus call out to Elijah while on the cross.

1. The Power of Faith: Jesus' example of trusting God even in the midst of despair.

2. The Power of Community: How we can be a source of hope and strength for one another.

1. Matthew 11:2-6: John the Baptist's testimony of Jesus.

2. Hebrews 12:2: Looking to Jesus as our ultimate example of perseverance and faith.

Mark 15:36 And one ran and filled a spunge full of vinegar, and put it on a reed, and gave him to drink, saying, Let alone; let us see whether Elias will come to take him down.

A man ran and gave Jesus a drink of vinegar on a reed, saying to let him alone and see if Elijah will come to take him down.

1. God's Love is Unfailing - Mark 15:36

2. Rely on God's Strength in Difficult Times - Mark 15:36

1. Matthew 27:46 - "And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, ?□ li, Eli, lema sabachthani???that is, ?□ y God, My God, why have You forsaken Me???

2. Psalm 22:1 - "My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me? Why are You so far from

helping Me, and from the words of My groaning?"

Mark 15:37 And Jesus cried with a loud voice, and gave up the ghost.

Jesus died on the cross, crying out with a loud voice.

1: Jesus' ultimate sacrifice of His life and His willingness to die for us.

2: How Jesus' death brings us hope and salvation.

1: Romans 5:8 - "But God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us."

2: John 3:16 - "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life."

Mark 15:38 And the veil of the temple was rent in twain from the top to the bottom.

The veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom.

1. The Torn Veil: A Sign of God's Power

2. The Significance of the Torn Veil and its Impact on Our Lives

1. Hebrews 10:19-20 - Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus, by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain, that is, through his flesh.

2. Luke 23:44-45 - It was now about the sixth hour, and there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour, while the sun? light failed. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two.

Mark 15:39 And when the centurion, which stood over against him, saw that he so cried out, and gave up the ghost, he said, Truly this man was the Son of God.

This passage demonstrates that the centurion recognized Jesus as the Son of God when

he saw him die on the cross.

1. "The Power of Recognizing Jesus as the Son of God"

2. "The Centurion's Testimony of Faith"

1. Romans 10:9 - "That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved."

2. John 3:16 - "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."

Mark 15:40 There were also women looking on afar off: among whom was Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James the less and of Joses, and Salome;

This passage mentions four women who were present at the crucifixion of Jesus - Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James the less and of Joses, and Salome.

1. The Power of Faith: The Witness of the Women at the Cross

2. The Strength Gained from Suffering: The Example of Jesus

1. Hebrews 12:2 - Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.

2. Romans 8:17 - And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together.

Mark 15:41 (Who also, when he was in Galilee, followed him, and ministered unto him;) and many other women which came up with him unto Jerusalem.

The passage describes how many women followed Jesus from Galilee to Jerusalem, ministering to him along the way.

1. The beauty of service: How Jesus was supported and ministered to by women.

2. The power of companionship: How Jesus was surrounded by devoted followers.

1. Romans 12:10-13 ??Be devoted to one another in brotherly love; give p to one another in honor; not lagging behind in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord; rejoicing in hope, persevering in tribulation, devoted to prayer.

2. Hebrews 6:10 ??For God is not so unjust as to forget your work and the love which you have shown toward His name, in having ministered and in still ministering to the saints.

Mark 15:42 And now when the even was come, because it was the preparation, that is, the day before the sabbath,

The day before the Sabbath was the preparation day.

1: God prepared the Sabbath day for us as a day of rest, so let us use the preparation day to prepare ourselves for the coming day of rest.

2: God gave us the Sabbath day to rest and reflect on His goodness, so let us use the preparation day to reflect on our own lives and how we can best honor God.

1: Exodus 20:8-11 - Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.

2: Colossians 3:17 - And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Mark 15:43 Joseph of Arimathaea, an honourable counsellor, which also waited for the kingdom of God, came, and went in boldly unto Pilate, and craved the body of Jesus.

Joseph of Arimathaea courageously asked Pilate for Jesus' body after His death.

1: God's kingdom is within us and we can find courage to do difficult things.

2: Take courage and stand up for what you believe in.

1: Isaiah 41:10 - "Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand."

2: Ephesians 6:10-13 - "Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm."

Mark 15:44 And Pilate marvelled if he were already dead: and calling unto him the centurion, he asked him whether he had been any while dead.

Pilate was surprised to learn that Jesus had already died and asked the centurion to confirm it.

1: Jesus' death was significant enough to surprise even Pilate.

2: Jesus' death was so final that there was no mistaking it.

1: Isaiah 53:9 - And he made his grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death; because he had done no violence, neither was any deceit in his mouth.

2: Hebrews 9:28 - So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation.

Mark 15:45 And when he knew it of the centurion, he gave the body to Joseph.

When Jesus' death was confirmed by the centurion, Joseph was granted permission to take the body of Jesus.

1. The Power of Faith: Lessons from Joseph of Arimathea

2. The Cost of Following Jesus: Joseph of Arimathea

1. Matthew 27:57-61 - Joseph of Arimathea asks Pilate for permission to bury Jesus' body

2. Luke 23:50-56 - Joseph of Arimathea requests permission to take the body of Jesus and bury it in his own tomb.

Mark 15:46 And he bought fine linen, and took him down, and wrapped him in the linen,

and laid him in a sepulchre which was hewn out of a rock, and rolled a stone unto the door of the sepulchre.

Jesus was buried in a tomb that was carved out of a rock and sealed with a large stone.

1. The Sacrifice of Jesus - His death and burial in a tomb.

2. The Power of Jesus - His life is still conquering death even after His death.

1. Romans 6:9 - "For we know that since Christ was raised from the dead, he cannot die again; death no longer has mastery over him."

2. Isaiah 53:9 - "He was assigned a grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death, though he had done no violence, nor was any deceit in his mouth."

Mark 15:47 And Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Joses beheld where he was laid.

This passage describes how Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Joses witnessed where Jesus was laid after being crucified.

1: We can learn from the faithfulness of Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Joses to witness where Jesus was laid, even in difficult circumstances.

2: We are called to follow the example of Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Joses and stand in faith in the midst of adversity.

1: Luke 23:55-56 - ?□he women who had come with Jesus from Galilee followed Joseph and saw the tomb and how his body was laid in it. Then they went home and prepared spices and perfumes.??

2: John 19:25-27 - ?□ear the cross of Jesus stood his mother, his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw his mother there, and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to his mother, ?□ear woman, here is your son.?? And he said to the disciple, ?□ere is your mother.??

Mark 16 recounts the key events of Jesus' resurrection, His appearances to various disciples, and His ascension into heaven.

1st Paragraph: The chapter begins with Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome buying spices so they might go to anoint Jesus' body. Very early on the first day of the week, just after sunrise, they were on their way to the tomb and asked each other who would roll away the stone from entrance tomb. But when they looked up, they saw that it was very large stone had been rolled away (Mark 16:1-4). As they entered tomb saw young man dressed white robe sitting right side alarmed said "Don't be alarmed. You are looking for Jesus Nazarene who was crucified. He has risen! He is not here. See place where laid him but go tell his disciples Peter 'He going ahead you into Galilee there see him just as he told you.'" Trembling bewildered women went out fled from tomb said nothing anyone because were afraid (Mark 16:5-8).

2nd Paragraph: After Jesus rose early first day week appeared first Mary Magdalene out whom driven seven demons went told those been with mourning weeping when heard Jesus alive seen her did not believe it after this appeared different form two them while walking country returned announced but did not believe them either later appeared Eleven as were eating rebuked unbelief stubbornness because did not believe those seen him after risen then said "Go into all world preach gospel all creation whoever believes baptized will saved whoever does not believe condemned these signs accompany those believe name drive out demons speak new tongues pick up snakes hands drink deadly poison will hurt them lay hands sick make well" recounting post-resurrection appearances commission disciples (Mark 16:9-18).

3rd Paragraph: After Lord Jesus had spoken them taken up into heaven sat right hand God then disciples went out preached everywhere Lord worked with confirmed word signs accompanied it concluding with ascension divine endorsement their mission through accompanying miracles signifying victorious enthronement Christ culmination Gospel Mark (Mark 16:19-20).

Mark 16:1 And when the sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome, had bought sweet spices, that they might come and anoint him.

Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome purchased spices to anoint Jesus after the Sabbath.

1. The Power of Women in the Resurrection of Jesus

2. The Dedication of Mary Magdalene, Mary the Mother of James and Salome

1. Luke 23:56 - "And they returned, and prepared spices and ointments; and rested the sabbath day according to the commandment."

2. Matthew 27:61 - "And there was Mary Magdalene, and the other Mary, sitting over against the sepulchre."

Mark 16:2 And very early in the morning the first day of the week, they came unto the sepulchre at the rising of the sun.

On the first day of the week, very early in the morning, people came to the tomb at sunrise.

1. The Risen Son: How Jesus' Resurrection Changes Everything

2. The Power of the Resurrection: Why Easter Matters

1. 1 Corinthians 15:20-22 - “But now Christ is risen from the dead, and has become the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. For since by man came death, by Man also came the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive.”

2. Romans 6:4-5 - “Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. For if we have been united together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be in the likeness of His resurrection.”

Mark 16:3 And they said among themselves, Who shall roll us away the stone from the door of the sepulchre?

The disciples were wondering who would roll away the stone from the entrance to Jesus's tomb.

1. The Power of Faith: How Jesus Overcame Even the Greatest of Obstacles

2. The Power of Prayer: Relying on God to Overcome Any Challenge

1. Matthew 17:20 - And He said to them, “Because of the littleness of your faith; for truly I say to you, if you have faith the size of a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, ‘Move from here to there,’ and it will move; and nothing will be impossible to you.

2. Philippians 4:13 - I can do all things through Him who strengthens me.

Mark 16:4 And when they looked, they saw that the stone was rolled away: for it was very great.

The stone that had sealed the entrance to Jesus' tomb had been rolled away.

1: Jesus' Resurrection: The Greatest Miracle

2: The Significance of the Rolled Away Stone

1: John 10:17-18, “Therefore my Father loves me, because I lay down my life that I may take it again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This charge I have received from my Father.”

2: Hebrews 2:14-15, “Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, he himself likewise partook of the same things, that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong slavery.”

Mark 16:5 And entering into the sepulchre, they saw a young man sitting on the right side, clothed in a long white garment; and they were affrighted.

The women entered the tomb and saw a young man wearing a long white garment, causing them to be frightened.

1. Fear Not: Reassurance from God in Times of Uncertainty

2. The Power of God's Comfort in Difficult Times

1. Isaiah 41:10: "Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand."

2. Psalm 23:4: "Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me."

Mark 16:6 And he saith unto them, Be not affrighted: Ye seek Jesus of Nazareth, which was crucified: he is risen; he is not here: behold the place where they laid him.

Jesus' resurrection is a cause for celebration and hope, not fear.

1: Christ is Risen! Rejoice in His miraculous resurrection and trust in Him!

2: Do not be afraid, for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified, is risen!

1: 1 Corinthians 15:3-4 - For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, and that he was buried, and that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures.

2: 1 Peter 1:3-4 - Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you.

Mark 16:7 But go your way, tell his disciples and Peter that he goeth before you into Galilee: there shall ye see him, as he said unto you.

Jesus' disciples and Peter were encouraged to go to Galilee to see Him, as He had promised.

1. The Power of Faith: Jesus' promise to meet His disciples in Galilee reminds us to trust in Him, even when we don't understand the fullness of His plan.

2. The Comfort of Hope: Jesus' presence in Galilee serves as a reminder of the hope He brings to our lives, even when it feels like life is uncertain.

1. Romans 5:1-5 - Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God. Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope.

2. Psalm 23:4 - Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

Mark 16:8 And they went out quickly, and fled from the sepulchre; for they trembled and were amazed: neither said they any thing to any man; for they were afraid.

The women who had visited Jesus' tomb ran away quickly in fear and did not tell anyone what they had seen.

1. The Power of Fear in Witnessing

2. The Important Role of Testimony in Faith

1. Deuteronomy 6:4-9 - Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one! You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength.

2. Psalm 91:1-2 - He who dwells in the secret place of the Most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty. I will say of the Lord, "He is my refuge and my fortress; my God, in Him I will trust.”

Mark 16:9 Now when Jesus was risen early the first day of the week, he appeared first to Mary Magdalene, out of whom he had cast seven devils.

Jesus rose early on the first day of the week and Mary Magdalene was the first to see Him.

1. The Power of Resurrections: How Jesus rose from the dead and changed the world

2. The Power of Forgiveness: How Jesus cast out seven devils from Mary Magdalene

1. John 20:11-18 - Mary Magdalene encounters the Risen Lord

2. Luke 8:1-3 - Mary Magdalene is one of Jesus’ followers who was delivered from seven demons

Mark 16:10 And she went and told them that had been with him, as they mourned and wept.

The women who saw Jesus after his resurrection went and told the disciples who were mourning and weeping.

1. How to Find Hope in Times of Mourning

2. The Power of Witnessing Christ's Resurrection

1. John 20:1-18 - The story of Mary Magdalene going to the tomb and witnessing Jesus' resurrection

2. Romans 5:3-5 - The hope we have in Christ despite suffering and sorrows.

Mark 16:11 And they, when they had heard that he was alive, and had been seen of her, believed not.

This passage speaks of the disbelief of the women who had seen Jesus alive after the resurrection.

1. Believe in the Resurrection: The Power of Faith

2. Seeing is Believing: Overcoming Doubt

1. John 20:24-29 - Thomas's unbelief and subsequent belief

2. 1 Peter 1:3-9 - The power of hope through faith in the resurrection

Mark 16:12 After that he appeared in another form unto two of them, as they walked, and went into the country.

Jesus appeared to two of his disciples in a different form.

1: Jesus is with us even in our darkest times, and he will appear to us in different ways.

2: Appreciate and recognize the presence of Jesus in our lives, even when his presence is not obvious.

1: Matthew 28:20 - "teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen."

2: Acts 1:3 - "To whom also he shewed himself alive after his passion by many infallible

proofs, being seen of them forty days, and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God."

Mark 16:13 And they went and told it unto the residue: neither believed they them.

The disciples were not believed when they told the other about the resurrection of Jesus.

1. The Power of a Witness: How to Spread the Good News Despite Doubters

2. Faith Over Fear: How to Stand Firm in Your Beliefs

1. Romans 10:17 - So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.

2. Acts 4:20 - For we cannot but speak of what we have seen and heard.

Mark 16:14 Afterward he appeared unto the eleven as they sat at meat, and upbraided them with their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they believed not them which had seen him after he was risen.

He rebuked the eleven for their lack of faith in those who had seen him after he was resurrected.

1. The Power of Faith: Overcoming Unbelief

2. The Importance of Belief in Christ's Resurrection

1. Hebrews 11:1-3 - Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. For by it the people of old received their commendation. By faith we understand that the universe was created by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things that are visible.

2. John 20:24-29 - Now Thomas, one of the twelve, called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord.” But he said to them, “Unless I see in his hands the mark of the nails, and place my finger into the mark of the nails, and place my hand into his side, I will never believe.” Eight days later, his disciples were inside again, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side. Do not disbelieve, but believe.” Thomas answered him, “My Lord and my

God!” Jesus said to him, “Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.”

Mark 16:15 And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.

Jesus commanded the disciples to spread the gospel to everyone in the world.

1. The Power of the Gospel: How Jesus' Message Still Matters Today

2. The Urgency of Discipleship: Reaching the World with the Gospel

1. Isaiah 6:8 Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, “Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?” And I said, “Here am I. Send me!”

2. Matthew 28:19-20 Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.

Mark 16:16 He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.

Whoever believes in Jesus and is baptized will be saved, but those who do not believe will be condemned.

1. The importance of faith and baptism in our salvation

2. The consequences of not believing in Jesus

1. Romans 10:9-10 - "that if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved."

2. Ephesians 2:8-9 - "For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast."

Mark 16:17 And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast

out devils; they shall speak with new tongues;

This passage speaks of the signs that will follow believers in Jesus' name, such as casting out devils and speaking in new languages.

1. The Power of Faith: Unlocking the Miraculous in our Lives

2. Signs and Wonders: Unveiling the Supernatural Realm

1. Luke 10:17-20 - Jesus instructs His disciples to cast out demons in His name

2. Acts 2:1-4 - The disciples speak in new tongues after being filled with the Holy Spirit

Mark 16:18 They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover.

Jesus promises that those who follow him will have supernatural protection from harm, and will be able to heal the sick.

1. Trusting in Christ's Promises: The Power of Faith

2. Overcoming Fear and Doubt: When you have Nothing to Lose

1. Philippians 4:13 - "I can do all things through him who strengthens me."

2. Hebrews 11:1- "Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen."

Mark 16:19 So then after the Lord had spoken unto them, he was received up into heaven, and sat on the right hand of God.

Jesus ascended to Heaven and is seated at the right hand of God.

1: We can always rely on the promises of Jesus, and that He is seated at the right hand of God.

2: We can have comfort and hope that Jesus is with us and that He is God's right hand.

1: Acts 1:9-11 - Jesus was taken up into a cloud and was seated at the right hand of God.

2: Ephesians 1:19-23 - God raised Christ from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly realms.

Mark 16:20 And they went forth, and preached every where, the Lord working with them, and confirming the word with signs following. Amen.

The disciples went and preached everywhere, with the Lord working with them and confirming their words with miracles.

1. “The Power of God’s Word: Preaching with Authority”

2. “The Miraculous Nature of God’s Work”

1. Acts 10:38 - “How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power, who went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him.”

2. Romans 15:19 - “By the power of signs and wonders, by the power of the Spirit of God —so that from Jerusalem and all the way around to Illyricum I have fulfilled the ministry of the gospel of Christ.”

Luke 1 sets the stage for the birth of Jesus, recounting the miraculous circumstances surrounding the births of John the Baptist and Jesus, as foretold by angelic announcements.

1st Paragraph: The chapter begins with Luke explaining his purpose in writing this account to Theophilus, assuring him that it is based on careful investigation and eyewitness reports (Luke 1:1-4). Then it shifts to events before Jesus' birth, starting with Zechariah and Elizabeth who were righteous but childless. While Zechariah was serving in the temple, an angel appeared and told him that despite their old age, they would have a son named John who would prepare people for the Lord's coming. Zechariah doubted because of their old age and was struck mute until these things came to pass (Luke 1:5-25).

2nd Paragraph: Six months later, Angel Gabriel visited Mary in Nazareth announcing she would conceive through Holy Spirit bear son named Jesus who would be great Son Most

High God give him throne his father David reign over Jacob's descendants forever kingdom will never end. Troubled by this greeting and wondering what kind of greeting this might be, Mary asked how this could happen since she was a virgin. Gabriel explained that nothing is impossible with God. Mary humbly accepted saying "I am Lord’s servant may your word me fulfilled" (Luke 1:26-38).

3rd Paragraph: Following this announcement, Mary visited her relative Elizabeth who was pregnant with John. When Elizabeth heard Mary’s greeting baby leaped womb filled Holy Spirit blessed among women fruit womb why granted I mother my Lord comes me soon as sound your greeting reached ears baby womb leaped joy blessed believed what Lord said her would accomplished stayed about three months then returned home (Luke 1:39-56). Meanwhile time came for Elizabeth give birth had boy neighbors relatives heard Lord shown great mercy rejoiced her on eighth day came circumcise child going name him after father Zechariah mother spoke up said "No! He is to be called John." They said there no one among relatives has name made signs find out what wanted call him asked writing tablet wrote "His name John." Everyone amazed immediately mouth opened tongue set free began speak praising God neighbors filled awe throughout hill country Judea people were talking about all these things everyone heard pondered hearts asking "What then child going be?" For Lord's hand with him father Zechariah filled Holy Spirit prophesied predicting future ministry son final verses contain song praise known Benedictus laying out God's plan salvation Israel including role son play herald Messiah (Luke 1:57-80).

Luke 1:1 Forasmuch as many have taken in hand to set forth in order a declaration of those things which are most surely believed among us,

This passage is a preface to the Gospel of Luke, which explains that many people have taken it upon themselves to document the teachings of Jesus that are most widely accepted.

1. God calls us to be faithful stewards of His word, and to faithfully document the teachings of Jesus that are accepted by the Church.

2. Proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ is an important responsibility, and we must take steps to ensure that it is accurately shared with future generations.

1. Matthew 28:19-20 - Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.

2. 2 Timothy 3:16-17 - All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

Luke 1:2 Even as they delivered them unto us, which from the beginning were eyewitnesses, and ministers of the word;

This passage describes the source of the gospel accounts as eyewitnesses and ministers of the word.

1. The importance of following the Word of God as revealed in the Gospel accounts.

2. The power of testimony and its role in the transmission of faith.

1. John 14:26 - "But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you."

2. Acts 1:8 - "But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth."

Luke 1:3 It seemed good to me also, having had perfect understanding of all things from the very first, to write unto thee in order, most excellent Theophilus,

The author has perfect understanding of all things and wants to share it in the form of a written account to Theophilus.

1. Knowing God's Will: How to Discern His Perfect Understanding

2. Being an Excellent Theophilus: What It Means to Live Up to That Name

1. Proverbs 3:5-6 - Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight.

2. James 1:5 - If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him.

Luke 1:4 That thou mightest know the certainty of those things, wherein thou hast been instructed.

Luke records a statement from God that those who are instructed in the gospel can know the certainty of the teachings.

1. The Unwavering Certainty of God's Word

2. Understanding the Assurance of God's Promises

1. Romans 15:4 - For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope.

2. 2 Timothy 3:16 - All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness.

Luke 1:5 There was in the days of Herod, the king of Judaea, a certain priest named Zacharias, of the course of Abia: and his wife was of the daughters of Aaron, and her name was Elisabeth.

Zacharias and Elisabeth were a pious couple in the days of Herod, king of Judaea.

1. God chooses the humblest of people to perform his will.

2. The faithfulness of Zacharias and Elisabeth is an example for us all.

1. James 4:10 “Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you.”

2. Romans 12:2 “Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.”

Luke 1:6 And they were both righteous before God, walking in all the commandments and ordinances of the Lord blameless.

Zacharias and Elizabeth were both righteous before God, faithfully following all of the Lord's commandments and statutes.

1. "Living Righteous Lives: A Call to Holiness"

2. "Living in Obedience: A Blessing for God's People"

1. Deuteronomy 6:24-25 - "And the Lord commanded us to observe all these statutes, to fear the Lord our God, for our good always, that He might preserve us alive, as it is this day. Then it will be righteousness for us, if we are careful to observe all these commandments before the Lord our God, as He has commanded us."

2. Isaiah 33:15 - "He who walks righteously and speaks uprightly, he who despises the gain of oppressions, who gestures with his hands, refusing bribes, who stops his ears from hearing of bloodshed, and shuts his eyes from seeing evil."

Luke 1:7 And they had no child, because that Elisabeth was barren, and they both were now well stricken in years.

Elisabeth and her husband were both elderly and childless due to Elisabeth's barrenness.

1. "Hope in the Lord - A Lesson from Elisabeth and her Husband"

2. "God's Timing is Perfect - A Study of Elisabeth and her Husband"

1. Psalm 37:4 - "Delight yourself in the Lord, and he will give you the desires of your heart."

2. Isaiah 40:31 - "But they who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint."

Luke 1:8 And it came to pass, that while he executed the priest's office before God in the order of his course,

The passage describes Zechariah performing priestly duties.

1. Trusting in God's Plan: Learning to be Patient and Faithful Through Adversity

2. Fulfilling Your God-Given Purpose: Living Out the Call of Priestly Service

1. Psalm 119:105 "Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path."

2. Philippians 4:13 “I can do all this through him who gives me strength.”

Luke 1:9 According to the custom of the priest's office, his lot was to burn incense when he went into the temple of the Lord.

Zechariah, a priest, was chosen to burn incense in the temple of the Lord, which was a part of his priestly duties.

1. Living Out Our Callings: Using Our Gifts to Serve the Lord

2. How to Worship God Through Service

1. 1 Chronicles 16:23-25 - "Sing to the Lord, all the earth; proclaim his salvation day after day. Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous deeds among all peoples. For great is the Lord and most worthy of praise; he is to be feared above all gods."

2. 1 Peter 4:10-11 - "Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God’s grace in its various forms. If anyone speaks, they should do so as one who speaks the very words of God. If anyone serves, they should do so with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen."

Luke 1:10 And the whole multitude of the people were praying without at the time of incense.

The people of the time gathered together in prayer while the priests were offering incense.

1. God's people are called to prayer and to gather together in unity.

2. The importance of communal prayer and its role in our faith.

1. Acts 2:42-47 - The early church devoted themselves to prayer, teaching, fellowship, and the breaking of bread.

2. Psalm 66:18 - If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear.

Luke 1:11 And there appeared unto him an angel of the Lord standing on the right side of the altar of incense.

This verse describes an angel appearing to Zechariah, the father of John the Baptist, while he was offering incense in the temple.

1. "The Power of Faith: How God Uses Our Faithful Actions to Manifest His Will"

2. "The Value of Obedience: How God Rewards Our Faithful Service"

1. Hebrews 11:1-3 - "Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. For by it the people of old received their commendation. By faith we understand that the universe was created by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things that are visible."

2. James 2:17-18 - "So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead. But someone will say, “You have faith and I have works.” Show me your faith apart from your works, and I will show you my faith by my works."

Luke 1:12 And when Zacharias saw him, he was troubled, and fear fell upon him.

Zacharias was troubled and filled with fear when he saw an angel.

1. God's Messengers Should Not Cause Fear

2. Overcoming Fear Through Faith

1. Isaiah 41:10 - "Do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand."

2. Philippians 4:4-7 - "Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."

Luke 1:13 But the angel said unto him, Fear not, Zacharias: for thy prayer is heard; and thy wife Elisabeth shall bear thee a son, and thou shalt call his name John.

The angel tells Zacharias not to be afraid, as his prayer has been heard and his wife Elisabeth will give birth to a son and his name will be John.

1. God is always listening to our prayers, and He will answer them in His perfect timing.

2. Trusting God's plan, even when it doesn't make sense, is essential for our faith journey.

1. John 14:13-14 - “And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it.”

2. Psalm 37:5 - Commit your way to the Lord; trust in him and he will do this:

Luke 1:14 And thou shalt have joy and gladness; and many shall rejoice at his birth.

This passage from Luke 1:14 emphasizes the joy that will come with the birth of Jesus.

1. The Joy of Jesus: Exploring the Meaning of Luke 1:14

2. Rejoicing in the Birth of Jesus: Reflecting on Luke 1:14

1. Isaiah 9:6-7: For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

2. Philippians 4:4: Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice.

Luke 1:15 For he shall be great in the sight of the Lord, and shall drink neither wine nor strong drink; and he shall be filled with the Holy Ghost, even from his mother's womb.

He will be great in God's sight and will be filled with the Holy Spirit from birth.

1. The Power of the Holy Spirit in Our Lives

2. The Impact of Holiness on Our Lives

1. Acts 1:8 - But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.

2. 1 Peter 1:15-16 - But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; for it is written: “Be holy, because I am holy.”

Luke 1:16 And many of the children of Israel shall he turn to the Lord their God.

John the Baptist was promised that he would turn many of the children of Israel to the Lord their God.

1. "Living a Life Worthy of God's Blessing"

2. "Discovering Your Purpose in Life Through God"

1. Isaiah 55:6-7: Seek the Lord while he may be found; call upon him while he is near; let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him return to the Lord, that he may have compassion on him, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.

2. James 4:8: Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded.

Luke 1:17 And he shall go before him in the spirit and power of Elias, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just; to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.

This passage speaks of the mission of John the Baptist to turn people to God and to prepare a people for the Lord.

1. Preparing Our Hearts for the Lord: How John the Baptist Preached a Message of Repentance and Righteousness

2. The Power of Preaching: The Impact of John the Baptist's Message and Ministry

1. Matthew 3:1-2 - John the Baptist's ministry of repentance and righteousness

2. Romans 10:14-15 - The need for people to turn to the Lord in order to be saved

Luke 1:18 And Zacharias said unto the angel, Whereby shall I know this? for I am an old man, and my wife well stricken in years.

Zacharias questions the angel about how he will know the truth of his promise.

1: Trust in the Lord for He will provide.

2: We must have faith and courage in the face of uncertainty.

1: Hebrews 11:1 - Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.

2: Proverbs 3:5-6 - Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.

Luke 1:19 And the angel answering said unto him, I am Gabriel, that stand in the presence of God; and am sent to speak unto thee, and to shew thee these glad tidings.

The angel Gabriel was sent to show Zacharias the glad tidings of the birth of John the Baptist.

1. God's Messengers: The Role of Angels in the Bible

2. God's Promise: The Birth of Jesus and John the Baptist

1. Psalm 103:20 - Bless the Lord, ye his angels, that excel in strength, that do his commandments, hearkening unto the voice of his word.

2. Hebrews 13:2 - Be not forgetful to entertain strangers: for thereby some have entertained angels unawares.

Luke 1:20 And, behold, thou shalt be dumb, and not able to speak, until the day that these things shall be performed, because thou believest not my words, which shall be fulfilled in their season.

An angel appeared to Zechariah, the father of John the Baptist, and told him that he would become mute until the prophecies he had been told came to pass, because he did not believe the angel's words.

1. The Power of Faith: Living a Life of Trust in God's Word

2. Living in Confidence: Trusting in God's Promises

1. Hebrews 11:1 - Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.

2. Psalm 56:3 - When I am afraid, I put my trust in You.

Luke 1:21 And the people waited for Zacharias, and marvelled that he tarried so long in the temple.

Zacharias went to the temple and the people were amazed at how long he stayed there.

1. God's Timing Is Perfect - discussing how God has a plan for each of us and His timing is the best.

2. Patience Is a Virtue - talking about how Zacharias' patience was rewarded and how it is important to be patient in all aspects of life.

1. Psalm 37:7 - "Be still before the Lord and wait patiently for him."

2. Romans 8:28 - "And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose."

Luke 1:22 And when he came out, he could not speak unto them: and they perceived that he had seen a vision in the temple: for he beckoned unto them, and remained speechless.

Zacharias was struck mute after seeing a vision in the temple.

1. Trusting God Even When We Don't Understand

2. Understanding God's Will Through His Silence

1. Isaiah 6:9-10 – “And he said, Go, and tell this people, Hear ye indeed, but understand not; and see ye indeed, but perceive not. Make the heart of this people fat, and make their ears heavy, and shut their eyes; lest they see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and understand with their heart, and convert, and be healed.”

2. Habakkuk 2:20 – “But the Lord is in his holy temple: let all the earth keep silence before him.”

Luke 1:23 And it came to pass, that, as soon as the days of his ministration were accomplished, he departed to his own house.

Hezekiah's ministry was completed and he returned to his own home.

1. God's faithfulness in providing for His people

2. God-given purpose fulfilled

1. Isaiah 38:5 “Go and tell Hezekiah, ‘Thus says the Lord, the God of David your father: I have heard your prayer; I have seen your tears. Behold, I will add fifteen years to your life.’”

2. Psalm 103:17 “But from everlasting to everlasting the Lord’s love is with those who fear him, and his righteousness with their children’s children.”

Luke 1:24 And after those days his wife Elisabeth conceived, and hid herself five months, saying,

Elisabeth conceives and hides herself for five months.

1. The Blessing of God's Faithfulness

2. Growing in Trust in God's Plan

1. Isaiah 40:31 - "But they who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint.”

2. Psalm 46:10 - “Be still, and know that I am God. I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth!”

Luke 1:25 Thus hath the Lord dealt with me in the days wherein he looked on me, to take away my reproach among men.

The Lord was merciful to Mary, taking away her reproach among men.

1. God's Mercy: An Example of His Unfailing Love

2. Rejoicing in the Lord: Accepting His Blessings

1. Romans 8:28 - And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.

2. Psalm 34:5 - Those who look to him are radiant, and their faces shall never be ashamed.

Luke 1:26 And in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God unto a city of Galilee, named Nazareth,

In the sixth month, an angel from God came to Nazareth, a city in Galilee.

1. How God's Messengers Bring Hope

2. The Power of God's Visits in our Lives

1. Isaiah 40:3-5 - A voice of one calling: “In the wilderness prepare the way for the Lord; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. 4 Every valley shall be raised up, every mountain and hill made low; the rough ground shall become level, the rugged places a plain. 5 And the glory of the Lord will be revealed, and all people will see it together.

2. Luke 2:10-11 - But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. 11 Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord.

Luke 1:27 To a virgin espoused to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name was Mary.

Mary was engaged to a man named Joseph, who was from the line of King David.

1. The importance of lineage and family history in our lives.

2. God's miraculous provision for Mary and Joseph.

1. Romans 8:28, "And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose."

2. Psalm 139:13-14, "For thou hast possessed my reins: thou hast covered me in my mother's womb. I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made: marvellous are thy works; and that my soul knoweth right well."

Luke 1:28 And the angel came in unto her, and said, Hail, thou that art highly favoured, the Lord is with thee: blessed art thou among women.

This passage describes the angel Gabriel's greeting to Mary when he announced she was chosen to be the mother of Jesus.

1. God's Favor: Experiencing the Blessing of God's Favor in Your Life

2. Mary's Response: Learning to Respond Faithfully to God's Calling

1. Jeremiah 29:11 - "For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

2. Luke 2:19 - But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart.

Luke 1:29 And when she saw him, she was troubled at his saying, and cast in her mind what manner of salutation this should be.

Mary was puzzled and troubled when the angel, Gabriel, appeared to her.

1: God's plan for us is sometimes confusing and troubling, but it will always be for our good.

2: God can work through the most unexpected messengers to bring us joy and purpose.

1: Isaiah 55:8-9 - "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts."

2: Romans 8:28 - "And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose."

Luke 1:30 And the angel said unto her, Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favour with God.

An angel appeared to Mary and told her she had found favor with God and not to be afraid.

1. God's Favor: How to Recognize and Receive It

2. Facing Fear with Faith in God's Favor

1. Psalm 5:12, “For you bless the righteous, O Lord; you cover him with favor as with a shield.”

2. Isaiah 41:10, “Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.”

Luke 1:31 And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS.

The angel declared to Mary that she would give birth to a son and name him Jesus.

1: As Christians, we must remember to trust God’s plan even when it seems unlikely or difficult.

2: We must be open to God’s call and accept His will with joy, reverence, and humility.

1: Romans 8:28 “And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.”

2: Philippians 4:4-7 “Rejoice in the Lord always: and again I say, Rejoice. Let your moderation be known unto all men. The Lord is at hand. Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.”

Luke 1:32 He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David:

The Lord God will give His Son a royal throne of His father David.

1. God's Promises of an Eternal Kingdom: Living in the Reign of Jesus Christ

2. The Blessing of Knowing God's Plan: Understanding the Throne of David

1. Isaiah 9:7 - “Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this.”

2. Revelation 3:21 - “To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne.”

Luke 1:33 And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end.

This passage describes Jesus's eternal reign over the house of Jacob.

1: Jesus's everlasting love and mercy is a source of strength for us in our everyday lives.

2: We must never forget that Jesus has an eternal kingdom and we should strive to serve Him faithfully.

1: Hebrews 13:8, "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever."

2: Psalm 146:10, "The Lord will reign forever, your God, O Zion, for all generations."

Luke 1:34 Then said Mary unto the angel, How shall this be, seeing I know not a man?

Mary asked the angel how she could have a child when she was a virgin.

1: Mary's example of faith in the face of uncertainty.

2: God's miraculous power to bring about His will.

1: Genesis 18:14 Is any thing too hard for the LORD?

2: Isaiah 40:28-31 Hast thou not known? hast thou not heard, that the everlasting God, the LORD, the Creator of the ends of the earth, fainteth not, neither is weary? there is no searching of his understanding.

Luke 1:35 And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God.

The Angel announced to Mary that she would conceive the Son of God, through the power of the Holy Spirit.

1. The Power of the Holy Spirit: How God Works Miracles in Our Lives

2. The Calling of Jesus: How Mary Responded to God's Invitation

1. Isaiah 7:14 - “Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.”

2. Romans 8:11 - “If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you.”

Luke 1:36 And, behold, thy cousin Elisabeth, she hath also conceived a son in her old age: and this is the sixth month with her, who was called barren.

Elisabeth has miraculously conceived a child in her old age, despite being barren.

1: God's Miracles - How God can work profound miracles even in the most unlikely of circumstances.

2: Age is no Barrier - How God can still work in the lives of people despite their age.

1: Isaiah 46:4 - Even to your old age and gray hairs I am he, I am he who will sustain you. I have made you and I will carry you; I will sustain you and I will rescue you.

2: Isaiah 40:31 - But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.

Luke 1:37 For with God nothing shall be impossible.

This passage is a reminder of God's power and that nothing is too hard for God.

1. "The Unending Power of God"

2. "Nothing Is Impossible for Our God"

1. Jeremiah 32:17 Ah Lord God! Behold, thou hast made the heaven and the earth by thy great power and stretched out arm, and there is nothing too hard for thee:

2. Matthew 19:26 But Jesus beheld them, and said unto them, With men this is impossible; but with God all things are possible.

Luke 1:38 And Mary said, Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy word. And the angel departed from her.

Mary humbly accepted the Lord's will with faith and trust.

1: We can find strength in trusting God's plan for us.

2: When faced with difficult decisions, we can trust in the Lord's guidance.

1: 1 Peter 5:7 - Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you.

2: Hebrews 11:1 - Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

Luke 1:39 And Mary arose in those days, and went into the hill country with haste, into a city of Juda;

Mary hurriedly traveled to Judea.

1. When facing difficult times, we should stay focused and remain obedient to God's will.

2. Mary's faithfulness and obedience to God's plan is an example to us all.

1. Proverbs 3:5-6 "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight."

2. Luke 1:38 "And Mary said, Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy word."

Luke 1:40 And entered into the house of Zacharias, and saluted Elisabeth.

Mary visited Elizabeth and greeted her in her home.

1. The Power of Sisterhood: Mary and Elizabeth's Faithful Friendship

2. The Beauty of Service: Mary's Visit to Elizabeth

1. Proverbs 18:24 (A man of many companions may come to ruin, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother.)

2. Romans 12:10 (Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor.)

Luke 1:41 And it came to pass, that, when Elisabeth heard the salutation of Mary, the babe leaped in her womb; and Elisabeth was filled with the Holy Ghost:

Elisabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit when she heard Mary's greeting, and her baby leaped for joy.

1: Rejoicing in the presence of the Lord.

2: Focusing on the joy of the Holy Spirit.

1: John 16:22 "So also you have sorrow now, but I will see you again, and your hearts will rejoice, and no one will take your joy from you."

2: Psalm 16:11 "You make known to me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore."

Luke 1:42 And she spake out with a loud voice, and said, Blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb.

Mary's response to the angel Gabriel's announcement of Jesus’s birth: Mary praised God for the blessing of Jesus.

1. God's Blessings are Unconditional

2. A Life of Thanksgiving for God's Blessings

1. Psalm 28:7 - The LORD is my strength and my shield; my heart trusted in him, and I am helped: therefore my heart greatly rejoiceth; and with my song will I praise him.

2. Ephesians 5:20 - Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Luke 1:43 And whence is this to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me?

Mary is filled with joy by the news that she will give birth to the Messiah.

1: We too can be filled with joy when we receive blessings from God.

2: We should be filled with wonder and awe when we think about how God works in our lives.

1: Ephesians 1:3-14 - Paul's blessing of God's grace to the Church of Ephesus

2: Psalm 139:1-18 - David's praise to God for His perfect knowledge of him.

Luke 1:44 For, lo, as soon as the voice of thy salutation sounded in mine ears, the babe leaped in my womb for joy.

Mary rejoiced at the greeting of Elizabeth and the unborn baby John leapt in her womb for joy.

1. Rejoicing in the Presence of God

2. The Power of a Greeting

1. Galatians 5:22-23 - But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith,

2. Psalm 5:11 - But let all those that put their trust in thee rejoice: let them ever shout for joy, because thou defendest them: let them also that love thy name be joyful in thee.

Luke 1:45 And blessed is she that believed: for there shall be a performance of those things which were told her from the Lord.

Mary believed in the message from the Lord and was blessed.

1: We should follow Mary’s example of faith and trust in the Lord’s promises.

2: With faith, we can experience the blessings God has in store for us.

1: Proverbs 3:5-6 “Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.”

2: Hebrews 11:1 “Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.”

Luke 1:46 And Mary said, My soul doth magnify the Lord,

Mary's song of praise and thanksgiving to God for the blessings He has bestowed upon her.

1. Magnifying the Lord: Learning to Give Praise and Thanks to God.

2. Mary's Song of Praise: An Inspiring Example of Gratitude.

1. Psalm 103:1-2 - "Bless the LORD, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name! Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits."

2. Colossians 3:16 - "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God."

Luke 1:47 And my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour.

Mary proclaims her joy in the Lord, her Savior.

1: We can find joy in the Lord when we put our hope and trust in Him.

2: Through Jesus, we can find lasting joy and peace in our lives.

1: Psalm 30:5 “Weeping may endure for a night, but joy comes in the morning.”

2: Philippians 4:4 “Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice!”

Luke 1:48 For he hath regarded the low estate of his handmaiden: for, behold, from henceforth all generations shall call me blessed.

God looks upon the humble and lifts them up, granting them grace and favor.

1: God's grace is available to the humble and meek.

2: All generations will call those who humble themselves blessed.

1: Proverbs 3:34 - "He maketh the scorners to cease; He will rebuke the arrogant, and lay them low."

2: James 4:6 - "But He giveth more grace. Wherefore He saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble."

Luke 1:49 For he that is mighty hath done to me great things; and holy is his name.

Mary praises God for the great things He has done for her and proclaims His holiness.

1. The Mighty and Holy God: Celebrating the Magnitude of God's Power and Holiness

2. Drawing Strength From The Lord: Experiencing the Great Things God Has Done For Us

1. Psalm 99:3-4 - Let them praise thy great and terrible name; for it is holy. The king's strength also loveth judgment; thou dost establish equity, thou executest judgment and righteousness in Jacob.

2. Nehemiah 9:5-6 - Stand up and bless the Lord your God for ever and ever: and blessed be thy glorious name, which is exalted above all blessing and praise. Thou, even thou, art Lord alone; thou hast made heaven, the heaven of heavens, with all their host, the earth, and all things that are therein, the seas, and all that is therein, and thou preservest them all; and the host of heaven worshippeth thee.

Luke 1:50 And his mercy is on them that fear him from generation to generation.

The passage speaks of God's mercy on those who revere Him, from generation to generation.

1. Faithful Generations: The Power of Reverence for God

2. Mercy Across Generations: Honoring God's Constant Love

1. Psalm 103:17 - "But from everlasting to everlasting the Lord’s love is with those who fear him, and his righteousness with their children’s children"

2. Malachi 3:17 - “They will be mine,” says the Lord Almighty, “in the day when I make up my treasured possession. I will spare them, just as a father has compassion and spares his son who serves him.”

Luke 1:51 He hath shewed strength with his arm; he hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.

God's strength is made evident through his protection of the humble and his humbling of the proud.

1: God's Strength is Greater Than Our Own

2: Pride Comes Before a Fall

1: James 4:6 - "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble."

2: Proverbs 16:18 - "Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall."

Luke 1:52 He hath put down the mighty from their seats, and exalted them of low degree.

This passage speaks about how God humbles the mighty and elevates the humble.

1. A on the power of humility and how it can be used to glorify God.

2. A on how God works to level the playing field and how He works to show us all that we are equal in His eyes.

1. 1 Peter 5:5-7 “Likewise, you who are younger, be subject to the elders. Clothe yourselves, all of you, with humility toward one another, for “God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.” Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you, casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you.”

2. James 4:10 “Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you.”

Luke 1:53 He hath filled the hungry with good things; and the rich he hath sent empty away.

God gives to the hungry and takes away from the rich.

1. God Rewards the Humble: How God Uses Our Needs to Bless Us

2. God’s Provision: Learning to Rely on God’s Generosity

1. James 2:5-7 “Listen, my beloved brethren: Has not God chosen those who are poor in the world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom which He promised to those who love Him? But you have dishonored the poor man. Do not the rich oppress you and drag you into the courts? Do they not blaspheme that noble name by which you are called?”

2. Matthew 5:3 “Blessed are the poor in spirit, For theirs is the kingdom of heaven.”

Luke 1:54 He hath holpen his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy;

The passage highlights the mercy of God in helping his servant Israel.

1. God's Faithful Mercy: How God's Mercy is Unfailing and Uplifting

2. The Power of Remembrance: How God Uses Memory to Demonstrate His Love

1. Exodus 34:6-7 - "And the Lord passed by before him, and proclaimed, The Lord, The Lord God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abundant in goodness and truth, keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin"

2. Lamentations 3:22-23 - "It is of the Lord's mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not. They are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness"

Luke 1:55 As he spake to our fathers, to Abraham, and to his seed for ever.

God made a covenant with Abraham and his descendants that would last forever.

1. God's Covenant of Love and Faithfulness: Abraham, the Father of Our Faith

2. Living in the Promises of God: The Unfailing Promise to Abraham and His Descendants

1. Romans 4:13-17 - For the promise, that he should be the heir of the world, was not to Abraham, or to his seed, through the law, but through the righteousness of faith.

2. Hebrews 6:13-18 - For when God made a promise to Abraham, because he could swear by no greater, he sware by himself.

Luke 1:56 And Mary abode with her about three months, and returned to her own house.

Mary stayed with Elizabeth for three months before returning to her own house.

1. God's Plan: A Look at Mary's Time with Elizabeth

2. The Power of Fellowship: The Example of Mary and Elizabeth

1. Galatians 6:2 - "Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ."

2. John 15:12-13 - "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends."

Luke 1:57 Now Elisabeth's full time came that she should be delivered; and she brought forth a son.

Elisabeth delivered a son.

1: God's Timing is Perfect - Luke 1:57

2: Waiting on God's Promises - Luke 1:57

1: Isaiah 40:31 - "But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint."

2: Isaiah 46:10-11 - "Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure: Calling a ravenous bird from the east, the man that executeth my counsel from a far country: yea, I have spoken it, I will also bring it to pass; I have purposed it, I will also do it."

Luke 1:58 And her neighbours and her cousins heard how the Lord had shewed great mercy upon her; and they rejoiced with her.

The Lord showed great mercy on Mary, causing her neighbors and relatives to rejoice with her.

1: We can learn from Mary’s example of how to be filled with joy when God shows mercy.

2: God’s mercy is always available to us, no matter our circumstances.

1: Psalm 118:24 “This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.”

2: Romans 5:20-21 “Where sin increased, grace increased all the more, so that, just as sin reigned in death, so also grace might reign through righteousness to bring eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.”

Luke 1:59 And it came to pass, that on the eighth day they came to circumcise the child; and they called him Zacharias, after the name of his father.

This passage speaks of the naming of the child Zacharias according to the custom of the Jewish religion.

1. The importance of tradition and heritage in religious observance.

2. The significance of naming a child in the Bible.

1. Genesis 17:12-14 - The importance of circumcision as a part of the covenant with God.

2. Matthew 1:21 - The significance of Jesus' name and its fulfillment of prophecy.

Luke 1:60 And his mother answered and said, Not so; but he shall be called John.

Elizabeth, the mother of John the Baptist, declared that her son's name would be John, instead of the name that his father had chosen.

1. "The Power of a Mother's Blessing: Living Up to Our God Given Name"

2. "The Power of Faithful Obedience: Following God's Will Despite What Others Think"

1. Genesis 17:5 - "No longer will your name be Abram; your name will be Abraham, for I have made you a father of many nations."

2. Matthew 1:21 - "She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins."

Luke 1:61 And they said unto her, There is none of thy kindred that is called by this name.

Elizabeth and Zechariah's relatives could not find any of their relatives who shared their son's name, John.

1. God's plans are greater than our own.

2. The power of faith and prayer in the face of adversity.

1. Ephesians 3:20 - Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us.

2. James 5:13-16 - Is any among you afflicted? Let him pray. Is any merry? Let him sing psalms.

Luke 1:62 And they made signs to his father, how he would have him called.

The father of John the Baptist was asked to name his son.

1: God calls us all to faith and obedience, just as He called Zechariah to name his son

John.

2: We must trust God and accept His gifts, as Zechariah did in naming his son John.

1: Isaiah 9:6 - For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

2: Matthew 1:21 - She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.

Luke 1:63 And he asked for a writing table, and wrote, saying, His name is John. And they marvelled all.

The people were amazed when Zechariah wrote the name of his son, John.

1: The Power of a Name - when we give someone a name, we give them an identity.

2: The Significance of John - the importance of John's role in the Bible and what it means for us today.

1: Isaiah 9:6 - For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

2: Matthew 1:21 - She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.

Luke 1:64 And his mouth was opened immediately, and his tongue loosed, and he spake, and praised God.

This passage describes the moment when Zechariah’s speech was restored after his angelic visitation.

1. The Power of God: Restoring Our Speech.

2. The Miracle of Praise: Releasing Joy from Our Tongues.

1. Isaiah 35:5-6 - Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped. Then shall the lame man leap as an hart, and the tongue of the dumb sing.

2. Psalm 51:15 - O Lord, open thou my lips; and my mouth shall shew forth thy praise.

Luke 1:65 And fear came on all that dwelt round about them: and all these sayings were noised abroad throughout all the hill country of Judaea.

Fear spread among the people in the region of Judaea after hearing of the miraculous events surrounding the birth of John the Baptist.

1. God's power is greater than our fear.

2. We can trust in God despite the uncertainty of life.

1. Isaiah 41:10 - Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.

2. Psalm 56:3-4 - When I am afraid, I put my trust in you. In God, whose word I praise, in God I trust; I shall not be afraid. What can flesh do to me?

Luke 1:66 And all they that heard them laid them up in their hearts, saying, What manner of child shall this be! And the hand of the Lord was with him.

This passage describes the awe and amazement of the people of Jerusalem upon hearing the news that Zechariah and Elizabeth were expecting a child.

1. God Is Doing A New Thing: Rejoice in His Marvelous Works

2. Resting in the Assurance of God's Power and Presence

1. Isaiah 43:19 - Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?

2. Psalm 46:10 - Be still, and know that I am God. I will be exalted among the nations, I

will be exalted in the earth!

Luke 1:67 And his father Zacharias was filled with the Holy Ghost, and prophesied, saying,

Zacharias was filled with the Holy Spirit and prophesied a blessing on God's people.

1. God's Faithfulness in Times of Difficulty

2. The Power of the Holy Spirit

1. Isaiah 12:2-3 - "Behold, God is my salvation; I will trust, and not be afraid; for the Lord God is my strength and my song, and he has become my salvation."

2. Acts 2:4 - "And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance."

Luke 1:68 Blessed be the Lord God of Israel; for he hath visited and redeemed his people,

God has visited His people and redeemed them.

1: Jesus came to save us from our sins.

2: God's mercy and grace are infinite and far-reaching.

1: Titus 2:14, "who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works."

2: Romans 3:23-24, "for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus."

Luke 1:69 And hath raised up an horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David;

The passage speaks of God raising up a horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David.

1. God's Provision of Salvation through the House of David

2. The Power of God's Salvation Working Through His Servants

1. Isaiah 11:1-2 - "And there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots: And the spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD."

2. 2 Samuel 7:12-13 - "And when thy days be fulfilled, and thou shalt sleep with thy fathers, I will set up thy seed after thee, which shall proceed out of thy bowels, and I will establish his kingdom. He shall build an house for my name, and I will stablish the throne of his kingdom for ever."

Luke 1:70 As he spake by the mouth of his holy prophets, which have been since the world began:

God spoke through his prophets from the beginning of the world.

1. The Power of God's Word - Exploring how God has spoken to us through his prophets since the beginning of the world.

2. The Timelessness of God's Word - Exploring how God's word has been a guide since the beginning of the world.

1. Isaiah 55:11 - "So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it."

2. Psalm 33:4 - "For the word of the LORD is right; and all his works are done in truth."

Luke 1:71 That we should be saved from our enemies, and from the hand of all that hate us;

The passage speaks of being saved from enemies and those who hate us.

1: God's love saves us from our enemies and those who hate us.

2: Through faith in God, we can find deliverance from our enemies and those who hate us.

1: Romans 8:37 No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.

2: Psalm 34:17-18 When the righteous cry for help, the Lord hears and delivers them out of all their troubles. The Lord is near to the brokenhearted and saves the crushed in spirit.

Luke 1:72 To perform the mercy promised to our fathers, and to remember his holy covenant;

The passage speaks of fulfilling God's promises and remembering His holy covenant.

1. A Promise Fulfilled: The Mercy of God

2. Remembering God's Covenant: Our Commitment to Him

1. Isaiah 55:3 - "Incline your ear, and come to me; hear, that your soul may live; and I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David."

2. Psalm 105:8 - "He remembers his covenant forever, the word that he commanded, for a thousand generations."

Luke 1:73 The oath which he sware to our father Abraham,

God made promises to Abraham and fulfilled them.

1: God is faithful and He will fulfill His promises.

2: We can trust in God's promises even if it takes a long time for them to be fulfilled.

1: Numbers 23:19 - God is not a man, that he should lie; neither the son of man, that he should repent: hath he said, and shall he not do it? or hath he spoken, and shall he not make it good?

2: 2 Corinthians 1:20 - For all the promises of God in him are yea, and in him Amen, unto the glory of God by us.

Luke 1:74 That he would grant unto us, that we being delivered out of the hand of our enemies might serve him without fear,

In Luke 1:74, God promised to protect and deliver His people from their enemies so that they could serve Him in peace and without fear.

1. "The Promise of Protection: Serving God Without Fear"

2. "God's Rescue: Serving Him in Freedom"

1. Psalm 34:7 - The angel of the LORD encamps around those who fear him, and delivers them.

2. Isaiah 41:10 - Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.

Luke 1:75 In holiness and righteousness before him, all the days of our life.

This passage from Luke 1 speaks of a life of holiness and righteousness before God.

1. Living a Life of Holiness and Righteousness before God

2. The Power of Holiness and Righteousness in Our Lives

1. 1 Peter 1:15-16 - "But as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, since it is written, “You shall be holy, for I am holy.”

2. James 1:22-25 - “But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks intently at his natural face in a mirror. For he looks at himself and goes away and at once forgets what he was like. But the one who looks into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and perseveres, being no hearer who forgets but a doer who acts, he will be blessed in his doing.”

Luke 1:76 And thou, child, shalt be called the prophet of the Highest: for thou shalt go before the face of the Lord to prepare his ways;

The passage speaks of John the Baptist being called the prophet of the Highest, who will go before the Lord to prepare his ways.

1. The Calling of John the Baptist: Preparing the Way for the Lord

2. The Prophetic Mission of John the Baptist: Preparing Hearts for the Kingdom of God

1. Isaiah 40:3-5 - Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

2. Malachi 3:1 - “Behold, I will send my messenger, and he shall prepare the way before me.”

Luke 1:77 To give knowledge of salvation unto his people by the remission of their sins,

The passage expresses that God's purpose in sending His Son into the world was to give His people knowledge of salvation and to forgive their sins.

1. The Gift of Salvation: How God Saves Us Through His Son

2. The Grace of God: Understanding the Forgiveness of Sins

1. Romans 5:8 - "But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us."

2. Ephesians 2:8-9 - "For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— not by works, so that no one can boast.”

Luke 1:78 Through the tender mercy of our God; whereby the dayspring from on high hath visited us,

Through God’s mercy, we have been visited by the dawn from heaven.

1. Seeing God's Mercy in Everyday Life

2. Finding Comfort and Hope in the Lord's Mercy

1. Psalm 86:15 - But you, O Lord, are a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness.

2. James 5:11 - Behold, we consider those blessed who remained steadfast. You have heard of the steadfastness of Job, and you have seen the purpose of the Lord, how the Lord is compassionate and merciful.

Luke 1:79 To give light to them that sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.

The passage speaks of providing light and guidance to those in darkness and despair, leading them towards peace.

1. "A Pathway to Peace" - Exploring the blessings of finding peace through Christ.

2. "Light in the Darkness" - Examining the hope and joy that comes from trusting in God.

1. Isaiah 9:2 - "The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned."

2. Psalm 119:105 - "Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path."

Luke 1:80 And the child grew, and waxed strong in spirit, and was in the deserts till the day of his shewing unto Israel.

The child Jesus grew and became strong spiritually while living in the desert until the time he revealed himself to Israel.

1: God's plan for our lives may be unknown to us, but we can trust His guidance.

2: We can trust God to bring us to our destiny, even if it takes time.

1: Jeremiah 29:11 - "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

2: Proverbs 3:5-6 - "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight."

Luke 2 continues the narrative of Jesus' birth and early life, highlighting significant events such as the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem, the visitation of shepherds and angels, and Jesus' presentation at the temple.

1st Paragraph: The chapter begins with a decree from Caesar Augustus that a census should be taken. Joseph, who was from the house of David, went to Bethlehem with Mary, who was pregnant. While they were there, Mary gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped Him in swaddling cloths and laid Him in a manger because there was no room for them in the inn (Luke 2:1-7). In the same region, shepherds were keeping watch over their flock at night when an angel appeared to them. The angel brought them good news of great joy: a Savior had been born in Bethlehem. Suddenly, a multitude of heavenly hosts joined the angel praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased" (Luke 2:8-14).

2nd Paragraph: After hearing this message from the angels, the shepherds hurried to Bethlehem to find baby Jesus. They found Mary and Joseph along with the baby lying in a manger. The shepherds shared what they had seen and heard with others who marveled at their words (Luke 2:15-18). Eight days later, according to Jewish custom for male infants, Jesus was circumcised and named as instructed by an angel before His conception—Jesus. When it was time for Mary's purification according to Jewish law after childbirth had passed required offering made Jerusalem Joseph Mary took Him up Jerusalem present Him Lord as it written Law Lord Every male opens womb called holy Lord offer pair doves two young pigeons (Luke 2:21-24).

3rd Paragraph: In Jerusalem at that time lived Simeon righteous devout man waiting consolation Israel Holy Spirit revealed him would not see death before he had seen Lord's Messiah led by Spirit into temple courts when parents brought child Jesus do for him custom Law took arms praised God saying "Sovereign Master you may let your servant depart peace according word eyes have seen salvation prepared presence all peoples light revelation Gentiles glory people Israel." Then prophesied about child saying He destined cause falling rising many Israel be sign spoken against so thoughts hearts revealed sword will pierce soul too Anna prophetess advanced age never left temple worshiping fasting praying coming forward moment saw child thanked God spoke everyone redemption Jerusalem returned Nazareth grew strong filled wisdom favor upon him (Luke 2:25-40).

Luke 2:1 And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed.

Caesar Augustus issued a decree that required all people in the world to be taxed.

1. Jesus' birth fulfills God's plan of salvation for all.

2. Remember to be thankful and obedient to God, even in times of taxation.

1. John 3:16 - For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

2. Romans 13:7 - Give to everyone what you owe them: If you owe taxes, pay taxes; if revenue, then revenue; if respect, then respect; if honor, then honor.

Luke 2:2 (And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.)

This passage describes how a census was conducted in the time of Cyrenius, who was governor of Syria.

1. God's plan is always revealed in Divine timing.

2. When we follow the guidance of the Lord, blessings will follow.

1. Ecclesiastes 3:1-8 - There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens.

2. Isaiah 40:31 - But they who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint.

Luke 2:3 And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city.

Mary and Joseph were required to travel to Bethlehem for a census, so they went to be taxed in their own city.

1. The Importance of Obeying the Law: A Look at Mary and Joseph's Obedience

2. The Power of Faithfulness: Mary and Joseph's Trust in God

1. Matthew 6:33 - "But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you."

2. Philippians 4:19 - "And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus."

Luke 2:4 And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David:)

This passage tells of Joseph and Mary's journey from Nazareth to Bethlehem in order to fulfill the prophecy of the Messiah being born in the city of David.

1. God's Word is always true, and will always come to pass.

2. God has a plan for each and every one of us, and it is important to trust in Him.

1. Isaiah 55:11 - So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it.

2. Jeremiah 29:11 - For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the Lord, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end.

Luke 2:5 To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child.

This passage describes Joseph and Mary going to Bethlehem in order to be taxed, with Mary being pregnant at the time.

1. Jesus, Our Perfect Example of Obedience to Authority

2. Alongside Mary: How We Can Follow Jesus During Difficult Times

1. Romans 13:1-7 - Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers.

2. Matthew 28:18-20 - Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost.

Luke 2:6 And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered.

Mary and Joseph traveled to Bethlehem to register in a census, and while they were there, Mary gave birth to Jesus.

1: God's timing is always perfect. No matter how things may seem, God is always in control.

2: Mary and Joseph's faith in God was unwavering. They followed His plan, even when it didn't make sense to them.

1: Proverbs 3:5-6 "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight."

2: Hebrews 11:1 "Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see."

Luke 2:7 And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.

The birth of Jesus was humble, as there was no room for them in the inn.

1. The Humble Birth of Jesus: Learning to Embrace Humility.

2. The Significance of Jesus' Birth: Considering the Impact of God's Grace.

1. Philippians 2:5-11 - Christ's humility and exaltation.

2. Isaiah 9:6-7 - Jesus as the Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, and Prince of Peace.

Luke 2:8 And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.

Shepherds in the same country were watching their flock at night.

1. The Shepherds' Unending Vigilance

2. The Power of Nighttime

1. John 10:11 - “I am the good shepherd; the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep.”

2. Isaiah 40:11 - “He shall feed his flock like a shepherd: he shall gather the lambs with his arm, and carry them in his bosom, and shall gently lead those that are with young.”

Luke 2:9 And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid.

The angel of the Lord came upon the shepherds, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, causing them to be filled with fear.

1. The Comfort of God's Presence

2. Fear Not: God is Always Near

1. Isaiah 41:10 - "Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand."

2. Psalm 46:1-3 - "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear though the earth gives way, though the mountains be moved into the heart of the sea, though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble at its swelling."

Luke 2:10 And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.

The angel announced the birth of Jesus, bringing good tidings of great joy to all people.

1. The Joy of Jesus: Rejoicing in the Good News of the Lord.

2. God's Grace: Celebrating the Unconditional Love of God.

1. Isaiah 9:6-7 - For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.

2. Romans 5:8 - But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

Luke 2:11 For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.

This passage reveals the momentous announcement of the birth of Jesus Christ, the Saviour of the world.

1. The Joy of Christmas: Rejoice in the Birth of Jesus, the Saviour of the World

2. A Saviour is Born: The Hope of Salvation through Jesus Christ

1. Isaiah 9:6 - For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

2. John 3:16 - For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

Luke 2:12 And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.

Sign of Jesus' birth: the babe in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.

1. God’s Plan: From a Manger to the Cross

2. Finding Joy in the Simple Things

1. Isaiah 60:1-3 - Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord rises

upon you.

2. Philippians 2:5-8 - Christ Jesus, who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant.

Luke 2:13 And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying,

The angel was joined by a multitude of heavenly hosts who praised God.

1. The Power of Praise: How God is Invoked Through Our Words

2. The Joy of Worship: Discovering the Blessings of Praise

1. Psalm 103:1-5 - Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name!

2. Hebrews 13:15 - Through him then let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that acknowledge his name.

Luke 2:14 Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.

This passage celebrates the birth of Jesus and the peace, goodwill, and glory that his coming brings.

1. The Gift of Peace: Exploring the Meaning of the Birth of Jesus

2. Goodwill Towards Men: Understanding the Impact of the Word of God

1. Isaiah 9:6-7 For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.

2. Philippians 2:5-8 Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient

unto death, even the death of the cross.

Luke 2:15 And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us.

The shepherds were told by the angels of the birth of Jesus and they decided to go to Bethlehem to see the newborn baby for themselves.

1. The power of the word of God: How the shepherds were obedient and willing to act on what they were told.

2. The importance of faith: How the shepherds trusted in the word of God and put their faith in Him.

1. Romans 10:17 - So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

2. James 2:26 - For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.

Luke 2:16 And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger.

This passage tells the story of the shepherds who were informed by an angel of the birth of Jesus and rushed to find him.

1. "The Significance of the Shepherds in the Nativity Story"

2. "The Power of an Angelic Announcement"

1. Isaiah 40:11- "He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms; he will carry them in his bosom, and gently lead those that are with young."

2. Psalm 23:1- "The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want."

Luke 2:17 And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child.

The shepherds told others of the birth of Jesus after they saw him.

1. God's faithfulness to His promises - Luke 2:11

2. The importance of sharing the good news - Luke 2:17

1. Isaiah 9:6-7 - For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; and the government shall be upon His shoulder. And His name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.

7 Of the increase of His government and peace there will be no end, upon the throne of David and over His kingdom, to order it and establish it with judgment and justice from that time forward, even forever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this.

2. Matthew 28:19-20 - Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” Amen.

Luke 2:18 And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds.

The shepherds shared the good news of Jesus' birth and the people who heard it were amazed.

1. Have Faith in God's Plan

2. Rejoice in the Good News

1. Luke 2:10-11: "And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord."

2. Romans 10:14-15: "How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach, except they be sent?"

Luke 2:19 But Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart.

Mary kept God's miraculous announcement of Jesus’ birth and pondered it in her heart.

1: We can learn from Mary’s example of treasuring God’s word and reflecting on it in prayer.

2: By pondering God’s word in our hearts, we can grow closer to Him and find peace in His promises.

1: Psalm 119:11 “Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.”

2: Matthew 6:21, “For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

Luke 2:20 And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them.

The shepherds praised and glorified God for the things they had heard and seen.

1: Praising God for the Miracles Around Us

2: Learning to Rejoice in the Wonders of God

1: Psalm 150:2 - Praise him for his mighty deeds; praise him according to his excellent greatness!

2: Psalm 103:2 - Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits.

Luke 2:21 And when eight days were accomplished for the circumcising of the child, his name was called JESUS, which was so named of the angel before he was conceived in the womb.

After eight days of circumcision, Jesus was given the name that was announced by the angel before His conception.

1. The Power of Names - How the Names We Choose Reflect Our Identity

2. Jesus: The Name Above All Names

1. Matthew 1:23 - "Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us."

2. Philippians 2:9-11 - "Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father."

Luke 2:22 And when the days of her purification according to the law of Moses were accomplished, they brought him to Jerusalem, to present him to the Lord;

Mary and Joseph brought Jesus to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord after the days of purification according to the law of Moses.

1. The importance of following God's law

2. How to present our lives to the Lord

1. Deuteronomy 6:5-9 - Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, and strength

2. Matthew 22:37-40 - Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, and mind.

Luke 2:23 (As it is written in the law of the LORD, Every male that openeth the womb shall be called holy to the Lord;)

This passage discusses the law of the Lord which states that every male child that is born, must be called holy to the Lord.

1. God’s Laws Are Still Relevant Today

2. The Holiness of God’s Children

1. Genesis 17:12-13 - "And he that is eight days old shall be circumcised among you, every man child in your generations, he that is born in the house, or bought with money

of any stranger, which is not of thy seed. He that is born in thy house, and he that is bought with thy money, must needs be circumcised: and my covenant shall be in your flesh for an everlasting covenant."

2. Exodus 12:48-49 - "And when a stranger shall sojourn with thee, and will keep the passover to the Lord, let all his males be circumcised, and then let him come near and keep it; and he shall be as one that is born in the land: for no uncircumcised person shall eat thereof. One law shall be to him that is homeborn, and unto the stranger that sojourneth among you."

Luke 2:24 And to offer a sacrifice according to that which is said in the law of the Lord, A pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons.

According to the Law of the Lord, Mary and Joseph offered a sacrifice of two turtledoves or two young pigeons when they presented Jesus at the temple.

1. The Significance of Sacrifice: Examining the Sacrifice of Jesus at the Temple

2. The Importance of Obedience: Mary and Joseph's Example of Submitting to the Law of the Lord

1. Leviticus 12:8 and the context of the Mosaic law regarding sacrifice

2. Matthew 5:17 and the context of Jesus' teachings regarding fulfilling the Law.

Luke 2:25 And, behold, there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon; and the same man was just and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel: and the Holy Ghost was upon him.

Simeon was a just and devout man in Jerusalem who was waiting for the consolation of Israel and was filled with the Holy Ghost.

1. The Importance of Devotion in the Life of a Believer

2. The Power of the Holy Spirit in Our Lives

1. James 1:19-20 - Know this, my beloved brothers: let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger; for the anger of man does not produce the righteousness of God.

2. Romans 8:24-25 - For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

Luke 2:26 And it was revealed unto him by the Holy Ghost, that he should not see death, before he had seen the Lord's Christ.

This passage tells of Simeon's prophecy about Jesus that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ.

1. The Promise of the Messiah: How Jesus Fulfilled the Prophecy of Simeon

2. Jesus: The Fulfillment of God's Eternal Promises

1. Isaiah 7:14 - "Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel."

2. Psalm 16:10 - "For thou wilt not leave my soul in hell; neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption."

Luke 2:27 And he came by the Spirit into the temple: and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him after the custom of the law,

Mary and Joseph brought the baby Jesus to the temple to fulfill the requirements of the law.

1. The Importance of Following God's Commands

2. The Significance of Jesus' Birth

1. Micah 6:8 - He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.

2. Luke 1:26-38 - In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you."

Luke 2:28 Then took he him up in his arms, and blessed God, and said,

The passage describes the moment when Simeon, after seeing the baby Jesus, takes Jesus in his arms, praises God, and says a blessing.

1. “The Joy of Being in God’s Presence” - Exploring the joy of coming into God's presence, as demonstrated by Simeon in Luke 2.

2. “The Blessing of Jesus” - Examining the power of Jesus’ blessing, as witnessed by Simeon in Luke 2.

1. Philippians 4:4 - Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!

2. Psalm 34:1 - I will bless the Lord at all times; His praise shall continually be in my mouth.

Luke 2:29 Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, according to thy word:

This passage refers to Simeon's prayer of thanksgiving after he had seen the baby Jesus at the Temple. He expressed his joy and thanked God for allowing him to see the Messiah before his death.

1. Rejoicing in the Presence of the Lord: Celebrating God's Fulfillment of His Promises

2. Living in Contentment: Finding Peace in Knowing God's Will

1. Romans 15:13 - Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that ye may abound in hope, through the power of the Holy Ghost.

2. Philippians 4:7 - And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

Luke 2:30 For mine eyes have seen thy salvation,

The passage speaks of the salvation brought by Jesus as seen by Simeon.

1. The Promise of Salvation: The Hope of the World

2. The Joy of Seeing God's Salvation

1. Isaiah 9:6-7 (For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.)

2. John 3:16 (For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.)

Luke 2:31 Which thou hast prepared before the face of all people;

The angels proclaimed that Jesus was the fulfillment of God's promise to bring salvation to all people.

1: God's Promise of Salvation is for Everyone.

2: Jesus is the Fulfillment of God's Promise.

1: Isaiah 9:6-7 For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

2: Titus 2:11-14 For the grace of God has appeared that offers salvation to all people. It teaches us to say “No” to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age.

Luke 2:32 A light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of thy people Israel.

This passage speaks of Jesus being a light to the Gentiles and the glory of the people of Israel.

1. "Light of the World: Jesus as a Beacon of Hope for All People"

2. "Seeing Jesus as the Glory of Israel"

1. Isaiah 9:2 - “The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned.”

2. Psalm 106:21 - “They forgot God their Savior, who had done great things in Egypt.”

Luke 2:33 And Joseph and his mother marvelled at those things which were spoken of him.

Joseph and Mary were amazed by the prophecies spoken of Jesus.

1. God's Word is True and Faithful - Luke 2:33

2. Jesus is Worthy of Wonder and Awe - Luke 2:33

1. Isaiah 9:6-7 - For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; and the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

2. Philippians 2:9-11 - Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Luke 2:34 And Simeon blessed them, and said unto Mary his mother, Behold, this child is set for the fall and rising again of many in Israel; and for a sign which shall be spoken against;

Simeon blessed Mary and Jesus and prophesied that Jesus would be a sign of many in Israel falling and rising and be spoken against.

1. The Rising of Many: Jesus' Role in God's Redemption

2. The Sign That Would be Spoken Against: Embracing Persecution for the Kingdom of God

1. Romans 8:28 - And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.

2. Romans 8:31 - What, then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?

Luke 2:35 (Yea, a sword shall pierce through thy own soul also,) that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed.

This passage speaks of how Jesus' death will bring revelation to the thoughts of many people's hearts.

1. The Power of Revelation: How Christ's Death Reveals Our Hearts

2. Sacrificial Love: How Jesus Demonstrated His Love Through His Death

1. Romans 5:8 - But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

2. Hebrews 4:12-13 - For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.

Luke 2:36 And there was one Anna, a prophetess, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Aser: she was of a great age, and had lived with an husband seven years from her virginity;

Anna was a prophetess from the tribe of Aser, who had been married for seven years since she was a virgin.

1. Be reminded of Anna's faithfulness to God even during her marriage.

2. Let us be encouraged to live our lives honoring God, even in a marriage.

1. Proverbs 18:22, "He who finds a wife finds a good thing, and obtains favor from the Lord."

2. 1 Corinthians 7:3-5, “Let the husband render to his wife the affection due her, and likewise also the wife to her husband. The wife does not have authority over her own body, but the husband does. And likewise the husband does not have authority over his

own body, but the wife does. Do not deprive one another except with consent for a time, that you may give yourselves to fasting and prayer; and come together again so that Satan does not tempt you because of your lack of self-control.”

Luke 2:37 And she was a widow of about fourscore and four years, which departed not from the temple, but served God with fastings and prayers night and day.

This passage describes Anna, a widow of 84 years, who served God with fasting and prayers day and night.

1: A Life of Worship - Committing our lives to God through prayer and fasting.

2: The Value of a Life Well-Lived - Appreciating the lifelong faithfulness of Anna.

1: 1 Thessalonians 5:17 - Pray without ceasing.

2: Philippians 4:6 - Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.

Luke 2:38 And she coming in that instant gave thanks likewise unto the Lord, and spake of him to all them that looked for redemption in Jerusalem.

Mary gave thanks to the Lord and spoke of Him to those who were looking for redemption in Jerusalem.

1. God's Redemption: How Jesus Redeems Us

2. God's Promise: A Look at Mary's Story

1. Isaiah 53:5-6, "But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed."

2. Romans 5:8, "But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us."

Luke 2:39 And when they had performed all things according to the law of the Lord, they returned into Galilee, to their own city Nazareth.

The couple Mary and Joseph returned to their hometown of Nazareth after fulfilling all the requirements of the Law of the Lord.

1. Heeding the Commands of the Lord - How Obedience to the Law Brings Us Home

2. A Homecoming to Remember - The Significance of Mary and Joseph Returning to Nazareth

1. Deuteronomy 10:12-13 - And now, Israel, what does the Lord your God require of you, but to fear the Lord your God, to walk in all his ways, to love him, to serve the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul, and to keep the commandments and statutes of the Lord, which I am commanding you today for your good?

2. Psalm 122:1 - I was glad when they said to me, “Let us go to the house of the Lord!”

Luke 2:40 And the child grew, and waxed strong in spirit, filled with wisdom: and the grace of God was upon him.

The child Jesus was growing up and becoming more and more spiritually strong, wise and full of God's grace.

1. Growing in Grace: How to Live a Life of Spiritual Renewal

2. The Wisdom of Jesus: How to Receive God's Blessings

1. Ephesians 4:23, “Be renewed in the spirit of your mind.”

2. Matthew 7:7, “Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you.”

Luke 2:41 Now his parents went to Jerusalem every year at the feast of the passover.

Every year Jesus' parents traveled to Jerusalem for Passover.

1. The importance of keeping the feasts of the Lord.

2. Obedience to God is demonstrated through our worship.

1. Deuteronomy 16:16 - "Three times in a year shall all thy males appear before the Lord thy God in the place which he shall choose; in the feast of unleavened bread, and in the feast of weeks, and in the feast of tabernacles: and they shall not appear before the Lord empty."

2. Exodus 23:14-17 - "Three times thou shalt keep a feast unto me in the year. Thou shalt keep the feast of unleavened bread: (thou shalt eat unleavened bread seven days, as I commanded thee, in the time appointed of the month Abib; for in it thou camest out from Egypt: and none shall appear before me empty:) And the feast of harvest, the firstfruits of thy labours, which thou hast sown in the field: and the feast of ingathering, which is in the end of the year, when thou hast gathered in thy labours out of the field."

Luke 2:42 And when he was twelve years old, they went up to Jerusalem after the custom of the feast.

Jesus went to Jerusalem with his parents when he was twelve years old, according to the custom of the Feast.

1. The Importance of Family Traditions in Our Lives

2. The Power of Keeping Holy Feasts

1. Genesis 17:9-14, God's Covenant with Abraham

2. Luke 2:22-24, Jesus’ Presentation in the Temple

Luke 2:43 And when they had fulfilled the days, as they returned, the child Jesus tarried behind in Jerusalem; and Joseph and his mother knew not of it.

The journey of the family of Jesus to Jerusalem ended with Jesus staying behind without Joseph and Mary knowing.

1. Don't be afraid to take risks and trust in God's plan.

2. Be mindful of the needs of others and the importance of family.

1. Matthew 6:25-34 - Do not worry but trust in God.

2. Proverbs 17:17 - A friend loves at all times and a brother is born for a time of adversity.

Luke 2:44 But they, supposing him to have been in the company, went a day's journey; and they sought him among their kinsfolk and acquaintance.

Mary and Joseph traveled a day's journey from Jerusalem and looked for Jesus among their family and friends, but were unable to find him.

1. The importance of being present and attentive to God's will

2. The value of family and community

1. Philippians 4:4-7 - Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

2. Proverbs 11:14 - Where there is no guidance, a people falls, but in an abundance of counselors there is safety.

Luke 2:45 And when they found him not, they turned back again to Jerusalem, seeking him.

Mary and Joseph lost Jesus and searched for Him in Jerusalem.

1. Learning to trust God when all hope is gone.

2. The importance of faithfulness in our lives.

1. Isaiah 40:31 "But they who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint."

2. Matthew 19:26 "But Jesus looked at them and said, “With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.”

Luke 2:46 And it came to pass, that after three days they found him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the doctors, both hearing them, and asking them questions.

Jesus teaches us the importance of learning and seeking knowledge.

1: The Wisdom of Seeking Knowledge - Luke 2:46

2: Jesus as a Model for Learning - Luke 2:46

1: Proverbs 4:7 - "Wisdom is the principal thing; therefore get wisdom: and with all thy getting get understanding."

2: Colossians 2:3 - "In whom are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge."

Luke 2:47 And all that heard him were astonished at his understanding and answers.

People were amazed at Jesus's wisdom and the answers He provided.

1. The Power of Wisdom: Examining Jesus' Unparalleled Understanding

2. Jesus: The Perfect Example of Faithful Knowledge

1. Proverbs 1:7 - The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and instruction.

2. Colossians 2:3 - in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.

Luke 2:48 And when they saw him, they were amazed: and his mother said unto him, Son, why hast thou thus dealt with us? behold, thy father and I have sought thee sorrowing.

The parents of Jesus were surprised to find him in the temple and asked him why he had done this.

1: We can learn from Jesus' example to take time to be in God’s presence.

2: Parents should take care of their children and ensure they are not exposed to danger.

1: Proverbs 22:6 - Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it.

2: Deuteronomy 6:5-7 - Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up.

Luke 2:49 And he said unto them, How is it that ye sought me? wist ye not that I must be about my Father's business?

Jesus asked his parents why they were looking for him, as he was busy fulfilling his Father's work.

1. God has a plan for all of us, and it is our duty to follow it.

2. When in doubt, always turn to God and His will.

1. Matthew 6:33 – “But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.”

2. Proverbs 3:5-6 – “Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.”

Luke 2:50 And they understood not the saying which he spake unto them.

Jesus teaches his parents a lesson in obedience.

1. Obeying God's Will: A Lesson from Jesus

2. The Power of Understanding God's Word

1. Ephesians 5:17 "Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is."

2. Matthew 11:29 "Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls."

Luke 2:51 And he went down with them, and came to Nazareth, and was subject unto them: but his mother kept all these sayings in her heart.

Jesus went down with his parents to Nazareth and was obedient to them, while Mary treasured all the things He said in her heart.

1. Obeying Parents: Learning from Jesus' Example

2. Treasuring God's Word: Mary's Example

1. Ephesians 6:1-2 "Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. “Honor your father and mother”—which is the first commandment with a promise—"

2. Psalm 119:11 "I have stored up your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you."

Luke 2:52 And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and man.

Jesus grew in wisdom, physical stature, and favor with both God and people.

1. Growing in Wisdom: Reflecting on the example of Jesus.

2. Favor with God and Man: How to cultivate relationships with both.

1. Philippians 2:5-8 - Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus.

2. James 3:17-18 - The wisdom from above is pure, peaceable, gentle, and easy to be entreated.

Luke 3 focuses on the ministry of John the Baptist and his role in preparing the way for Jesus' public ministry. It also provides a genealogy of Jesus, tracing His lineage back to Adam.

1st Paragraph: The chapter begins by introducing John the Baptist, who came preaching in the wilderness. He called people to repentance and baptized them as a symbol of their repentance and readiness for the coming of the Messiah (Luke 3:1-6). Luke provides a detailed account of John's message, highlighting his fiery rebuke towards religious leaders and his call for people to bear fruits worthy of repentance. The crowds asked him what they should do, and he gave practical instructions such as sharing with those in need, treating others fairly, and not exploiting their positions (Luke 3:7-14).

2nd Paragraph: Luke then mentions Herod Antipas, who was ruling over Galilee at that time. John publicly criticized Herod for his unlawful marriage to Herodias, his brother's wife. This led to John's arrest and imprisonment by Herod (Luke 3:19-20). After this account, Luke provides a genealogy of Jesus Christ tracing His ancestry back through David all the way to Adam. This emphasizes Jesus' connection to humanity as well as His rightful place in fulfilling God's promises through His lineage (Luke 3:23-38).

3rd Paragraph: The chapter concludes with an important event—the baptism of Jesus by John in the Jordan River. As Jesus was praying after His baptism, heaven opened up, and the Holy Spirit descended upon Him in bodily form like a dove. A voice from heaven declared, "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased" (Luke 3:21-22). This marked the beginning of Jesus' public ministry as He was anointed by God's Spirit and affirmed as God's Son. Through these events recorded in Luke 3, we see both John's preparation work for Jesus' ministry and the divine confirmation of Jesus' identity and mission.

Luke 3:1 Now in the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, Pontius Pilate being governor of Judaea, and Herod being tetrarch of Galilee, and his brother Philip tetrarch of Ituraea and of the region of Trachonitis, and Lysanias the tetrarch of Abilene,

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, Pontius Pilate was the governor of Judaea and Herod, Philip and Lysanias were tetrarchs of Galilee, Ituraea and Abilene respectively.

1. "The Authority of God: Upholding the Reign of Tiberius Caesar"

2. "The Power of Servanthood: Pilate and the Tetrarchs"

1. Romans 13:1 - "Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God."

2. Colossians 3:23 - "Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men."

Luke 3:2 Annas and Caiaphas being the high priests, the word of God came unto John the son of Zacharias in the wilderness.

John the Baptist was called by God to preach in the wilderness to prepare the way for Jesus.

1. God calls us to step out of our comfort zones and do the hard work of preparing for Jesus.

2. God's Word is powerful and can reach us wherever we are.

1. Isaiah 40:3-5 - Preparing the way of the Lord.

2. Matthew 3:1-3 - John's ministry of preparing the way for Jesus.

Luke 3:3 And he came into all the country about Jordan, preaching the baptism of repentance for the remission of sins;

John the Baptist came to Jordan preaching for repentance and forgiveness of sins.

1. The Power of Repentance: God's Plan for Redemption

2. Living a Life of Forgiveness: Finding Peace and Joy in Christ

1. Acts 2:38 - "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins"

2. Hebrews 10:17 - "Their sins and iniquities will I remember no more"

Luke 3:4 As it is written in the book of the words of Esaias the prophet, saying, The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.

The passage speaks of preparing for the Lord's coming by making his paths straight.

1: "The Call of the Wild: Preparing for the Lord's Coming"

2: "A Straight and Narrow Path: Making the Way of the Lord Clear"

1: Matthew 3:3 - “For this is he that was spoken of by the prophet Esaias, saying, The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.”

2: Isaiah 40:3 - “The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God.”

Luke 3:5 Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be brought low; and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways shall be made smooth;

The passage from Luke 3:5 emphasizes that God will make a way for those who seek Him, no matter the circumstances.

1: God's love and provision will provide a way for us no matter how difficult the journey.

2: We can trust that God will level the mountains and valleys in our lives.

1: Isaiah 40:4-5 - Every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain and hill shall be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain.

2: Philippians 4:13 - I can do all things through him who strengthens me.

Luke 3:6 And all flesh shall see the salvation of God.

John the Baptist preached a message of repentance and prophesied that all people will be able to witness the salvation of God.

1. The Power of Repentance: Understanding John the Baptist's Message

2. Witnessing the Salvation of God: Preparing Ourselves for God's Grace

1. Isaiah 40:5 And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together.

2. Psalm 98:2 The Lord has made known his salvation; he has revealed his righteousness in the sight of the nations.

Luke 3:7 Then said he to the multitude that came forth to be baptized of him, O generation of vipers, who hath warned you to flee from the wrath to come?

The crowd that had come to John the Baptist's baptism were warned of coming wrath.

1. True repentance and acceptance of Jesus as our savior is the only way to avoid God's wrath.

2. God's wrath is real and we must not ignore it.

1. John 3:16-17 – For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

2. Romans 6:23 – For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Luke 3:8 Bring forth therefore fruits worthy of repentance, and begin not to say within yourselves, We have Abraham to our father: for I say unto you, That God is able of these stones to raise up children unto Abraham.

John the Baptist exhorts the people to show true repentance by producing good deeds, instead of relying on their ancestor Abraham. He emphasizes that God can raise up children of Abraham even from the stones.

1. The Call to True Repentance: An Examination of Luke 3:8

2. Relying on Our Ancestors or Seeking God's Favor: A Study of Luke 3:8

1. Romans 4:13-16 - Abraham's faith was credited to him as righteousness.

2. James 2:14-26 - Faith without works is dead.

Luke 3:9 And now also the axe is laid unto the root of the trees: every tree therefore which bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire.

The axe is laid to judge the unfruitful trees, and those that bear no good fruit will be cut down and cast into the fire.

1. God's Judgment on Unfruitful Trees: Understanding the Consequences of Unrepentance

2. The Fruit of Repentance: Cultivating a Life that Bears Good Fruit

1. John 15:2, “[Jesus said,] Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit.”

2. Jeremiah 17:7-8, “Blessed is the man that trusteth in the Lord, and whose hope the Lord is. For he shall be as a tree planted by the waters, and that spreadeth out her roots by the river, and shall not see when heat cometh, but her leaf shall be green; and shall not be careful in the year of drought, neither shall cease from yielding fruit.”

Luke 3:10 And the people asked him, saying, What shall we do then?

The people asked John what they should do to be saved.

1: All people should turn to God for salvation.

2: Take the time to reflect on our lives and repent of our wrongdoings.

1: Acts 2:38 - "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins."

2: Romans 10:9 - "If you declare with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved."

Luke 3:11 He answereth and saith unto them, He that hath two coats, let him impart to him that hath none; and he that hath meat, let him do likewise.

John the Baptist instructs those with extra resources to share their resources with those

who have none.

1. "The Blessing of Generosity"

2. "Sharing What We Have"

1. James 1:17 - Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows.

2. Matthew 25:40 - "The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'

Luke 3:12 Then came also publicans to be baptized, and said unto him, Master, what shall we do?

The people asked John the Baptist what they should do to be baptized.

1. The importance of humbly seeking guidance from God and His prophets.

2. The power of repentance and forgiveness through baptism.

1. Jeremiah 29:13 - “You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart.”

2. Acts 2:38 - “Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins.”

Luke 3:13 And he said unto them, Exact no more than that which is appointed you.

The passage is about not taking more than what is given.

1. Contentment: Finding Joy in What You Have

2. Generosity: Blessing Others with God’s Gifting

1. Philippians 4:12-13 “I know how to be brought low, and I know how to abound. In any

and every circumstance, I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need. I can do all things through him who strengthens me.”

2. Hebrews 13:5 “Keep your life free from love of money, and be content with what you have, for he has said, ‘I will never leave you nor forsake you.’”

Luke 3:14 And the soldiers likewise demanded of him, saying, And what shall we do? And he said unto them, Do violence to no man, neither accuse any falsely; and be content with your wages.

Summarize Passage: John the Baptist instructs soldiers to refrain from violence and false accusations, and to be content with their wages.

1. Contentment: Why it matters to God

2. A Call to Nonviolence and Honesty

1. Philippians 4:11-13 - "Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content. I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound: every where and in all things I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me."

2. Matthew 5:9 - "Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God."

Luke 3:15 And as the people were in expectation, and all men mused in their hearts of John, whether he were the Christ, or not;

John the Baptist asked the people to repent and be baptized in order to receive the forgiveness of their sins.

1: Repent and be Baptized - Luke 3:15

2: The Power of Expectation - Luke 3:15

1: Acts 2:38 - "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit."

2: Mark 1:4 - "John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins."

Luke 3:16 John answered, saying unto them all, I indeed baptize you with water; but one mightier than I cometh, the latchet of whose shoes I am not worthy to unloose: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost and with fire:

John the Baptist proclaims the coming of Jesus as one who will baptize with the Holy Spirit and with fire.

1. The Coming of Jesus: A Baptism of the Holy Spirit and Fire

2. The Significance of John the Baptist: Proclaiming the Coming of Jesus

1. Acts 2:1-4 - The Coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost

2. Matthew 3:11-12 - John's Baptism of Repentance and Jesus' Baptism of the Holy Spirit

Luke 3:17 Whose fan is in his hand, and he will throughly purge his floor, and will gather the wheat into his garner; but the chaff he will burn with fire unquenchable.

John the Baptist calls for repentance to prepare the way for the Lord.

1: Repent and be prepared for the Lord's coming.

2: Seek to follow God's will before the judgment of His coming.

1: Isaiah 55:6-7 - Seek the Lord while He may be found, call upon Him while He is near.

2: Ezekiel 18:30-31 - Repent and turn from your transgressions, for iniquity will not be your reward.

Luke 3:18 And many other things in his exhortation preached he unto the people.

John the Baptist preached many exhortations to the people.

1. The Power of Exhortation - How We Can Rely on God's Word to Guide Us

2. The Importance of Listening - Learning How to Hear and Follow God's Voice

1. Romans 15:4 - “For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.”

2. Psalm 119:105 - “Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.”

Luke 3:19 But Herod the tetrarch, being reproved by him for Herodias his brother Philip's wife, and for all the evils which Herod had done,

Herod was reproved by John the Baptist for the immoral relationship between Herodias and his brother Philip, and for the many wrongs he had committed.

1. God is always watching, no matter our sins.

2. Repentance can lead to forgiveness.

1. Romans 6:23 - For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

2. Psalm 51:17 - The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

Luke 3:20 Added yet this above all, that he shut up John in prison.

The passage reveals that John the Baptist was imprisoned by Herod.

1: No matter our circumstances, God is still in control.

2: We are called to remain faithful to God even in the face of adversity.

1: Hebrews 11:1 - "Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of

things not seen."

2: James 1:2-4 - "Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing."

Luke 3:21 Now when all the people were baptized, it came to pass, that Jesus also being baptized, and praying, the heaven was opened,

Jesus was baptized and while He was praying, heaven opened.

1. Jesus showed us the importance of prayer and dedication to God.

2. How Jesus' baptism shows us the power of faith in God.

1. Matthew 11:28 - Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

2. John 14:6 - Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

Luke 3:22 And the Holy Ghost descended in a bodily shape like a dove upon him, and a voice came from heaven, which said, Thou art my beloved Son; in thee I am well pleased.

The Holy Spirit descended on Jesus in the form of a dove and a voice from Heaven spoke in approval of him.

1. The Power of the Holy Spirit in Our Lives

2. God's Approval of Jesus as His Beloved Son

1. John 1:32-34; And John bare record, saying, I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it abode upon him.

2. Isaiah 42:1; Behold my servant, whom I uphold; mine elect, in whom my soul delighteth; I have put my spirit upon him: he shall bring forth judgment to the Gentiles.

Luke 3:23 And Jesus himself began to be about thirty years of age, being (as was supposed) the son of Joseph, which was the son of Heli,

Jesus was around thirty years old, the son of Joseph who was the son of Heli.

1: Jesus was the perfect example of the human experience as He was 30 years old when He began His ministry.

2: We can learn from Jesus' journey that God can use all of us regardless of our age and life stage.

1: 2 Corinthians 5:21 - For God made Christ, who never sinned, to be the offering for our sin, so that we could be made right with God through Christ.

2: Philippians 2:5-7 - You must have the same attitude that Christ Jesus had. Though he was God, he did not think of equality with God as something to cling to. Instead, he gave up his divine privileges; he took the humble position of a slave and was born as a human being. When he appeared in human form, he humbled himself in obedience to God and died a criminal’s death on a cross.

Luke 3:24 Which was the son of Matthat, which was the son of Levi, which was the son of Melchi, which was the son of Janna, which was the son of Joseph,

This passage of scripture is about the genealogy of Jesus, tracing his lineage back to Joseph.

1. The Importance of Ancestry: A Study in Jesus' Lineage

2. The Significance of Jesus' Lineage in Proving His Divinity

1. Matthew 1:1-17 - The genealogy of Jesus Christ

2. Hebrews 7:14 - Jesus’ ancestry was of the order of Melchizedek

Luke 3:25 Which was the son of Mattathias, which was the son of Amos, which was the son of Naum, which was the son of Esli, which was the son of Nagge,

The passage lists the lineage of Jesus Christ from Mattathias to Nagge.

1. Jesus' ancestry demonstrates his divine lineage and shows His uniqueness among all other people.

2. Jesus' family tree is a reminder of God's faithfulness and commitment to His promises.

1. Genesis 22:18 - “And in your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, because you have obeyed My voice.”

2. Matthew 1:1–17 - “The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the Son of David, the Son of Abraham: Abraham begot Isaac, Isaac begot Jacob, and Jacob begot Judah and his brothers.”

Luke 3:26 Which was the son of Maath, which was the son of Mattathias, which was the son of Semei, which was the son of Joseph, which was the son of Juda,

This passage explains the lineage of Jesus Christ from Joseph to Judah.

1. The Incredible Lineage of Jesus Christ

2. The Power of God's Promises Through Lineage

1. Matthew 1:1-17; The Genealogy of Jesus Christ

2. Romans 1:3; Jesus Christ, a descendant of David according to the flesh

Luke 3:27 Which was the son of Joanna, which was the son of Rhesa, which was the son of Zorobabel, which was the son of Salathiel, which was the son of Neri,

The passage is about Jesus' genealogy, specifically from Salathiel to Neri.

1. The importance of family and lineage in Jesus' life and ministry

2. The importance of recognizing the role of God in our lives

1. Matthew 1:1-17 - The genealogy of Jesus Christ

2. Romans 4:13-16 - Abraham and his seed in whom all nations are blessed

Luke 3:28 Which was the son of Melchi, which was the son of Addi, which was the son of Cosam, which was the son of Elmodam, which was the son of Er,

Luke presents the genealogy of Jesus going back to Er.

1. God Uses Ordinary People to Accomplish Extraordinary Things

2. The Long Line of Faithful Followers

1. Genesis 22:18 - "Through your offspring all nations on earth will be blessed, because you have obeyed my voice."

2. Hebrews 11:4 - "By faith Abel offered God a better sacrifice than Cain did. By faith he was commended as a righteous man, when God spoke well of his offerings."

Luke 3:29 Which was the son of Jose, which was the son of Eliezer, which was the son of Jorim, which was the son of Matthat, which was the son of Levi,

The passage lists the genealogy of Jesus Christ.

1. Jesus is Our Lord and Savior - How His Identity Matters

2. The Importance of Knowing Our Family Tree

1. Matthew 1:1-17 - The genealogy of Jesus according to Matthew

2. Luke 1:26-38 - The birth of Jesus according to Luke

Luke 3:30 Which was the son of Simeon, which was the son of Juda, which was the son of Joseph, which was the son of Jonan, which was the son of Eliakim,

Jesus is descended from a long line of ancestors.

1. Remembering our lineage: Jesus and our family tree

2. Identity in Christ: Celebrating our Heritage

1. Romans 8:38-39 - For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

2. Ephesians 2:19-22 - So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.

Luke 3:31 Which was the son of Melea, which was the son of Menan, which was the son of Mattatha, which was the son of Nathan, which was the son of David,

This passage provides a genealogy of Jesus, tracing his lineage back to King David.

1. The importance of Jesus' lineage in His position as the Messiah

2. The significance of God's promise to King David

1. Isaiah 9:6-7 - "For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."

2. Romans 1:3-4 - "concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh and was declared to be the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness by his resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord."

Luke 3:32 Which was the son of Jesse, which was the son of Obed, which was the son of Booz, which was the son of Salmon, which was the son of Naasson,

Luke 3:32 provides a genealogical line of descent beginning with Jesse and ending with Naasson.

1. The Family Tree of Jesus: Examining the Lineage of the Messiah.

2. The Importance of Legacy: Preserving the Stories of Our Ancestors.

1. Matthew 1:1-17 - The genealogy of Jesus Christ.

2. Ruth 4:18-22 - The genealogy of Jesus Christ through Ruth and Boaz.

Luke 3:33 Which was the son of Aminadab, which was the son of Aram, which was the son of Esrom, which was the son of Phares, which was the son of Juda,

The passage mentions the family lineage of Jesus from Judah.

1. God's faithfulness in preserving the lineage of Jesus

2. The importance of understanding our own family history

1. Romans 9:5 - "Theirs is the patriarchs, and from them is traced the human ancestry of the Messiah, who is God over all, forever praised! Amen."

2. Matthew 1:1-17 - "This is the genealogy of Jesus the Messiah the son of David, the son of Abraham: ... and Jacob the father of Joseph, the husband of Mary, of whom was born Jesus, who is called the Messiah."

Luke 3:34 Which was the son of Jacob, which was the son of Isaac, which was the son of Abraham, which was the son of Thara, which was the son of Nachor,

The genealogy of Jesus Christ is traced back to Abraham.

1. Abraham: A Beacon of Faith in Uncertain Times

2. Following the Footsteps of Abraham: A Model of Obedience

1. Genesis 22:17-18: "I will surely bless you and make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as the sand on the seashore. Your descendants will take possession of the cities of their enemies, 18 and through your offspring all nations on

earth will be blessed, because you have obeyed me.”

2. Romans 4:13-17: It was not through the law that Abraham and his offspring received the promise that he would be heir of the world, but through the righteousness that comes by faith.14 For if those who depend on the law are heirs, faith means nothing and the promise is worthless, 15 because the law brings wrath. And where there is no law there is no transgression.

16 Therefore, the promise comes by faith, so that it may be by grace and may be guaranteed to all Abraham’s offspring—not only to those who are of the law but also to those who are of the faith of Abraham. He is the father of us all. 17 As it is written: “I have made you a father of many nations.” He is our father in the sight of God, in whom he believed—the God who gives life to the dead and calls into being things that were not.

Luke 3:35 Which was the son of Saruch, which was the son of Ragau, which was the son of Phalec, which was the son of Heber, which was the son of Sala,

Descendants of Heber are traced in Luke 3:35.

1: The family tree of Jesus Christ.

2: The importance of tracing our lineage.

1: Matthew 1:1-17 - Jesus' lineage from Abraham to Joseph.

2: Genesis 10:21-30 - Heber's descendants.

Luke 3:36 Which was the son of Cainan, which was the son of Arphaxad, which was the son of Sem, which was the son of Noe, which was the son of Lamech,

This passage from Luke 3:36 describes the genealogy of Jesus Christ, tracing his lineage from Noe through Lamech.

1. The Faithfulness of God: How Jesus Accomplished the Promise of Salvation

2. The Lineage of Jesus: Understanding the Significance of His Ancestors

1. Genesis 5:1-32; 6:9-9:17 - Noah's story and God's promise of salvation

2. Matthew 1:1-17 - Jesus' genealogy and the fulfillment of prophecy

Luke 3:37 Which was the son of Mathusala, which was the son of Enoch, which was the son of Jared, which was the son of Maleleel, which was the son of Cainan,

The genealogy of Jesus is traced back to Cainan.

1. Recognizing the importance of our spiritual lineage

2. How our spiritual heritage shapes our lives

1. Romans 4:17 - As it is written, "I have made you a father of many nations."

2. 2 Timothy 1:5 - I am reminded of your sincere faith, which first lived in your grandmother Lois and in your mother Eunice and, I am persuaded, now lives in you also.

Luke 3:38 Which was the son of Enos, which was the son of Seth, which was the son of Adam, which was the son of God.

This passage describes the lineage of Jesus, beginning with God and ending with Jesus, the son of God.

1: We are all children of God, made in His image and given the power to live a life of love and faith.

2: Jesus is the son of God, and His sacrificial death and resurrection gives us the hope and assurance of salvation and redemption.

1: Romans 8:14-17 - For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God.

2: 1 John 3:1 - See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are.

Luke 4 recounts the temptation of Jesus in the wilderness and the beginning of His public ministry, including His teaching and miraculous acts.

1st Paragraph: After being baptized, Jesus was led by the Holy Spirit into the wilderness where He fasted for forty days. During this time, Satan tempted Him three times. First, Satan tempted Jesus to turn stones into bread to satisfy His hunger, but Jesus responded by quoting Scripture: "Man shall not live by bread alone" (Luke 4:1-4). Then, Satan showed Jesus all the kingdoms of the world and offered Him authority over them if He would worship him. However, Jesus rebuked Satan again with Scripture: "You shall worship the Lord your God and him only shall you serve" (Luke 4:5-8). Finally, Satan took Jesus to Jerusalem's pinnacle and urged Him to throw Himself down, quoting Scripture out of context. Yet again, Jesus countered with Scripture and resisted temptation (Luke 4:9-13).

2nd Paragraph: Following His victory over temptation, Jesus returned to Galilee filled with the power of the Spirit. He taught in synagogues throughout the region and gained widespread praise from people who marveled at His wisdom (Luke 4:14-15). In Nazareth, where He grew up, Jesus entered a synagogue on the Sabbath day and read from Isaiah's prophecy about bringing good news to the poor and proclaiming liberty to captives. He declared that these words were fulfilled in Him (Luke 4:16-21). However, instead of receiving acclaim from his hometown crowd as expected, they became enraged at His claims and attempted to harm Him. But miraculously passing through their midst unharmed; he went on his way (Luke 4:22-30).

3rd Paragraph: Leaving Nazareth behind after rejection there went Capernaum city Galilee began teaching people amazed authority word expelled demon synagogue man unclean spirit cried out saying "Ha! What us do you have come destroy us? know are Holy One God!" But rebuked said "Be quiet come out him!" threw man before them without harming another everyone amazed spoke another said "What this teaching? With authority power gives orders unclean spirits they come out!" spread throughout surrounding area healed many diseases driven demons because recognized Messiah fulfilled prophecies Scriptures healing ministry continued preach synagogues Judea also casting out demons Galilean ministry marked powerful teachings authoritative actions demonstrating divine power presence Luke sets stage rest Gospel narrative establishing credentials Son God who has come bring salvation humanity.

Luke 4:1 And Jesus being full of the Holy Ghost returned from Jordan, and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness,

The passage describes Jesus being filled with the Holy Ghost and being led by the Spirit into the wilderness.

1. Why Jesus Went into the Wilderness

2. The Power of the Holy Ghost in Jesus' Life

1. Psalm 23:4 “Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.”

2. Isaiah 40:31 “But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.”

Luke 4:2 Being forty days tempted of the devil. And in those days he did eat nothing: and when they were ended, he afterward hungered.

Jesus fasting for 40 days and being tempted by the devil.

1: Jesus endured temptation and overcame it through fasting and prayer.

2: We can look to Jesus as an example of how to endure and overcome temptation.

1: 1 Corinthians 10:13 - "No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it."

2: James 1:12-15 - "Blessed is the one who perseveres under trial because, having stood the test, that person will receive the crown of life that the Lord has promised to those who love him. Let no one say when he is tempted, “I am being tempted by God,” for God cannot be tempted with evil, and he himself tempts no one. But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire. Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death."

Luke 4:3 And the devil said unto him, If thou be the Son of God, command this stone that it be made bread.

Jesus was tempted by the devil to use his power to turn a stone into bread.

1: We should not give into temptation as Jesus did not.

2: We can learn from Jesus' example when faced with temptation.

1: James 1:12-15 - Blessed is the one who perseveres under trial because, having stood

the test, that person will receive the crown of life that the Lord has promised to those who love him.

2: Matthew 4:1-11 - Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil.

Luke 4:4 And Jesus answered him, saying, It is written, That man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God.

Man must draw strength and sustenance from the words of God, not only from physical sustenance.

1. "Living by God's Word" - emphasizing the importance of trusting in God's promises and relying on His Word.

2. "The Bread of Life" - focusing on the spiritual nourishment that comes from Jesus Christ, the Bread of Life.

1. Deuteronomy 8:3 - "And he humbled thee, and suffered thee to hunger, and fed thee with manna, which thou knewest not, neither did thy fathers know; that he might make thee know that man doth not live by bread only, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of the LORD doth man live."

2. Matthew 4:4 - "But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God."

Luke 4:5 And the devil, taking him up into an high mountain, shewed unto him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time.

The devil tempted Jesus with all the kingdoms of the world.

1. The Strength of Jesus: Overcoming Temptation

2. Remaining True to God's Plan Despite the World's Idols

1. Matthew 4:1-11 - Jesus is tempted by the devil in the wilderness

2. 1 Corinthians 10:13 - No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man

Luke 4:6 And the devil said unto him, All this power will I give thee, and the glory of them: for that is delivered unto me; and to whomsoever I will l give it.

Passage The devil offers Jesus all the power and glory of the world in exchange for Jesus worshiping him.

1. The Dangers of Temptation: How Jesus Resisted the Devil's Offer

2. The Power in Submission: How Jesus Obeyed God's Will

1. James 1:12-15 - Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love him.

2. Proverbs 3:5-6 - Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.

Luke 4:7 If thou therefore wilt worship me, all shall be thine.

Satan tempts Jesus to worship him in exchange for worldly possessions.

1. The Danger of Temptation: How to Resist Satan's Urgings

2. The Power of Worship: Understanding the Rewards of Following God

1. James 4:7 - "Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you."

2. Psalm 8:9 - "O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth! You have set your glory above the heavens."

Luke 4:8 And Jesus answered and said unto him, Get thee behind me, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve.

This passage shows that Jesus commanded Satan to leave him in order to uphold God's command to only worship Him.

1. The importance of upholding God's Word.

2. Rejecting the temptations of Satan.

1. James 4:7 - "Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you."

2. Deuteronomy 6:13 - "Thou shalt fear the LORD thy God, and serve him, and shalt swear by his name."

Luke 4:9 And he brought him to Jerusalem, and set him on a pinnacle of the temple, and said unto him, If thou be the Son of God, cast thyself down from hence:

The devil tempted Jesus to throw himself down from the pinnacle of the temple.

1. We must remain steadfast and resist temptation.

2. We must be humble and trust in God.

1. 1 Corinthians 10:13 - "No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it."

2. Psalm 46:10 - "Be still, and know that I am God. I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth!"

Luke 4:10 For it is written, He shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee:

The passage states that God will provide protection to those who believe in Him through His angels.

1: We are never alone, for God's love and protection is always with us.

2: No matter what we face in life, we can take comfort knowing God is always with us.

1: Psalm 91:11-12 - For he will command his angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways; they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.

2: Hebrews 1:14 - Are not all angels ministering spirits sent to serve those who will inherit salvation?

Luke 4:11 And in their hands they shall bear thee up, lest at any time thou dash thy foot against a stone.

This passage talks about God protecting those who trust in Him.

1. Trust in the Lord with All Your Heart - Proverbs 3:5-6

2. God is Our Refuge and Shield - Psalm 34:7-8

1. Psalm 91:11-12 - For He shall give His angels charge over you, to keep you in all your ways.

2. Isaiah 41:10 - Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, yes, I will help you, I will uphold you with My righteous right hand.

Luke 4:12 And Jesus answering said unto him, It is said, Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God.

The passage warns against testing God's patience.

1. “The Power of Patience”

2. “God is not to be Tested”

1. James 1:12-15; Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him.

2. Deuteronomy 6:16; Ye shall not tempt the Lord your God, as ye tempted him in Massah.

Luke 4:13 And when the devil had ended all the temptation, he departed from him for a season.

Jesus was tempted by the devil, but after the devil had finished all of the temptations, he departed for a season.

1. God Will Protect You From Temptation

2. When Tempted, Seek God's Strength

1. 1 Corinthians 10:13 - No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.

2. James 1:12-15 - Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love him. Let no one say when he is tempted, “I am being tempted by God,” for God cannot be tempted with evil, and he himself tempts no one. But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire. Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death.

Luke 4:14 And Jesus returned in the power of the Spirit into Galilee: and there went out a fame of him through all the region round about.

Jesus returns to Galilee in the power of the Spirit and his fame spreads throughout the region.

1. Jesus: The Power of the Spirit and the Fame of His Name

2. The Power of the Spirit and How It Spreads Jesus' Fame

1. Acts 10:38 - How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power;

2. Isaiah 11:2 - The Spirit of the Lord will rest on him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.

Luke 4:15 And he taught in their synagogues, being glorified of all.

This passage shows that Jesus was welcomed and revered when He preached in the synagogues.

1: Jesus was praised and glorified by all who heard Him preach.

2: We should strive to be as Christ-like as possible, so that we too may be praised and glorified.

1: Matthew 5:16 - "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven."

2: Philippians 2:5-8 - "Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross."

Luke 4:16 And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up: and, as his custom was, he went into the synagogue on the sabbath day, and stood up for to read.

He went to the synagogue on the Sabbath day as was his custom.

1. The Importance of Keeping Tradition

2. The Power of Habitual Faithfulness

1. Matthew 11:28-30 - "Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

2. Proverbs 13:9 - "The light of the righteous rejoices, but the lamp of the wicked will be put out."

Luke 4:17 And there was delivered unto him the book of the prophet Esaias. And when he had opened the book, he found the place where it was written,

Jesus opened the book of Isaiah and read from it.

1. The importance of Scripture in Jesus' ministry

2. The power of God's Word

1. Psalm 119:105-112, "Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path"

2. Romans 10:17, "So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ."

Luke 4:18 The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised,

Summarize Passage:

Jesus is empowered by the Spirit of the Lord to fulfill his mission of preaching the gospel to the poor, healing the brokenhearted, and bringing deliverance to captives and sight to the blind.

1. The Uplifting Power of Jesus' Mission

2. Healed and Set Free: How Jesus Brings Deliverance

1. Isaiah 61:1-2 - "The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me to bring good news to the poor; he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound.

2. Galatians 5:1 - "For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery."

Luke 4:19 To preach the acceptable year of the Lord.

This passage refers to Jesus preaching the good news of the Lord's favor in his ministry.

1. "The Unconditional Love of God: Finding His Acceptable Year"

2. "The Gift of Jesus: Living in the Year of the Lord"

1. Isaiah 61:1-2: "The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is on me, because the Lord has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners."

2. Romans 5:8: "But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us."

Luke 4:20 And he closed the book, and he gave it again to the minister, and sat down. And the eyes of all them that were in the synagogue were fastened on him.

Jesus reads from the book of Isaiah in the synagogue, and everyone is focused on him.

1. God has a plan for our lives, and Jesus showed us that through his example.

2. We should be open to the messages God sends us through scripture.

1. Isaiah 55:11 - "So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it."

2. Jeremiah 29:11 - "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

Luke 4:21 And he began to say unto them, This day is this scripture fulfilled in your ears.

Jesus proclaimed that the scripture was fulfilled in the presence of the people.

1. God's faithfulness to fulfill His promises.

2. The importance of listening to Jesus.

1. Psalm 33:4-5 "For the word of the Lord is right and true; he is faithful in all he does. The Lord loves righteousness and justice; the earth is full of his unfailing love."

2. John 14:23-24 "Jesus replied, “Anyone who loves me will obey my teaching. My Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them. Anyone who does not love me will not obey my teaching."

Luke 4:22 And all bare him witness, and wondered at the gracious words which proceeded out of his mouth. And they said, Is not this Joseph's son?

This passage describes the people's reaction to Jesus' words, which were filled with grace and wisdom. They asked if he was Joseph's son.

1. The Power of God's Grace in Jesus' Words

2. Jesus as Our Example of Wise Speech

1. Colossians 4:6 - Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person.

2. James 3:13-17 - Who is wise and understanding among you? By his good conduct let him show his works in the meekness of wisdom.

Luke 4:23 And he said unto them, Ye will surely say unto me this proverb, Physician, heal thyself: whatsoever we have heard done in Capernaum, do also here in thy country.

Jesus tells the people in his hometown that they should expect him to do the same things he did in Capernaum.

1. The Power of Jesus: How Jesus Worked Miracles Throughout His Ministry

2. Rejecting Jesus: The Cost of Refusing to Believe in Jesus

1. Matthew 4:23-25 - Jesus Begins His Ministry in Galilee

2. Mark 1:21-28 - Jesus Heals a Man with an Unclean Spirit in the Synagogue

Luke 4:24 And he said, Verily I say unto you, No prophet is accepted in his own country.

Jesus proclaimed that a prophet is not accepted in their own country.

1. "The Rejection of Jesus: Understanding Our Own Rejection"

2. "The Hardship of Rejection: Knowing God's Acceptance"

1. Isaiah 53:3 - "He is despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief."

2. Romans 15:7 - "Therefore, accept one another as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God."

Luke 4:25 But I tell you of a truth, many widows were in Israel in the days of Elias, when the heaven was shut up three years and six months, when great famine was throughout all the land;

In Luke 4:25, Jesus shares that in the days of Elijah, there were many widows in Israel and a great famine that lasted for three and a half years.

1. The Faith of the Widow: How God Cares for His People in Times of Need

2. The Provision of God: Experiencing God's Abundance in Difficult Times

1. James 1:27 - Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world.

2. Psalm 68:5 - Father of the fatherless and protector of widows is God in his holy habitation.

Luke 4:26 But unto none of them was Elias sent, save unto Sarepta, a city of Sidon, unto a woman that was a widow.

Elias was sent to Sarepta, a city of Sidon, to a widowed woman.

1. God's Unconditional Love for the Most Needy

2. The Power of Faith in the Face of Adversity

1. James 2:5-6 - "Listen, my dear brothers and sisters: Has not God chosen those who are poor in the eyes of the world to be rich in faith and to inherit the kingdom he promised those who love him? But you have dishonored the poor. Is it not the rich who are exploiting you? Are they not the ones who are dragging you into court?"

2. Isaiah 61:1-3 - "The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is on me, because the Lord has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor and the day of vengeance of our God, to comfort all who mourn, and provide for those who grieve in Zion— to bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of joy instead of mourning, and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair. They will be called oaks of righteousness, a planting of the Lord for the display of his splendor."

Luke 4:27 And many lepers were in Israel in the time of Eliseus the prophet; and none of them was cleansed, saving Naaman the Syrian.

In the time of the prophet Eliseus, many lepers were in Israel, but none of them were healed, except for the Syrian man Naaman.

1. God's Mercy is for All - no matter who you are, God can show mercy and healing.

2. The Power of Faith - Naaman was healed due to his faith in God.

1. James 5:15 - "And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise them up. If they have sinned, they will be forgiven."

2. John 5:14 - "Afterward Jesus findeth him in the temple, and said unto him, Behold, thou art made whole: sin no more, lest a worse thing come unto thee."

Luke 4:28 And all they in the synagogue, when they heard these things, were filled with wrath,

The people in the synagogue were filled with anger when they heard Jesus's words.

1: We should strive to stay open-minded and not become filled with wrath when we hear something that challenges our beliefs.

2: We must remember that Jesus often spoke words that made people uncomfortable and angered them, yet he still followed God's will.

1: Ephesians 4:2-3 - Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.

2: Colossians 3:12-14 - Therefore, as God’s chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.

Luke 4:29 And rose up, and thrust him out of the city, and led him unto the brow of the hill whereon their city was built, that they might cast him down headlong.

The people of a certain city rose up and drove Jesus out of their city, leading him to the edge of the hill where their city was built so that they could throw him off the cliff.

1. The Danger of Religious Zeal Without Knowledge

2. The Power of Faith in the Face of Adversity

1. Psalm 23:4 - Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

2. Romans 8:28 - And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.

Luke 4:30 But he passing through the midst of them went his way,

Luke 4:30 summarizes Jesus passing through a crowd of people on his way.

1. Jesus, The Prince Of Peace: Jesus' calming presence as he passed through the midst of the crowd.

2. What Jesus' Actions Teach Us: The importance of selfless presence and kindness in the

midst of difficult situations.

1. Ephesians 2:14-17, for he himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility

2. Matthew 5:43-44, “You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you.

Luke 4:31 And came down to Capernaum, a city of Galilee, and taught them on the sabbath days.

Jesus descended to the city of Capernaum in Galilee and taught the people on the Sabbath days.

1. How to Make the Most of Your Sabbath Day

2. The Power of Jesus' Teachings

1. Matthew 12:9-14 - Jesus teaches about the Sabbath

2. Mark 2:23-28 - Jesus talks about the importance of the Sabbath

Luke 4:32 And they were astonished at his doctrine: for his word was with power.

People were amazed by Jesus' teaching because it was delivered with authority.

1. How to Speak with Authority

2. The Power and Authority of Jesus' Teaching

1. Isaiah 55:11, "So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it."

2. Ephesians 6:19-20, "And for me, that utterance may be given unto me, that I may

open my mouth boldly, to make known the mystery of the gospel, For which I am an ambassador in bonds: that therein I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak."

Luke 4:33 And in the synagogue there was a man, which had a spirit of an unclean devil, and cried out with a loud voice,

A man in the synagogue had a spirit of an unclean devil and shouted loudly.

1. Accepting and Resisting Temptation: A Study of the Man in the Synagogue in Luke 4:33

2. Overcoming the Powers of Darkness: Reflections from Luke 4:33

1. James 4:7 - "Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you."

2. 1 Peter 5:8-9 - "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: Whom resist stedfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world."

Luke 4:34 Saying, Let us alone; what have we to do with thee, thou Jesus of Nazareth? art thou come to destroy us? I know thee who thou art; the Holy One of God.

The people of Nazareth rejected Jesus and accused Him of intending to destroy them.

1: Rejection of Jesus Brings Consequences

2: Jesus is the Holy One of God

1: Isaiah 43:3 - For I am the LORD thy God, the Holy One of Israel, thy Saviour.

2: John 10:30 - I and my Father are one.

Luke 4:35 And Jesus rebuked him, saying, Hold thy peace, and come out of him. And when the devil had thrown him in the midst, he came out of him, and hurt him not.

Jesus casts out a demon from a man and the demon does not harm the man.

1. Jesus brings life and light into darkness and despair.

2. The power of Jesus is greater than any evil.

1. Colossians 1:13-14 - He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

2. John 12:46 - I have come into the world as light, so that whoever believes in me may not remain in darkness.

Luke 4:36 And they were all amazed, and spake among themselves, saying, What a word is this! for with authority and power he commandeth the unclean spirits, and they come out.

People were amazed at Jesus' authority and power to command unclean spirits, and they obeyed Him.

1. Jesus Is Our Authority and Power

2. The Power of Obedience

1. Matthew 8:16 - When evening had come, they brought to Him many who were demon-possessed. And He cast out the spirits with a word, and healed all who were sick

2. 1 John 4:4 - You are of God, little children, and have overcome them, because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.

Luke 4:37 And the fame of him went out into every place of the country round about.

Jesus' fame spread throughout the region of Galilee as a result of the miracles he performed.

1. The Power of Faith: How Jesus' Miracles Revealed the Power of Belief

2. Believing in the Impossible: How Jesus Changed the Course of History

1. Matthew 4:23-24 - Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom, and healing every disease and sickness among the people.

24 News about him spread all over Syria, and people brought to him all who were ill with various diseases, those suffering severe pain, the demon-possessed, those having seizures, and the paralyzed; and he healed them.

2. Mark 6:34- When Jesus landed and saw a large crowd, he had compassion on them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd. So he began teaching them many things.

Luke 4:38 And he arose out of the synagogue, and entered into Simon's house. And Simon's wife's mother was taken with a great fever; and they besought him for her.

Jesus healed Simon's mother-in-law from a great fever after leaving the synagogue.

1. Jesus' Healing Power Demonstrated in Simon's House

2. The Power of Faith in Jesus to Overcome Illness

1. Mark 1:41-42 - Jesus was moved with compassion for the sick and healed them.

2. Isaiah 53:5 - But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement for our peace was upon Him, and by His stripes we are healed.

Luke 4:39 And he stood over her, and rebuked the fever; and it left her: and immediately she arose and ministered unto them.

Jesus miraculously healed a woman of a fever, allowing her to serve.

1. The Power of Jesus to Heal and Transform Lives

2. The Joy of Serving Others

1. Isaiah 53:5 - But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed.

2. 1 Peter 4:10 - Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God’s grace in its various forms.

Luke 4:40 Now when the sun was setting, all they that had any sick with divers diseases brought them unto him; and he laid his hands on every one of them, and healed them.

The sun was setting and all those with various diseases brought them to Jesus, who laid his hands on each of them and healed them.

1: The power of faith and hope in Jesus.

2: The healing of Jesus and the importance of seeking Him in times of need.

1: Matthew 8:2-3 - And behold, a leper came to him and knelt before him, saying, "Lord, if you will, you can make me clean." And Jesus stretched out his hand and touched him, saying, "I will; be clean." And immediately his leprosy was cleansed.

2: Mark 5:25-29 - And there was a woman who had had a discharge of blood for twelve years, and though she had spent all her living on physicians, she could not be healed by anyone. She came up behind him and touched the fringe of his garment, and immediately her discharge of blood ceased. And Jesus said, “Who was it that touched me?” When all denied it, Peter said, “Master, the crowds surround you and are pressing in on you!” But Jesus said, “Someone touched me, for I perceive that power has gone out from me.”

Luke 4:41 And devils also came out of many, crying out, and saying, Thou art Christ the Son of God. And he rebuking them suffered them not to speak: for they knew that he was Christ.

This passage tells of Jesus rebuking evil spirits who recognized Him as the Son of God.

1. Jesus is Lord: Standing Firm in the Face of Adversity

2. The Power of Jesus' Authority Over Evil

1. Colossians 1:13-14 - He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love.

14 In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins.

2. Philippians 2:5-11 - Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus,

6 who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped,

7 but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men.

8 And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

9 Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name,

10 so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

11 and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Luke 4:42 And when it was day, he departed and went into a desert place: and the people sought him, and came unto him, and stayed him, that he should not depart from them.

The people sought Jesus and asked him to stay with them.

1: We should seek and follow Jesus in our lives.

2: We should be willing to share our faith with others.

1: 1 John 4:19 - We love because he first loved us.

2: Romans 12:2 - Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind.

Luke 4:43 And he said unto them, I must preach the kingdom of God to other cities also: for therefore am I sent.

Jesus states that he is sent to preach the kingdom of God to other cities.

1. The Mission of Jesus: Preaching the Kingdom of God

2. The Urgency of Jesus: Preaching to All Cities

1. Acts 1:8 - But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.

2. Matthew 24:14 - And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.

Luke 4:44 And he preached in the synagogues of Galilee.

Jesus preached in the synagogues of Galilee.

1. The Power of Preaching: Embracing the Challenge of Proclaiming God's Word

2. Preaching the Gospel: Sharing God's Love and Grace with All

1. Isaiah 61:1-3 - The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me to bring good news to the poor; he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound.

2. Matthew 10:7-8 - And proclaim as you go, saying, 'The kingdom of heaven is at hand.' Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse lepers, cast out demons. You received without paying; give without pay.

Luke 5 highlights significant events in Jesus' ministry, including the miraculous catch of fish, the healing of a leper, and the calling of His disciples.

1st Paragraph: Jesus was by the Sea of Galilee where He saw two boats. He got into one belonging to Simon (later called Peter) and asked him to push out a little from shore. From there, Jesus taught the crowds. After finishing His teaching, Jesus told Simon to go into deep water and let down their nets for a catch. Although Simon doubted because they had fished all night without success, he obeyed Jesus' command. When they cast their nets as instructed, they caught such a large number of fish that their nets began to break. They called for help from another boat and both boats were filled with fish. Overwhelmed by this miracle, Simon fell at Jesus' feet and recognized Him as Lord. Jesus responded by saying that from then on, they would be catching people instead (Luke 5:1-11).

2nd Paragraph: As Jesus continued His ministry, a man covered with leprosy approached Him begging for healing. Leprosy was considered highly contagious and those afflicted were isolated from society. However, this man's faith led him to believe that Jesus could heal him if He was willing. Moved with compassion, Jesus reached out His hand and touched the man saying "I am willing; be clean." Immediately his leprosy disappeared (Luke 5:12-13). Despite instructing the healed man not to tell anyone but rather present himself to the priest for cleansing according to Mosaic law; news about this miraculous healing spread throughout various regions.

3rd Paragraph: Luke also records an account of how Jesus called Levi (also known as Matthew), a tax collector who was despised by many because of their association with Roman authorities and reputation for corruption. Levi left everything behind—his tax booth—and followed Jesus when called upon (Luke 5:27-28). Later in Luke 5 at Levi's house Pharisees scribes criticized disciples eating drinking tax collectors sinners but defended Himself stating healthy don't need physician sick do came call righteous sinners repentance indicating His mission seek save lost (Luke 5:29-32). This chapter demonstrates not only Jesus' authority over nature through miracles but also His compassion towards those considered outcasts or marginalized in society while challenging societal norms regarding purity laws associating with sinners paving way inclusive message salvation available all regardless background or status

Luke 5:1 And it came to pass, that, as the people pressed upon him to hear the word of God, he stood by the lake of Gennesaret,

Jesus preaches by the lake of Gennesaret to a large crowd.

1. The Call to Follow: How to Respond to Jesus' Invitation

2. Caring for Others: Living a Life of Compassion and Love

1. Matthew 4:19 – “And he saith unto them, Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.”

2. 1 John 3:17-18 – “But whoso hath this world’s good, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him? My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth.”

Luke 5:2 And saw two ships standing by the lake: but the fishermen were gone out of them, and were washing their nets.

The passage describes fishermen washing their nets by a lake.

1. Jesus' call to fishers of men - Luke 5:2-11

2. The importance of hard work - Luke 5:2-3

1. Jeremiah 16:16 - "Behold, I will send for many fishers, says the Lord, and they shall fish them; and after will I send for many hunters, and they shall hunt them from every mountain, and from every hill, and out of the holes of the rocks."

2. Ezekiel 47:10 - "And it shall come to pass, that the fishers shall stand upon it from Engedi even unto Eneglaim; they shall be a place to spread forth nets; their fish shall be according to their kinds, as the fish of the great sea, exceeding many."

Luke 5:3 And he entered into one of the ships, which was Simon's, and prayed him that he would thrust out a little from the land. And he sat down, and taught the people out of the ship.

Passage Jesus entered Simon's boat and asked him to move it away from land so he could use it as a platform to teach the people.

1. The Power of Obedience: How following Jesus' requests can lead to incredible outcomes.

2. The Living Word: How Jesus' teachings bring life to the world.

1. Acts 17:25-29 - Paul's on the Areopagus.

2. John 3:16 - God's love for the world.

Luke 5:4 Now when he had left speaking, he said unto Simon, Launch out into the deep, and let down your nets for a draught.

Jesus tells Simon to put down his nets in the deep water to catch fish.

1. Rely on Jesus' Guidance - Luke 5:4

2. Take a Leap of Faith - Luke 5:4

1. Isaiah 43:2 - When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you.

2. Psalm 23:2 - He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters.

Luke 5:5 And Simon answering said unto him, Master, we have toiled all the night, and have taken nothing: nevertheless at thy word I will let down the net.

Simon and his crew had worked all night but caught nothing, but at Jesus' command he cast out his net and caught a great number of fish.

1. God's Word is Powerful - Luke 5:5

2. Obedience to God Brings Abundance - Luke 5:5

1. Jeremiah 33:3 - “Call to me and I will answer you, and will tell you great and hidden things that you have not known.”

2. Psalm 107:23-24 - “Some went out on the sea in ships; they were merchants on the mighty waters. They saw the deeds of the Lord, his wondrous works in the deep.”

Luke 5:6 And when they had this done, they inclosed a great multitude of fishes: and their net brake.

Two fishermen in a boat in the Sea of Galilee cast their net and caught a great multitude of fish that was so great that it broke their net.

1. God's blessings are beyond our expectations.

2. God's provision is always more than enough.

1. Ephesians 3:20 - "Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us."

2. Psalm 40:5 - “Many, O Lord my God, are thy wonderful works which thou hast done, and thy thoughts which are to us-ward: they cannot be reckoned up in order unto thee: if I would declare and speak of them, they are more than can be numbered.”

Luke 5:7 And they beckoned unto their partners, which were in the other ship, that they should come and help them. And they came, and filled both the ships, so that they began to sink.

Two boats filled with fish to the point of sinking and the fishermen beckoned to their partners in the other boat to help them.

1. God provides us with the resources to help us in our time of need.

2. Working together brings us closer to our goals.

1. Philippians 4:19 - “And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus.”

2. Ecclesiastes 4:9-12 - “Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their labor: If either of them falls down, one can help the other up. But pity anyone who falls and has no one to help them up. Also, if two lie down together, they will keep warm. But how can one keep warm alone? Though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves. A cord of three strands is not quickly broken.”

Luke 5:8 When Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, Depart from me; for I am a sinful man, O Lord.

Simon Peter recognizes his own unworthiness before Jesus and pleads for Him to depart from him.

1. Recognizing our Unworthiness before God

2. The Power of Christ's Forgiveness

1. Psalms 51:3-4 - For I acknowledge my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me. Against You, You only, have I sinned, and done this evil in Your sight.

2. Romans 5:6-8 - For when we were still without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. For scarcely for a righteous man will one die; yet perhaps for a good man someone would even dare to die. But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Luke 5:9 For he was astonished, and all that were with him, at the draught of the fishes which they had taken:

Jesus' miracle of the great catch of fish astounded the fishermen and those with him.

1. Jesus' Miraculous Power and Compassion: Experiencing the Unexpected Blessings of God

2. God's Amazing Provision: Learning to Rely on the Lord for the Unexpected

1. Psalm 34:8 - Taste and see that the Lord is good; blessed is the one who takes refuge in him.

2. Matthew 19:26 - Jesus looked at them and said, "With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible."

Luke 5:10 And so was also James, and John, the sons of Zebedee, which were partners with Simon. And Jesus said unto Simon, Fear not; from henceforth thou shalt catch men.

Jesus tells Simon, one of his disciples, not to be afraid and that he will now be catching men. James and John, two of Simon's partners, are also present.

1. Jesus' Call to Follow Him - Luke 5:10

2. Serving and Following the Lord - Luke 5:10

1. Matthew 4:19 - “And he said to them, “Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.”

2. John 1:43 - “The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, “Follow me.”

Luke 5:11 And when they had brought their ships to land, they forsook all, and followed him.

This passage describes the commitment of the fishermen to follow Jesus after they had landed their ships.

1: We should trust in Jesus to lead us, even if it means leaving behind our plans and possessions.

2: Following Jesus requires giving up all that we have and trusting Him with our lives.

1: Matthew 16:24-25 – “Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me. For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it.”

2: Mark 8:34-35 – “And when he had called the people unto him with his disciples also, he said unto them, Whosoever will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me. For whosoever will save his life shall lose it; but whosoever shall lose his life for my sake and the gospel's, the same shall save it.”

Luke 5:12 And it came to pass, when he was in a certain city, behold a man full of leprosy: who seeing Jesus fell on his face, and besought him, saying, Lord, if thou wilt, thou canst make me clean.

Jesus showed compassion and healed a man with leprosy.

1: We can learn from Jesus' example to show compassion and kindness to those around us.

2: We should never underestimate the power of faith and prayer.

1: Matthew 8:2-3 - And, behold, there came a leper and worshipped him, saying, Lord, if

thou wilt, thou canst make me clean. And Jesus put forth his hand, and touched him, saying, I will; be thou clean.

2: James 5:15 - And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him.

Luke 5:13 And he put forth his hand, and touched him, saying, I will: be thou clean. And immediately the leprosy departed from him.

The power of Christ's touch healed a leper.

1. The power of faith in Jesus Christ

2. The healing power of divine touch

1. Matthew 8:1-3 - Jesus touches a leper and heals him

2. James 5:14-15 - The power of prayer to bring healing

Luke 5:14 And he charged him to tell no man: but go, and shew thyself to the priest, and offer for thy cleansing, according as Moses commanded, for a testimony unto them.

This passage emphasizes the importance of following the command of Jesus to go and show oneself to the priest for cleansing, according to what Moses commanded.

1. The Power of Obedience: Jesus' Command to Go and Show Ourselves to the Priest

2. The Importance of Following Instructions: Obeying Jesus and Moses

1. Exodus 29:20,21 - And thou shalt do unto the priests the Levites, that approach unto the LORD, and thou shalt sanctify them, that they may minister unto the LORD: For they offer the gifts of the LORD made by fire, and the bread of their God, therefore they shall be holy.

2. Hebrews 13:20-21 - Now the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, Make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is wellpleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ; to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

Luke 5:15 But so much the more went there a fame abroad of him: and great multitudes came together to hear, and to be healed by him of their infirmities.

The fame of Jesus spread far and wide and many people gathered to hear and be healed by Him.

1. The Power of Jesus: How His Words and Miracles Attracted Multitudes

2. Jesus' Healing Ministry: How His Miracles Brought Comfort and Hope

1. Matthew 4:23-24 - Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom, and healing every disease and sickness among the people.

2. Acts 3:1-8 - Now Peter and John were going up to the temple at the ninth hour, the hour of prayer. And a man lame from birth was being carried, whom they laid daily at the gate of the temple that is called the Beautiful Gate to ask alms of those entering the temple.

Luke 5:16 And he withdrew himself into the wilderness, and prayed.

The passage speaks of Jesus withdrawing himself into the wilderness to pray.

1. An exploration of Jesus' example of prayer and its importance to our spiritual lives.

2. A call to imitate Christ's example of retreating to the wilderness for prayer and contemplation.

1. Matthew 6:5-6 - “And when you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full. But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen.”

2. Hebrews 4:14-16 - “Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has ascended into heaven, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet he did not sin. Let us then approach God’s throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find

grace to help us in our time of need.”

Luke 5:17 And it came to pass on a certain day, as he was teaching, that there were Pharisees and doctors of the law sitting by, which were come out of every town of Galilee, and Judaea, and Jerusalem: and the power of the Lord was present to heal them.

On a certain day, Jesus was teaching amongst a crowd of Pharisees and doctors of the law from Galilee, Judaea, and Jerusalem. The power of the Lord was present to heal them.

1. The Power of Healing Through Jesus

2. Let Us Rely on the Lord for Healing

1. Matthew 9:35 - And Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people.

2. Psalm 103:3 - Who forgiveth all thine iniquities; who healeth all thy diseases.

Luke 5:18 And, behold, men brought in a bed a man which was taken with a palsy: and they sought means to bring him in, and to lay him before him.

A group of men bring a paralyzed man to Jesus, looking for a way to lay him before Jesus.

1. "God Can Heal: The Miracle of the Paralyzed Man"

2. "The Power of Faith: Bringing the Paralyzed Man to Jesus"

1. Isaiah 35:3-6 - Strengthen ye the weak hands, and confirm the feeble knees.

2. James 5:14-16 - Is any sick among you? let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord.

Luke 5:19 And when they could not find by what way they might bring him in because of the multitude, they went upon the housetop, and let him down through the tiling with his couch into the midst before Jesus.

When a man who was paralyzed was unable to get to Jesus due to the large crowd, his friends went up to the rooftops and let him down through the ceiling with his bed into the center of the crowd in front of Jesus.

1. God will go to extraordinary lengths to bring people to Him.

2. Even in difficult situations, we can trust in God to make a way for us.

1. Romans 8:28: And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.

2. Isaiah 43:19: See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland.

Luke 5:20 And when he saw their faith, he said unto him, Man, thy sins are forgiven thee.

Jesus saw the faith of the man and told him his sins were forgiven.

1. The Power of Faith: How Our Beliefs Can Lead to Miracles

2. Forgiveness: Accepting and Offering Grace

1. Hebrews 11:6 - “Without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.”

2. Ephesians 4:32 - “Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.”

Luke 5:21 And the scribes and the Pharisees began to reason, saying, Who is this which speaketh blasphemies? Who can forgive sins, but God alone?

Jesus demonstrates his power to forgive sin and challenges the religious authorities.

1: Jesus' power to forgive sin shows us that no matter how far we have strayed, God can forgive us through Jesus.

2: Jesus' challenge to the religious authorities of his time reminds us all to be humble and open to God's forgiveness.

1: Isaiah 43:25 - "I, even I, am he who blots out your transgressions, for my own sake, and remembers your sins no more."

2: Ephesians 1:7 - "In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God’s grace."

Luke 5:22 But when Jesus perceived their thoughts, he answering said unto them, What reason ye in your hearts?

Jesus challenged the crowds to think more deeply about their judgements.

1: We should be open to the perspectives of others and strive to better understand them.

2: Do not be too quick to judge, for all judgement should come from God.

1: Romans 12:19 - Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord.

2: James 4:11-12 - Speak not evil one of another, brethren. He that speaketh evil of his brother, and judgeth his brother, speaketh evil of the law, and judgeth the law: but if thou judge the law, thou art not a doer of the law, but a judge.

Luke 5:23 Whether is easier, to say, Thy sins be forgiven thee; or to say, Rise up and walk?

Jesus poses a question asking which is easier, to forgive someone's sins or to heal their physical ailments?

1. The Power of Forgiveness: How Jesus Pushes Us to Show Compassion and Mercy

2. The Miracles of Jesus: How His Actions Speak Louder Than His Words

1. Matthew 9:1-8 - Jesus forgives and heals a man of his paralysis

2. Mark 2:1-12 - Jesus forgives and heals a man of his infirmity

Luke 5:24 But that ye may know that the Son of man hath power upon earth to forgive sins, (he said unto the sick of the palsy,) I say unto thee, Arise, and take up thy couch, and go into thine house.

Jesus demonstrates His power to forgive sins by healing the man with palsy and telling him to take up his bed and go into his house.

1. Power and Authority of Jesus to Forgive Sins

2. Healing and Forgiveness in Jesus

1. Matthew 9:6 - But that ye may know that the Son of man hath power on earth to forgive sins, (then saith he to the sick of the palsy,) Arise, take up thy bed, and go unto thine house.

2. Mark 2:10 - But that ye may know that the Son of man hath power on earth to forgive sins, (he saith to the sick of the palsy,)

Luke 5:25 And immediately he rose up before them, and took up that whereon he lay, and departed to his own house, glorifying God.

This passage tells the story of Jesus healing a paralyzed man and the man immediately getting up and going home, glorifying God.

1. God's Healing Power: How Jesus' Miraculous Work Can Transform Our Lives

2. The Power of Praise: Expressing Gratitude for God's Miracles

1. Acts 3:1-10 – The Healing of a Lame Man

2. Psalm 117 – Let All the People Praise the Lord

Luke 5:26 And they were all amazed, and they glorified God, and were filled with fear, saying, We have seen strange things to day.

The disciples were amazed and glorified God after witnessing Jesus's miraculous healing of the man with palsy. They were filled with fear as they had never seen anything like it before.

1. God is capable of anything - Romans 4:17 (As it is written, I have made thee a father of many nations,) before him whom he believed, even God, who quickeneth the dead, and calleth those things which be not as though they were.

2. Have faith in God's power - Matthew 17:20 (And Jesus said unto them, Because of your unbelief: for verily I say unto you, If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, Remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible unto you.)

1. Matthew 8:5-13 (And when Jesus was entered into Capernaum, there came unto him a centurion, beseeching him, And saying, Lord, my servant lieth at home sick of the palsy, grievously tormented. And Jesus saith unto him, I will come and heal him. The centurion answered and said, Lord, I am not worthy that thou shouldest come under my roof: but speak the word only, and my servant shall be healed. When Jesus heard it, he marvelled, and said to them that followed, Verily I say unto you, I have not found so great faith, no, not in Israel. And I say unto you, That many shall come from the east and west, and shall sit down with Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, in the kingdom of heaven. But the children of the kingdom shall be cast out into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth. And Jesus said unto the centurion, Go thy way; and as thou hast believed, so be it done unto thee. And his servant was healed in the selfsame hour.)

2. Mark 2:3-12 (And they come unto him, bringing one sick of the palsy, which was borne of four. And when they could not come nigh unto him for the press, they uncovered the roof where he was: and when they had broken it up, they let down the bed wherein the sick of the palsy lay. When Jesus saw their faith, he said unto the sick of the palsy, Son, thy sins be forgiven thee. But there were certain of the scribes sitting there, and reasoning in their hearts, Why doth this man thus speak blasphemies? who can forgive sins but God only? And immediately when Jesus perceived in his spirit that they so reasoned within themselves, he said unto them, Why reason ye these things in your hearts? Whether is it easier to say to the sick of the palsy, Thy sins be forgiven thee; or to say, Arise, and take up thy bed, and walk? But that ye may know that the Son of man hath power on earth to forgive sins, (he saith to the sick of the palsy,) I say unto thee, Arise, and take up thy bed, and go thy way into thine house. And immediately he arose, took up the bed, and went forth before them all; insomuch that they were all amazed, and glorified God, saying, We never saw it on this fashion.)

Luke 5:27 And after these things he went forth, and saw a publican, named Levi, sitting at the receipt of custom: and he said unto him, Follow me.

Levi was called by Jesus to follow Him.

1. The Call to Follow Jesus: Responding to God's Invitation

2. Discipleship: The Life-Changing Commitment of Following Jesus

1. Matthew 4:18-22 - The calling of the first disciples

2. John 4:34-35 - Jesus' invitation to follow Him and do His work

Luke 5:28 And he left all, rose up, and followed him.

This passage describes how Levi left his work and possessions to follow Jesus.

1: Jesus calls us to leave behind everything we may have become attached to, to follow and serve Him.

2: The call of Jesus is a call to leave behind our own desires and to follow Him with our whole hearts.

1: Matthew 16:24-25 "Then Jesus said to his disciples, “Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will find it.”

2: Hebrews 11:24-26 “By faith Moses, when he had grown up, refused to be known as the son of Pharaoh’s daughter. He chose to be mistreated along with the people of God rather than to enjoy the fleeting pleasures of sin. He regarded disgrace for the sake of Christ as of greater value than the treasures of Egypt, because he was looking ahead to his reward.”

Luke 5:29 And Levi made him a great feast in his own house: and there was a great company of publicans and of others that sat down with them.

Levi showed hospitality to Jesus by hosting a great feast.

1: We should follow Levi's example of hospitality and invite Jesus into our homes.

2: We should show hospitality to others, just as Levi did with Jesus.

1: Romans 12:13 - "Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality."

2: 1 Peter 4:9 - "Show hospitality to one another without grumbling."

Luke 5:30 But their scribes and Pharisees murmured against his disciples, saying, Why do ye eat and drink with publicans and sinners?

Jesus' disciples were criticized by the scribes and Pharisees for eating and drinking with publicans and sinners.

1. The Power of Compassion: How Jesus Showed Love to Sinners

2. The Radical Love of Jesus: Reaching Out to Those Society Rejects

1. Matthew 9:10-13 - Jesus speaks about not calling the righteous but sinners to repentance

2. John 8:1-11 - Jesus shows mercy to the woman caught in adultery

Luke 5:31 And Jesus answering said unto them, They that are whole need not a physician; but they that are sick.

Jesus taught that those who are spiritually sick need a physician, while those who are spiritually healthy do not.

1. "The Physician of the Soul: Jesus as the Healer of our Hearts"

2. "The Difference Between the Physically and Spiritually Whole"

1. Matthew 9:12-13 - "But when Jesus heard it, he said to them, “Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. Go and learn what this means: ‘I desire mercy, and not sacrifice.’ For I came not to call the righteous, but sinners.”

2. Isaiah 53:5 - "But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed."

Luke 5:32 I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.

Jesus came to bring sinners to repentance.

1: Jesus Came to Save All

2: The Power of Repentance

1: Romans 10:13 - For everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.

2: Acts 2:38 - Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins.

Luke 5:33 And they said unto him, Why do the disciples of John fast often, and make prayers, and likewise the disciples of the Pharisees; but thine eat and drink?

The people asked Jesus why his disciples did not practice fasting and prayer like the disciples of John and the Pharisees.

1. Jesus and His Disciples: An Example of Living in Faith

2. The Power of Fasting and Prayer in the Life of a Believer

1. Matthew 6:16-18, “When you fast, do not look somber as the hypocrites do, for they disfigure their faces to show others they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full. But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, so that it will not be obvious to others that you are fasting, but only to your Father, who is unseen; and your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.”

2. 1 Thessalonians 5:17, “Pray without ceasing.”

Luke 5:34 And he said unto them, Can ye make the children of the bridechamber fast, while the bridegroom is with them?

Jesus reminded his disciples that it was inappropriate to fast while the Bridegroom was present.

1. The Joy of the Bridegroom: Celebrate God's Presence in Your Life.

2. Living a Life of Abundance and Gratitude in Christ.

1. Isaiah 61:10 - I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my soul shall be joyful in my God; for he hath clothed me with the garments of salvation, he hath covered me with the robe of righteousness.

2. Galatians 5:22-23 - But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.

Luke 5:35 But the days will come, when the bridegroom shall be taken away from them, and then shall they fast in those days.

Jesus teaches his disciples that when the time comes for him to be taken away from them, they will fast in those days.

1. The Power of Fasting - how fasting can bring us closer to God.

2. The Promise of the Bridegroom - how Jesus' promise of return brings hope and joy to believers.

1. Isaiah 58:6-7 - Is not this the fast that I have chosen? to loose the bands of wickedness, to undo the heavy burdens, and to let the oppressed go free, and that ye break every yoke?

7 Is it not to deal thy bread to the hungry, and that thou bring the poor that are cast out to thy house? when thou seest the naked, that thou cover him; and that thou hide not thyself from thine own flesh?

2. Matthew 6:16-18 - Moreover when ye fast, be not, as the hypocrites, of a sad countenance: for they disfigure their faces, that they may appear unto men to fast. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward.

17 But thou, when thou fastest, anoint thine head, and wash thy face;

18 That thou appear not unto men to fast, but unto thy Father which is in secret: and thy Father, which seeth in secret, shall reward thee openly.

Luke 5:36 And he spake also a parable unto them; No man putteth a piece of a new garment upon an old; if otherwise, then both the new maketh a rent, and the piece that was taken out of the new agreeth not with the old.

No one should try to patch the old with the new, as it will not be successful.

1. A New Way of Living: Why Trying to Blend the Old and New Will Not Work

2. New Beginnings: Embracing Change and Embracing God's Plan

1. Ephesians 4:22-24 - You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; to be made new in the attitude of your minds; and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.

2. Galatians 6:15 - Neither circumcision nor uncircumcision means anything; what counts is the new creation.

Luke 5:37 And no man putteth new wine into old bottles; else the new wine will burst the bottles, and be spilled, and the bottles shall perish.

New wine should not be put into old bottles, as it will cause the bottles to burst and spill the wine.

1 - Don't try to fit new things into old paradigms; look for new ways of doing things.

2 - Don't be afraid to take risks and try new things.

1 - Isaiah 43:19 - Behold, I will do a new thing; now it shall spring forth; shall ye not know it? I will even make a way in the wilderness, and rivers in the desert.

2 - Hebrews 13:8 - Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever.

Luke 5:38 But new wine must be put into new bottles; and both are preserved.

This passage teaches that new things should be handled with care in order to be

preserved.

1. The Value of Newness: Learning to Care for New Things

2. New Beginnings: Embracing Fresh Opportunities

1. Ecclesiastes 3:1-8 - For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven.

2. Psalm 118:24 - This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Luke 5:39 No man also having drunk old wine straightway desireth new: for he saith, The old is better.

Jesus teaches that one does not usually desire something new if they have something that is already good.

1. “The Old and the New: Learning to Appreciate What We Have”

2. “Valuing the Familiar: Contentment with What We Know”

1. Ecclesiastes 1:9 “The thing that hath been, it is that which shall be; and that which is done is that which shall be done: and there is no new thing under the sun.”

2. Hebrews 13:8 “Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever.”

Luke 6 details significant teachings and events in Jesus' ministry, including His actions on the Sabbath, the selection of His twelve apostles, and the delivery of the Sermon on the Plain.

1st Paragraph: The chapter begins with two Sabbath controversies. In one incident, Jesus and His disciples were walking through grain fields on a Sabbath day. The disciples picked some heads of grain to eat, which Pharisees criticized as unlawful on a Sabbath. Jesus defended them by referencing an Old Testament event involving David when he was hungry (Luke 6:1-5). In another incident in a synagogue on a Sabbath day, Jesus healed a man with a shriveled hand despite opposition from religious leaders who were watching to see if He would break their interpretation of Sabbath laws (Luke 6:6-11).

2nd Paragraph: After these incidents, Jesus spent an entire night in prayer before selecting twelve out of all His disciples to be apostles (Luke 6:12-16). These men were Simon Peter, Andrew, James, John, Philip, Bartholomew/Nathanael, Matthew/Levi (a tax collector), Thomas/Doubting Thomas ("the Twin"), James son of Alphaeus/Less or Younger or Minor or Little James or James the Less or Younger James/Jacobus minor/James Minor/Younger Jacobus/Iacobus Minor/Jacobus Less/Jacobus Little/Iakobos Mikros/Iakobos Mikroteros/Iakobos ho mikros/Jacobus Minimus/Yaakov HaKat'an/Yaakov Katan/James son of Mary/Mary's son James/Mary's son Jacobus/Son Mary Yakov/Son Mary Yaakov/Son Mary Iakovos/Son Mary Iakobos/Son Mary Jacob/Mariam's Son Jacob/Mariam's Son Yakov/Mariam's Son Iakovos/Mariam's Son Iakobos/Yeshua bar Miriam/Yeshu'a bar Miriam/Jesus bar Miriam/Yehoshua bar Miriam/Brother Yeshua/Brother Yehoshua/Brother Yeshu'a/Brother Jesus/The Brother Lord/The Lord Brother/The Lord Brethren/The Brethren Lord/Holy Brother/Holy Brethren/Holy Brethren God/God Holy Brethren/God Holy Brother/Holy Brothers God/God Holy Brothers/God Brothers Holinesses/Brethren Holinesses God/God Brethren Holinesses/Brethren God Holinesses/Holinesses God Brothers/Holinesses God Brethren/Tzaddik/Tzaddiq/Zaddik/Zaddiq/Apostle Zaddikim/Apostle Zaddiqim/Apostle Tzadokites/Apostle Tzedukim/Apostle Saducee/Apostle Saducean/Apostle Tsadokite Zealot/Tsadoqite Zealot/Zealot Tsadoqite/Zealot Tsadokite/Tsadokite Zealot/Zelotes/Zelotes Saddoukaios/Zelotes Saddoukaíos/Zelotes Saddoukaios/Saddoukaíos Zelotes/Saddoukaios Zelotes/Sadducæus Zelotes/Zelotes Sadducæus/Zealot of the Tsadokites/Zealot of the Tsadoqites/Tsadoqite Zealots/Tsadokite Zealots/Tsadokim Zealots/Tsadoqim Zealots/Sadducean Zealots/Saducean Zealots, Simon the Cananaean (Simon who was called the zealot), Thaddeus/Judas son of James/Judas not Iscariot, and Judas Iscariot who would later betray Him. He then descended from the mountain and was surrounded by a large crowd from Judea, Jerusalem, Tyre, and Sidon. They came to hear His teaching and be healed of their diseases. Jesus also cast out evil spirits (Luke 6:17-19).

3rd Paragraph: In this crowd-filled setting, Jesus delivered a sermon similar to Matthew's Sermon on the Mount known as Sermon on Plain in Luke. This sermon included blessings for poor hungry weeping hated excluded insulted rejected because Son Man great reward heaven woes rich full laughing spoken well all people words echo prophetic tradition Old Testament challenge societal norms values (Luke 6:20-26). Jesus continued with teachings about loving enemies doing good without expecting return being merciful as Father merciful not judging or condemning others forgiving those wrong us giving generously (Luke 6:27-38). He concluded with parables about blind leading blind student becoming like teacher good tree producing good fruit bad tree bad fruit importance putting His words into practice like wise man building house solid foundation withstand storm unlike foolish man built house ground without foundation which could not stand against storm (Luke 6:39-49). These teachings emphasized radical love mercy forgiveness central tenets Christian ethics discipleship.

Luke 6:1 And it came to pass on the second sabbath after the first, that he went through the corn fields; and his disciples plucked the ears of corn, and did eat, rubbing them in their hands.

On the second Sabbath, Jesus and his disciples plucked ears of corn and ate them.

1. Jesus showed us that God's law is about mercy and compassion.

2. We should live our lives in harmony with God's laws.

1. Matthew 12:1-2 "At that time Jesus went through the grain fields on the Sabbath. And his disciples were hungry, and began to pluck heads of grain and to eat. But when the Pharisees saw it, they said to him, “Look, your disciples are doing what is not lawful to do on the Sabbath!”

2. Matthew 12:7-8 "And if you had known what this means, ‘I desire mercy, and not sacrifice,’ you would not have condemned the guiltless. For the Son of Man is Lord of the Sabbath.”

Luke 6:2 And certain of the Pharisees said unto them, Why do ye that which is not lawful to do on the sabbath days?

The Pharisees asked why the disciples were doing something not lawful on the sabbath day.

1: We should not let our obedience to the law become more important than our obedience to God.

2: We should be careful to ensure that we are not taking the Lord's Day for granted and using it for our own personal gain.

1: Colossians 2:16-17 - Therefore do not let anyone judge you by what you eat or drink, or with regard to a religious festival, a New Moon celebration or a Sabbath day. These are a shadow of the things that were to come; the reality, however, is found in Christ.

2: Hebrews 4:9-11 - There remains, then, a Sabbath-rest for the people of God; for anyone who enters God’s rest also rests from their works, just as God did from his. Let us, therefore, make every effort to enter that rest, so that no one will perish by following their example of disobedience.

Luke 6:3 And Jesus answering them said, Have ye not read so much as this, what David did, when himself was an hungred, and they which were with him;

Jesus taught that we should imitate the example of David who showed courage and

selflessness when he was hungry.

1: We should strive to imitate the example of David in showing courage and selflessness when faced with difficulty.

2: We should take courage and be selfless in the face of adversity, just as David did.

1: 1 Corinthians 11:1 - "Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ."

2: 1 Peter 2:21 - "For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps."

Luke 6:4 How he went into the house of God, and did take and eat the shewbread, and gave also to them that were with him; which it is not lawful to eat but for the priests alone?

Jesus entered a house of God and took the showbread, which could only be eaten by priests, and shared it with those who were with him.

1. The importance of sharing and generosity.

2. Jesus' disregard for traditional rules and laws.

1. Acts 2:42-47 - The early church's sharing of property and possessions.

2. Matthew 22:36-40 - Jesus' teaching on the greatest commandment.

Luke 6:5 And he said unto them, That the Son of man is Lord also of the sabbath.

Jesus teaches that He is Lord of the Sabbath and sets an example of healing on the Sabbath.

1. The Power of Healing on the Sabbath

2. Understanding Jesus as Lord of the Sabbath

1. Isaiah 58:13-14 - “If you turn away your foot from the Sabbath, from doing your pleasure on my holy day, and call the Sabbath a delight and the holy day of the Lord honorable; if you honor it, not going your own ways, or seeking your own pleasure, or talking vainly, then you shall take delight in the Lord, and I will make you ride on the heights of the earth.”

2. Mark 2:27 - “And he said unto them, The sabbath was made for man, and not man for the sabbath.”

Luke 6:6 And it came to pass also on another sabbath, that he entered into the synagogue and taught: and there was a man whose right hand was withered.

On a Sabbath, Jesus entered a synagogue and taught, and He encountered a man with a withered right hand.

1. Jesus' Healing Touch - How Jesus Changed Lives Through Compassion and Love

2. Overcoming Adversity - How We Can Grow Closer to Jesus Through Difficult Times

1. Isaiah 41:10 - "Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand."

2. Matthew 19:26 - "But Jesus looked at them and said, “With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.”

Luke 6:7 And the scribes and Pharisees watched him, whether he would heal on the sabbath day; that they might find an accusation against him.

Jesus is being monitored by the scribes and Pharisees for signs of wrongdoing.

1: Jesus' actions are always good and true, and we should strive to emulate Him.

2: We must never be deterred by criticism or suspicion from doing the right thing.

1: Philippians 2:5-8 - “Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.”

2: Matthew 7:12 - “Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them: for this is the law and the prophets.”

Luke 6:8 But he knew their thoughts, and said to the man which had the withered hand, Rise up, and stand forth in the midst. And he arose and stood forth.

Jesus knew the thoughts of the Pharisees, and called forth the man with the withered hand to stand in the midst.

1. Jesus' Compassion: Jesus demonstrated his compassion for the man with the withered hand by recognizing and responding to his need.

2. The Power of Faith: Faith in Jesus can bring us strength and healing, even in the most desperate of circumstances.

1. Matthew 8:3 - And Jesus put forth his hand, and touched him, saying, I will; be thou clean. And immediately his leprosy was cleansed.

2. Hebrews 11:1 - Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

Luke 6:9 Then said Jesus unto them, I will ask you one thing; Is it lawful on the sabbath days to do good, or to do evil? to save life, or to destroy it?

Jesus questioned the lawfulness of performing good or evil on the Sabbath day.

1. The importance of maintaining a sense of holiness and reverence on the Sabbath day.

2. The power of Christ to challenge the status quo and redefine the way we view things.

1. Isaiah 58:13-14 - If you turn away your foot from the Sabbath, from doing your pleasure on my holy day; and call the Sabbath a delight, the holy of the LORD, honourable; and shall honour him, not doing your own ways, nor finding your own pleasure, nor speaking your own words.

2. Romans 14:5-6 - One man esteemeth one day above another: another esteemeth every day alike. Let every man be fully persuaded in his own mind. He that regardeth the

day, regardeth it unto the Lord; and he that regardeth not the day, to the Lord he doth not regard it. He that eateth, eateth to the Lord, for he giveth God thanks; and he that eateth not, to the Lord he eateth not, and giveth God thanks.

Luke 6:10 And looking round about upon them all, he said unto the man, Stretch forth thy hand. And he did so: and his hand was restored whole as the other.

This passage describes Jesus healing a man with a withered hand.

1. How Jesus is always available to answer our prayers for help.

2. The power of faith to do the impossible.

1. Mark 11:22-24 - Jesus' teaching on faith and prayer.

2. James 5:16 - The power of prayer to help those in need.

Luke 6:11 And they were filled with madness; and communed one with another what they might do to Jesus.

The people were filled with rage and discussed what they could do to Jesus.

1. God's Love in the Face of Our Human Anger - Romans 8:38-39

2. Uniting in God's Love - Ephesians 4:1-3

1. Romans 8:38-39 For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

2. Ephesians 4:1-3 I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called, With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love; Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

Luke 6:12 And it came to pass in those days, that he went out into a mountain to pray, and continued all night in prayer to God.

Jesus went to a mountain to pray and stayed there all night to talk to God.

1. The Power of Prayer: Jesus' example of how to deepen our relationship with God.

2. Taking Time Away: Learning from Jesus' example of how to find peace in time alone with God.

1. Matthew 6:6 - "But when you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you."

2. Psalm 55:17 - "Evening and morning and at noon I utter my complaint and moan, and he hears my voice."

Luke 6:13 And when it was day, he called unto him his disciples: and of them he chose twelve, whom also he named apostles;

Jesus called his disciples and chose twelve of them to be his apostles.

1. The Power of Choosing: Living in the Authority of Jesus

2. The Calling of Discipleship: Answering God's Call to Service

1. Matthew 10:1-4, Jesus called his twelve disciples and gave them authority to drive out impure spirits and to heal every disease and sickness.

2. Acts 26:16-18, Paul's mission to preach the truth of Jesus Christ and to lead people to obey God's will.

Luke 6:14 Simon, (whom he also named Peter,) and Andrew his brother, James and John, Philip and Bartholomew,

Jesus chose 12 men to be his disciples.

1. The Power of Choice: God's Decision to Choose the Disciples

2. Faithfulness in Leadership: The Calling of the 12 Disciples

1. Matthew 10:1-4 - Jesus called his twelve disciples to him and gave them authority to drive out impure spirits

2. John 15:16 - You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last.

Luke 6:15 Matthew and Thomas, James the son of Alphaeus, and Simon called Zelotes,

The passage mentions four of the twelve apostles of Jesus: Matthew, Thomas, James the son of Alphaeus, and Simon called Zelotes.

1. Jesus chose ordinary people to do extraordinary things

2. God calls us to serve Him no matter our background

1. John 15:16 - You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you.

2. Ephesians 4:11-13 - And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ.

Luke 6:16 And Judas the brother of James, and Judas Iscariot, which also was the traitor.

Jesus chose his 12 disciples, including Judas Iscariot who would later betray him.

1. We must be careful to remember not to judge a person by their past mistakes.

2. Jesus showed his unconditional love and grace by choosing Judas Iscariot to be one of the 12 disciples.

1. Ephesians 2:8-9 - For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God.

2. Romans 5:8 - But God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Luke 6:17 And he came down with them, and stood in the plain, and the company of his disciples, and a great multitude of people out of all Judaea and Jerusalem, and from the sea coast of Tyre and Sidon, which came to hear him, and to be healed of their diseases;

The great multitude of people from Judaea, Jerusalem, Tyre and Sidon came to hear Jesus and be healed of their diseases.

1. Jesus is Our Healer

2. Faith in Jesus Brings Healing

1. Isaiah 53:5 - "But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed."

2. Psalm 103:3 - "He forgives all your iniquity, he heals all your diseases."

Luke 6:18 And they that were vexed with unclean spirits: and they were healed.

Jesus healed those who were tormented by evil spirits.

1. "The Miraculous Healing Power of Jesus"

2. "The Power of Faith: Overcoming Trials and Tribulations"

1. Mark 16:17-18 - And these signs will follow those who believe: In My name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues;

2. James 5:13-16 - Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray. Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing psalms. Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven.

Luke 6:19 And the whole multitude sought to touch him: for there went virtue out of him, and healed them all.

A large crowd gathered around Jesus and wanted to touch him, for his presence alone had the power to heal them.

1. The Power of God's Presence - How Jesus' presence brought healing to those in need.

2. The Virtue of Compassion - How Jesus' compassion and understanding brought healing to all.

1. Matthew 8:17 - "This was to fulfill what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah: “He took up our infirmities and bore our diseases.”

2. Acts 10:38 - "how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power, and how he went around doing good and healing all who were under the power of the devil, because God was with him."

Luke 6:20 And he lifted up his eyes on his disciples, and said, Blessed be ye poor: for yours is the kingdom of God.

Blessed are the poor: for the Kingdom of God is theirs.

1: God blesses those who are humble and rely on Him.

2: The Kingdom of God is for those who have faith and trust in Him.

1: Matthew 5:3 "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."

2: James 2:5 "Listen, my dear brothers and sisters: Has not God chosen those who are poor in the eyes of the world to be rich in faith and to inherit the kingdom he promised those who love him?"

Luke 6:21 Blessed are ye that hunger now: for ye shall be filled. Blessed are ye that weep now: for ye shall laugh.

Jesus teaches that those who suffer now will be blessed and rewarded in the future.

1. "The Promise of Joy: Finding Hope in the Midst of Suffering"

2. "The Blessing of Tears: Reaping Reward from Hardship"

1. Romans 8:18, "For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us."

2. James 1:12, "Blessed is the one who perseveres under trial because, having stood the test, that person will receive the crown of life that the Lord has promised to those who love him."

Luke 6:22 Blessed are ye, when men shall hate you, and when they shall separate you from their company, and shall reproach you, and cast out your name as evil, for the Son of man's sake.

Jesus blesses those who are rejected, hated, and cast out because of their faith in Him.

1. "The Blessing of Rejection"

2. "Standing Firm in the Face of Hate"

1. John 15:18-20 - "If the world hates you, keep in mind that it hated me first. If you belonged to the world, it would love you as its own. As it is, you do not belong to the world, but I have chosen you out of the world. That is why the world hates you."

2. 1 Peter 4:12-14 - "Dear friends, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that has come on you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice inasmuch as you participate in the sufferings of Christ, so that you may be overjoyed when his glory is revealed. If you are insulted because of the name of Christ, you are blessed, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you."

Luke 6:23 Rejoice ye in that day, and leap for joy: for, behold, your reward is great in heaven: for in the like manner did their fathers unto the prophets.

This verse encourages us to rejoice and be glad for our reward in heaven, as our ancestors did for the prophets.

1. A Joyful Heart: Rejoicing in the Rewards of Heaven

2. Our Inheritance: Rejoicing in the Blessings of God

1. James 1:2-4 - Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.

2. Psalm 126:2-3 - Our mouths were filled with laughter, our tongues with songs of joy. Then it was said among the nations, “The Lord has done great things for them.”

Luke 6:24 But woe unto you that are rich! for ye have received your consolation.

Jesus warns that those who are rich have already received their consolation and should not be proud.

1. The Dangers of Riches: How to Avoid Pride and Greed

2. Resisting the Temptation of Wealth: The Blessing of Contentment

1. Proverbs 30:8–9 - “Remove far from me vanity and lies: give me neither poverty nor riches; feed me with food convenient for me:”

2. Ecclesiastes 5:10 - “He that loveth silver shall not be satisfied with silver; nor he that loveth abundance with increase: this is also vanity.”

Luke 6:25 Woe unto you that are full! for ye shall hunger. Woe unto you that laugh now! for ye shall mourn and weep.

Woe to those who are complacent, for they will experience need and sorrow.

1: A Warning to the Complacent – Luke 6:25

2: Rejoice in What is Truly Valuable – Luke 6:25

1: Proverbs 23:4-5 – Do not spend your strength on women, your vigor on those who ruin kings. It is not for kings, O Lemuel, it is not for kings to drink wine, or for rulers to crave beer,

2: Colossians 3:2 – Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth.

Luke 6:26 Woe unto you, when all men shall speak well of you! for so did their fathers to the false prophets.

Jesus warns against being well-liked by the people, as this was how false prophets were accepted in the past.

1. Beware of the Approval of Man: A lesson from the words of Jesus.

2. The Danger of Praise: What Jesus teaches us about seeking approval.

1. Jeremiah 5:31 - "The prophets prophesy falsely, and the priests bear rule by their means; and my people love to have it so."

2. Matthew 23:27-28 - “Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye are like unto whited sepulchres, which indeed appear beautiful outward, but are within full of dead men’s bones, and of all uncleanness. Even so ye also outwardly appear righteous unto men, but within ye are full of hypocrisy and iniquity.”

Luke 6:27 But I say unto you which hear, Love your enemies, do good to them which hate you,

The passage encourages us to love our enemies and do good to those who hate us.

1. Love for Enemies: A Path to Redemption

2. Doing Good to Those Who Hate Us: A Call to Faith

1. Romans 12:17-21 - “Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everyone. If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. Do not take revenge, my dear friends, but leave room for God’s wrath, for it is written: “It is mine to avenge; I will repay,” says the Lord. On the contrary: “If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink. In doing this, you

will heap burning coals on his head.” Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

2. Matthew 5:43-45 - “You have heard that it was said, ‘Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be children of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous.

Luke 6:28 Bless them that curse you, and pray for them which despitefully use you.

We should bless those who treat us harshly and pray for those who have been mean to us.

1. "The Power of Blessing: How to Respond to Unkindness"

2. "The Power of Prayer: How to Respond to Unkindness"

1. James 3:9-10 - "With the tongue we praise our Lord and Father, and with it we curse human beings, who have been made in God’s likeness. Out of the same mouth come praise and cursing. My brothers and sisters, this should not be."

2. Romans 12:14 - "Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse."

Luke 6:29 And unto him that smiteth thee on the one cheek offer also the other; and him that taketh away thy cloak forbid not to take thy coat also.

Jesus teaches to turn the other cheek and not to forbid those who take our possessions.

1. The Power of Forgiveness: Learning to Turn the Other Cheek

2. The Strength of Generosity: How to Give Even When We Have Nothing

1. Matthew 5:38-42 – “You have heard that it was said, ‘An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.’ But I say to you, Do not resist the one who is evil. But if anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to him the other also.”

2. Romans 12:17-21 – “Repay no one evil for evil, but give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all. If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with

all. Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, ‘Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord.’ To the contrary, ‘if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink; for by so doing you will heap burning coals on his head.’ Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.”

Luke 6:30 Give to every man that asketh of thee; and of him that taketh away thy goods ask them not again.

This scripture encourages us to be generous in giving to those in need.

1. The Power of Generosity: How to Show Compassion to Others.

2. Living a Life of Generosity: How to Follow Jesus’s Example.

1. Proverbs 19:17 - He who is kind to the poor lends to the Lord, and He will reward him for what he has done.

2. Galatians 6:9-10 - And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not. As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith.

Luke 6:31 And as ye would that men should do to you, do ye also to them likewise.

Jesus teaches that we should treat others as we would want to be treated.

1. "The Golden Rule: Loving Others as We Love Ourselves"

2. "Doing unto Others What We Would Want Done to Us"

1. Romans 12:10 - "Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves."

2. Matthew 7:12 - "So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets."

Luke 6:32 For if ye love them which love you, what thank have ye? for sinners also love those that love them.

The passage encourages us to love those who do not love us as well, as even sinners do the same.

1. "How to Love Unconditionally"

2. "The Standard of Love Expected of Us"

1. Romans 12:14-16 - Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn. Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited.

2. Matthew 5:44-45 - But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be children of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous.

Luke 6:33 And if ye do good to them which do good to you, what thank have ye? for sinners also do even the same.

Jesus asks what thanks people have when they do good to those who do good to them, since even sinners do the same.

1. Compassion Beyond Measure: Redefining the Boundaries of Mercy

2. Love Beyond Walls: Living in the Spirit of Radical Love

1. Romans 12:9-13 - Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good.

2. 1 John 4:7-8 - Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God.

Luke 6:34 And if ye lend to them of whom ye hope to receive, what thank have ye? for sinners also lend to sinners, to receive as much again.

Believers should not expect thanks from others when they lend money as even sinners do the same.

1. The Importance of Selfless Giving

2. What It Really Means to Be a Servant of God

1. Matthew 5:38-42 - You have heard that it was said, ‘Eye for eye, and tooth for tooth.’ But I tell you, do not resist an evil person. If anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to them the other cheek also.

40 And if anyone wants to sue you and take your shirt, hand over your coat as well. 41 If anyone forces you to go one mile, go with them two miles. 42 Give to the one who asks you, and do not turn away from the one who wants to borrow from you.

2. Philippians 2:4 - Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.

Luke 6:35 But love ye your enemies, and do good, and lend, hoping for nothing again; and your reward shall be great, and ye shall be the children of the Highest: for he is kind unto the unthankful and to the evil.

Jesus encourages us to love our enemies, do good, and lend without expecting anything in return, for God is kind to the ungrateful and evil.

1. The Power of Unconditional Love

2. What it Means to be a Child of God

1. Romans 12:14-21 - Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse.

2. Matthew 5:44-45 - Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you.

Luke 6:36 Be ye therefore merciful, as your Father also is merciful.

Be merciful and kind to others, as God is merciful and kind to us.

1. God's Mercy: An Example for Us

2. The Gift of God's Mercy

1. Exodus 34:6-7 - “And the Lord passed before him and proclaimed, ‘The Lord, the Lord, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness.’

2. Romans 5:8 - “But God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”

Luke 6:37 Judge not, and ye shall not be judged: condemn not, and ye shall not be condemned: forgive, and ye shall be forgiven:

The passage instructs us to show compassion and forgiveness in our dealings with others.

1. The Power of Forgiveness: How to Show Compassion and Mercy in Our Relationships

2. The Gift of Grace: Discovering the Joy of Letting Go of Resentment

1. Ephesians 4:32 - Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.

2. Matthew 5:7 - Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.

Luke 6:38 Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again.

Jesus encourages us to give generously and promises that it will be returned to us.

1. The Blessings of Generous Giving

2. The Power of a Giving Heart

1. 2 Corinthians 9:6-7 - "But this I say, He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully. Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver."

2. Proverbs 11:24-25 - "There is that scattereth, and yet increaseth; and there is that withholdeth more than is meet, but it tendeth to poverty. The liberal soul shall be made fat: and he that watereth shall be watered also himself."

Luke 6:39 And he spake a parable unto them, Can the blind lead the blind? shall they not both fall into the ditch?

Jesus speaks a parable about the danger of blindly following someone who is unable to see the right path.

1. Don't Follow Blindly: The Dangers of Following Uninformed Leadership

2. Who's Leading the Way? Guidance From Those With Wisdom and Insight

1. Proverbs 3:5-6 "Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths."

2. Matthew 15:14 "Let them alone: they be blind leaders of the blind. And if the blind lead the blind, both shall fall into the ditch."

Luke 6:40 The disciple is not above his master: but every one that is perfect shall be as his master.

Jesus teaches that a disciple should strive to be perfect and that they should strive to be like their master.

1. Being Perfect: Striving to be Like Jesus

2. Following in the Master's Footsteps: Becoming Perfect

1. Ephesians 4:13 – “Until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ.”

2. Philippians 2:5-11 – “Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in

the likeness of men. Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. For this reason also, God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee will bow, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and that every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”

Luke 6:41 And why beholdest thou the mote that is in thy brother's eye, but perceivest not the beam that is in thine own eye?

Be aware of your own faults before criticizing others.

1. "Casting Stones" - The importance of self-reflection before judging others.

2. "The Mote and Beam" - Recognizing our own shortcomings before judging our neighbor.

1. Philippians 2:3-4 - "Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves."

2. James 4:11-12 - "Do not speak evil against one another, brothers and sisters. Anyone who speaks against a brother or sister or judges them speaks evil against the law and judges it. When you judge the law, you are not keeping it, but sitting in judgment on it."

Luke 6:42 Either how canst thou say to thy brother, Brother, let me pull out the mote that is in thine eye, when thou thyself beholdest not the beam that is in thine own eye? Thou hypocrite, cast out first the beam out of thine own eye, and then shalt thou see clearly to pull out the mote that is in thy brother's eye.

Jesus teaches us to first remove the log in our own eye before we can help our brother with the mote in his eye.

1. "Seeing Clearly: Removing the Log in Our Eye"

2. "Being a Good Brother: Removing the Mote in Our Brother's Eye"

1. Matthew 7:1-5 "Judge not, that you be not judged"

2. 1 John 4:20-21 "If anyone says, “I love God,” and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he

who does not love his brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen."

Luke 6:43 For a good tree bringeth not forth corrupt fruit; neither doth a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit.

A good tree will not produce bad fruit, and a bad tree will not produce good fruit.

1. The Fruit of Our Lives: How Our Actions Reflect Our Character

2. The Parable of the Trees: The Consequences of Good and Bad Behavior

1. Galatians 5:22-23 - But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.

2. Jeremiah 17:7-8 - “Blessed is the man who trusts in the Lord, whose trust is the Lord. He is like a tree planted by water, that sends out its roots by the stream, and does not fear when heat comes, for its leaves remain green, and is not anxious in the year of drought, for it does not cease to bear fruit.

Luke 6:44 For every tree is known by his own fruit. For of thorns men do not gather figs, nor of a bramble bush gather they grapes.

The fruits we bear show what kind of tree we are. We cannot expect to receive good fruit from something bad.

1. The Fruits of Our Lives - How our actions reflect our true character

2. The Power of Good Habits - How our daily decisions shape our future

1. Proverbs 13:20 - “He who walks with wise men will be wise, But the companion of fools will suffer harm.”

2. Galatians 5:22-23 - “But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.”

Luke 6:45 A good man out of the good treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is good; and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is

evil: for of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaketh.

Our words and actions are indicative of what is in our hearts. We can tell what kind of person we are by what we say and do.

1. The importance of a pure heart - Luke 6:45

2. The power of our words - Luke 6:45

1. Proverbs 4:23 - Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life.

2. Matthew 15:18-19 - But those things which proceed out of the mouth come forth from the heart; and they defile the man. For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies.

Luke 6:46 And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?

This verse is asking why people honor Jesus as Lord if they are not following His teachings.

1. "Living as a Disciple of Jesus: Honoring Jesus Through Obedience"

2. "The Challenge of Following Jesus: Obeying His Commands"

1. John 14:15 - "If you love me, you will keep my commandments."

2. James 1:22 - "But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves."

Luke 6:47 Whosoever cometh to me, and heareth my sayings, and doeth them, I will shew you to whom he is like:

He is like a wise man who builds his house on a rock.

1. Building our lives on a strong foundation of faith in Jesus.

2. Living out the teachings of Jesus in our daily lives.

1. Matthew 7:24-27 - Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock.

2. James 1:22-25 - But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.

Luke 6:48 He is like a man which built an house, and digged deep, and laid the foundation on a rock: and when the flood arose, the stream beat vehemently upon that house, and could not shake it: for it was founded upon a rock.

The passage emphasizes the importance of laying a firm foundation.

1. Building on the Rock: Establishing a Firm Foundation for Life

2. Strengthening Our Foundations: Standing Strong in Difficult Times

1. Matthew 7:24-27 "Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock: And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock. And every one that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand: And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell: and great was the fall of it."

2. Ephesians 2:19-20 "Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God; And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone."

Luke 6:49 But he that heareth, and doeth not, is like a man that without a foundation built an house upon the earth; against which the stream did beat vehemently, and immediately it fell; and the ruin of that house was great.

Jesus warns that those who hear His words and do not follow them are like someone who builds a house without a foundation, which will soon be destroyed by the elements.

1. "The Foundations of Our Lives: Building on God's Word"

2. "The Danger of Not Following Jesus' Word"

1. Matthew 7:24-27 - "Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock..."

2. Psalm 11:3 - "If the foundations be destroyed, what can the righteous do?"

Luke 7 continues the narrative of Jesus' ministry, detailing miracles such as the healing of a centurion's servant and the raising of a widow's son from the dead. It also includes Jesus' encounter with John the Baptist's disciples and His teaching about love and forgiveness.

1st Paragraph: The chapter begins with a Roman centurion in Capernaum who sent Jewish elders to request Jesus to heal his servant. The centurion believed that Jesus could heal his servant just by speaking a word, demonstrating remarkable faith. Touched by his faith, Jesus healed the servant without even going to see him (Luke 7:1-10). Soon after this miracle, Jesus went to Nain where He encountered a funeral procession for a widow's only son. Moved with compassion, He touched the bier and commanded the young man to arise; he was restored to life and given back to his mother (Luke 7:11-17).

2nd Paragraph: Meanwhile, John the Baptist who was in prison heard about all these things that were happening through his disciples. He sent two of them to ask Jesus if He was indeed "the one who is to come," or should they expect another? In response, Jesus told them about what they had seen and heard—the blind receiving sight, lame walking lepers cleansed deaf hearing dead raised poor having good news preached them added "Blessed anyone who does not stumble account me" This answer confirmed John His messianic role fulfilled prophecies Isaiah concerning Messiah's works (Luke 7:18-23).

3rd Paragraph: Afterward, when John’s disciples left, Jesus began speaking crowd concerning John’s prophetic role described him more than prophet messenger prepare way Lord also affirmed greatness saying among those born women none greater yet least kingdom God greater than he indicating new era inaugurated His ministry bringing higher level revelation fulfillment (Luke 7:24-28). Despite wisdom justification actions both John Himself people generation rejected them different reasons labeling former demon possessed latter glutton drunkard friend tax collectors sinners implying no matter how message delivered some will always reject it due preconceived notions biases (Luke 7:29-35). Chapter concludes account sinful woman anointed feet expensive perfume wept wiped hair house Pharisee named Simon criticized her but defended explaining she shown much love because forgiven much whereas Simon shown little hospitality because perceived need forgiveness less parable two debtors illustrate point forgiveness leads love whoever forgiven little loves little her sins though many were forgiven—for she loved much but he who is forgiven little loves little told woman sins are forgiven go peace demonstrating again radical inclusive love mercy grace towards marginalized outcasts society.

Luke 7:1 Now when he had ended all his sayings in the audience of the people, he entered into Capernaum.

Jesus finished speaking to the people and entered Capernaum.

1. Jesus' priorities in life - Luke 7:1

2. The importance of obedience to God - Luke 7:1

1. Matthew 4:13-17 - Jesus leaving Nazareth and settling in Capernaum

2. John 2:12-22 - Jesus cleansing the temple in Jerusalem

Luke 7:2 And a certain centurion's servant, who was dear unto him, was sick, and ready to die.

This passage describes how a centurion's servant was facing death due to illness.

1. Let us remember to be compassionate and loving to those who are dear to us in their time of need.

2. Let us draw closer to God in times of sickness and distress, trusting in His goodness and mercy.

1. Romans 12:15 - Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn.

2. James 5:13-14 - Is anyone among you in trouble? Let them pray. Is anyone happy? Let them sing songs of praise.

Luke 7:3 And when he heard of Jesus, he sent unto him the elders of the Jews, beseeching him that he would come and heal his servant.

A Jewish leader asked Jesus to heal his servant by sending the elders of the Jews to Him.

1. Faithful to God: The power of prayer and the healing power of the Lord.

2. God's Timing: Trusting in the Lord's plan and understanding that He works in His own time.

1. James 5:13-16 - Prayer of faith will save the one who is sick and the Lord will raise him up.

2. Psalm 103:2-5 - Praise the Lord for His healing power and for the fact that He forgives all our sins.

Luke 7:4 And when they came to Jesus, they besought him instantly, saying, That he was worthy for whom he should do this:

This passage tells the story of people coming to Jesus and asking Him for help.

1: We can trust in Jesus when we need help.

2: We can always turn to Jesus with our needs and ask for His assistance.

1: Matthew 11:28 - "Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest."

2: Philippians 4:6–7 - "Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."

Luke 7:5 For he loveth our nation, and he hath built us a synagogue.

Jesus loved the nation of Israel and helped build them a synagogue.

1. The Unconditional Love of Jesus - exploring the ways Jesus shows his love to his people.

2. The Power of Community - looking at how the synagogue was a place of gathering for the Israelites.

1. John 13:34-35 - Jesus commands us to love one another as he has loved us.

2. Hebrews 10:24-25 - Encouraging one another to persevere in faith and gather together to do so.

Luke 7:6 Then Jesus went with them. And when he was now not far from the house, the centurion sent friends to him, saying unto him, Lord, trouble not thyself: for I am not worthy that thou shouldest enter under my roof:

The Centurion sends friends to Jesus to tell him not to come to his house, as he is not worthy of Jesus' presence.

1. The Centurion's Humility: The Power of Recognizing Our Own Unworthiness

2. Knowing Our Place: The Centurion's Humble Request to Jesus

1. Philippians 2:3- Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves.

2. James 4:10- Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up.

Luke 7:7 Wherefore neither thought I myself worthy to come unto thee: but say in a word, and my servant shall be healed.

This passage speaks of Jesus' humility and mercy, recognizing that He did not consider Himself worthy to come to the man asking for help, yet still granting the man His request with a single word.

1. The Power of Humility: Learning to Recognize and Embrace Our Inadequacies

2. The Compassion of Christ: How Jesus Shows Mercy to All Who Ask

1. James 4:10 - "Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up."

2. Matthew 8:8 - "The centurion answered and said, Lord, I am not worthy that thou shouldest come under my roof: but speak the word only, and my servant shall be

healed."

Luke 7:8 For I also am a man set under authority, having under me soldiers, and I say unto one, Go, and he goeth; and to another, Come, and he cometh; and to my servant, Do this, and he doeth it.

God has authority over us and we should obey Him.

1: Obey God and Receive His Blessings

2: Submit to God's Authority

1: Ecclesiastes 8:4-5 - Where the word of a king is, there is power: and who may say unto him, What doest thou? Or else, Why doest thou thus?

2: Philippians 2:10-11 - That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Luke 7:9 When Jesus heard these things, he marvelled at him, and turned him about, and said unto the people that followed him, I say unto you, I have not found so great faith, no, not in Israel.

Jesus marveled at the faith of a Roman Centurion and commended him for it, despite not being an Israelite.

1: We can all learn from the example of the Roman Centurion and strive to have faith as great as his.

2: We can all be inspired to have faith as strong as the Roman Centurion, even if we are not of Israel.

1: Hebrews 11:1 - "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen."

2: Matthew 17:20 - "And Jesus said unto them, Because of your unbelief: for verily I say unto you, If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, Remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible unto you."

Luke 7:10 And they that were sent, returning to the house, found the servant whole that had been sick.

Jesus healed a servant who was sick, and when the messengers returned to the house, the servant was completely healed.

1. Jesus is the Great Physician who can heal us of our physical and spiritual ailments.

2. God is the source of our healing and strength.

1. Isaiah 53:5 - "But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed."

2. James 5:14-15 - "Is anyone among you sick? Let them call the elders of the church to pray over them and anoint them with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise them up. If they have sinned, they will be forgiven."

Luke 7:11 And it came to pass the day after, that he went into a city called Nain; and many of his disciples went with him, and much people.

This passage recounts Jesus visiting the city of Nain with many of his disciples and a large crowd of people.

1: Jesus teaches us the importance of community and fellowship.

2: Jesus shows us that compassion and mercy are essential characteristics of a Christian life.

1: Galatians 6:2 - Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.

2: John 13:34-35 - A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.

Luke 7:12 Now when he came nigh to the gate of the city, behold, there was a dead man

carried out, the only son of his mother, and she was a widow: and much people of the city was with her.

This passage tells of a widow who was accompanied by many people from the city as she carried out her only son's dead body.

1. The Power of Compassion: How We Can Comfort and Support Those Who are Grieving

2. The Role of Community in Times of Grief

1. Isaiah 61:1-3 - The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me to bring good news to the afflicted; He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to captives and freedom to prisoners;

2. Romans 12:15 - Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep.

Luke 7:13 And when the Lord saw her, he had compassion on her, and said unto her, Weep not.

Jesus saw a widow who had just lost her son and was filled with compassion. He told her not to cry.

1. Compassionate Love: Jesus and the Widow of Nain

2. God's Comfort: Finding Strength in the Sufferings of Life

1. Matthew 9:36 - When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.

2. 2 Corinthians 1:3-4 - Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.

Luke 7:14 And he came and touched the bier: and they that bare him stood still. And he said, Young man, I say unto thee, Arise.

Jesus brings a young man back to life by simply touching the bier.

1. The Power of God: Jesus shows us the power of God through the resurrection of the young man.

2. Faith and Miracles: Jesus teaches us that faith can bring miracles to life.

1. John 11:25-26 - Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; and whoever lives by believing in me will never die.

2. Mark 5:41-42 - Taking the hand of the dead girl, he said to her, “Talitha cumi,” which means, “Little girl, I say to you, get up!” Immediately the girl stood up and began to walk around.

Luke 7:15 And he that was dead sat up, and began to speak. And he delivered him to his mother.

This passage recounts the miracle of Jesus raising a dead man, who then began to speak and was delivered to his mother.

1. The Power of Life: How Jesus Demonstrates His Unending Love for Us

2. The Miraculous: How Jesus' Miracles Testify to His Divinity

1. John 11:25-26 - Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die."

2. Romans 6:4 - We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.

Luke 7:16 And there came a fear on all: and they glorified God, saying, That a great prophet is risen up among us; and, That God hath visited his people.

The people were filled with fear when Jesus performed a miracle, and they praised God for the great prophet who had been sent to them.

1. The Fear of the Lord: How God Brings Us Comfort in Times of Uncertainty

2. God's Visitation: Recognizing Jesus as the Great Prophet

1. Isaiah 11:2-3 - "And the Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord."

2. Acts 3:19-20 - "Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord."

Luke 7:17 And this rumour of him went forth throughout all Judaea, and throughout all the region round about.

This passage describes how news of Jesus spread throughout Judea and the surrounding region.

1. A Rumor of Joy: The Spread of Jesus' Message

2. Hope in Action: The Results of Sharing the Gospel

1. Romans 10:13-15 (For “everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”)

2. Acts 1:8 (But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.)

Luke 7:18 And the disciples of John shewed him of all these things.

John's disciples relayed news of Jesus’s mighty works to John.

1. God is always working in ways we don't expect to bring about His will.

2. We can trust that Jesus will do what is right and best, even if it doesn't make sense to us.

1. Isaiah 55:8-9 - “For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways,” declares the LORD. “As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

2. Jeremiah 29:11 - For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the LORD, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.

Luke 7:19 And John calling unto him two of his disciples sent them to Jesus, saying, Art thou he that should come? or look we for another?

John the Baptist sent two of his disciples to Jesus to ask if He was the expected Messiah.

1. The Expectation of the Messiah - Luke 7:19

2. Be Confident in Jesus - Luke 7:19

1. Matthew 11:2-3 - When John heard in prison what Christ was doing, he sent his disciples to ask him, “Are you the one who was to come, or should we expect someone else?”

2. Isaiah 35:4 - Say to those with fearful hearts, “Be strong, do not fear; your God will come, he will come with vengeance; with divine retribution he will come to save you.”

Luke 7:20 When the men were come unto him, they said, John Baptist hath sent us unto thee, saying, Art thou he that should come? or look we for another?

Two messengers from John the Baptist ask Jesus if he is the Messiah they have been expecting.

1. "The Faith of John the Baptist: Look to Jesus"

2. "What does it mean to have Jesus as our Messiah?"

1. 1 Peter 2:4-5 - "As you come to him, a living stone rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious, you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ."

2. Isaiah 9:6 - "For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."

Luke 7:21 And in that same hour he cured many of their infirmities and plagues, and of evil spirits; and unto many that were blind he gave sight.

Jesus healed many people of their physical and spiritual ailments.

1: Jesus' Compassion and Mercy: How Our Lord and Savior Brings Healing and Restoration

2: Healed by Faith: The Power of Believing in the Miraculous

1: Matthew 9:35 - And Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people.

2: 1 Peter 2:24 - Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed.

Luke 7:22 Then Jesus answering said unto them, Go your way, and tell John what things ye have seen and heard; how that the blind see, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, to the poor the gospel is preached.

Jesus teaches that to testify of His works is to preach the gospel to the poor.

1: The Power of Jesus - How Jesus' works demonstrate the power of His gospel.

2: Preaching the Gospel to the Poor - How Jesus' works demonstrate the importance of preaching the gospel to the poor.

1: Matthew 11:5 - The blind receive their sight, and the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, and the poor have the gospel preached to them.

2: Isaiah 61:1 - The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me; because the Lord hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; he hath sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound.

Luke 7:23 And blessed is he, whosoever shall not be offended in me.

Jesus tells his disciples that those who believe in him will be blessed.

1. The Blessings of Believing in Jesus

2. Overcoming the Challenges of Faith

1. John 14:1-4 - Jesus tells his disciples that anyone who believes in him will be able to do the works he has been doing.

2. Romans 8:37-39 - Paul encourages believers that nothing can separate them from the love of God in Christ Jesus.

Luke 7:24 And when the messengers of John were departed, he began to speak unto the people concerning John, What went ye out into the wilderness for to see? A reed shaken with the wind?

Jesus speaks to the people about John the Baptist, asking them what they went out into the wilderness to see - a reed shaken with the wind?

1. The Power of Faith: What Have You Gone Out to See?

2. The Life of John the Baptist: A Witness in the Wilderness

1. Matthew 11:7-11 – “What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind?”

2. Isaiah 40:3-5 – “A voice cries: ‘In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord; make straight in the desert a highway for our God.’”

Luke 7:25 But what went ye out for to see? A man clothed in soft raiment? Behold, they which are gorgeously apparelled, and live delicately, are in kings' courts.

Jesus is cautioning against being impressed by those who are outwardly wealthy and have luxurious lifestyles, for such people can be found in kings' courts.

1. Do Not Be Impressed by Wealth and Luxury - Luke 7:25

2. Seek Godly Contentment Rather Than Worldly Gain - Luke 7:25

1. Proverbs 30:8-9 - "Remove far from me vanity and lies: give me neither poverty nor riches; feed me with food convenient for me: Lest I be full, and deny thee, and say, Who is the Lord? or lest I be poor, and steal, and take the name of my God in vain."

2. Philippians 4:11-13 - "Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content. I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound: every where and in all things I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me."

Luke 7:26 But what went ye out for to see? A prophet? Yea, I say unto you, and much more than a prophet.

This passage speaks to the greatness of Jesus, who was much more than a prophet.

1. Jesus: Much More Than a Prophet

2. The Unparalleled Glory of Jesus

1. Hebrews 1:1-2 - God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds;

2. Isaiah 9:6-7 - For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; and the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of His government and peace there will be no end.

Luke 7:27 This is he, of whom it is written, Behold, I send my messenger before thy face, which shall prepare thy way before thee.

This passage speaks of how Jesus is the one written of in the Old Testament, who was sent by God to prepare the way for His coming.

1: Jesus is the fulfillment of God's plan of salvation.

2: We are called to prepare the way for the Lord just as Jesus did.

1: Isaiah 40:3-5 – A voice of one calling: “In the wilderness prepare the way for the Lord; make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

2: Malachi 3:1 – “See, I will send my messenger, who will prepare the way before me. Then suddenly the Lord you are seeking will come to his temple; the messenger of the covenant, whom you desire, will come,” says the Lord Almighty.

Luke 7:28 For I say unto you, Among those that are born of women there is not a greater prophet than John the Baptist: but he that is least in the kingdom of God is greater than he.

The passage declares that John the Baptist is the greatest prophet among those born of women, but that even the least in the kingdom of God is greater than him.

1. The Power of the Kingdom: Understanding the Greatness of God's Power

2. Following God's Plan: Embracing the Least in the Kingdom of God

1. Matthew 11:11 - "Truly I tell you, among those born of women there has not risen anyone greater than John the Baptist; yet whoever is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he."

2. 1 Peter 2:9 - "But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light."

Luke 7:29 And all the people that heard him, and the publicans, justified God, being baptized with the baptism of John.

People who heard Jesus and the publicans were baptized by John and justified God.

1. We must accept the baptism of John and justify God.

2. The power of Jesus' words and how they can bring people together to justify God.

1. Luke 7:29

2. Romans 3:25-26 - "For God presented Jesus as the sacrifice for sin. People are made right with God when they believe that Jesus sacrificed his life, shedding his blood. This was done to demonstrate that God in his forbearance had left the sins committed beforehand unpunished."

Luke 7:30 But the Pharisees and lawyers rejected the counsel of God against themselves, being not baptized of him.

The Pharisees and lawyers refused to accept God's advice, refusing to be baptized by him.

1. Accepting God's counsel and humbling ourselves before him.

2. The importance of being baptized and its implications on our relationship with God.

1. Romans 10:9-10 - "that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. 10 For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation."

2. James 4:6-7 - "But He gives more grace. Therefore He says: “God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble.” 7 Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you."

Luke 7:31 And the Lord said, Whereunto then shall I liken the men of this generation? and to what are they like?

The Lord Jesus asked what men of this generation are like.

1. Men of This Generation: Comparing Today's Society to Biblical Standards

2. Living in a World That Does Not Value Biblical Standards

1. Romans 12:2 - Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind.

2. James 4:4 - You adulterous people! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God?

Luke 7:32 They are like unto children sitting in the marketplace, and calling one to another, and saying, We have piped unto you, and ye have not danced; we have mourned to you, and ye have not wept.

The people can be compared to children in the marketplace who call each other but do not receive the desired response.

1: We need to be willing to respond to God's call, opening our hearts to the joys and sorrows He brings.

2: We must be careful to not become indifferent to God's communication, as it can lead to spiritual stagnation.

1: Isaiah 55:6 - "Seek the Lord while he may be found; call upon him while he is near;"

2: Romans 12:2 - "Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect."

Luke 7:33 For John the Baptist came neither eating bread nor drinking wine; and ye say, He hath a devil.

People criticized John the Baptist for not engaging in the same social customs as them, claiming he had a devil.

1. How to Respond to Criticism With Grace.

2. The Importance of Self-Control.

1. 1 Corinthians 10:13 - "No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it."

2. Philippians 4:5 - "Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand."

Luke 7:34 The Son of man is come eating and drinking; and ye say, Behold a gluttonous man, and a winebibber, a friend of publicans and sinners!

The Son of Man has come eating and drinking, yet He is accused of being a glutton and a winebibber, a friend of publicans and sinners.

1. The Acceptance of Christ and His Ministry

2. The Openness of Jesus to All People

1. Matthew 11:19 - "The Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, 'Behold, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!' Yet wisdom is justified by her deeds."

2. John 8:12 - "Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.”

Luke 7:35 But wisdom is justified of all her children.

Jesus is teaching the people that those who are wise will be justified by their own children.

1. True Wisdom Will Be Rewarded

2. The Blessings of Wisdom

1. Proverbs 2:6-7 - For the Lord gives wisdom; from his mouth come knowledge and understanding; he stores up sound wisdom for the upright; he is a shield to those who walk in integrity.

2. Colossians 2:3 - in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.

Luke 7:36 And one of the Pharisees desired him that he would eat with him. And he went into the Pharisee's house, and sat down to meat.

Jesus was invited to the house of a Pharisee for a meal.

1. The Meaning of Hospitality: Welcoming Jesus into Our Homes

2. The Power of Invitation: Reaching Out to Others

1. Romans 12:13 - Share with the Lord's people who are in need. Practice hospitality.

2. Hebrews 13:2 - Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by so doing some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it.

Luke 7:37 And, behold, a woman in the city, which was a sinner, when she knew that Jesus sat at meat in the Pharisee's house, brought an alabaster box of ointment,

A woman who was known to be a sinner showed her love and admiration for Jesus by bringing an alabaster box of ointment.

1. The Power of Demonstrating Love and Gratitude

2. The Unconditional Forgiveness of Jesus

1. Romans 5:8 - But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

2. Matthew 6:12 - And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.

Luke 7:38 And stood at his feet behind him weeping, and began to wash his feet with tears, and did wipe them with the hairs of her head, and kissed his feet, and anointed them with the ointment.

A woman washed and kissed Jesus' feet with her tears and hair, and anointed them with oil.

1. Jesus Worthy of Our Love and Devotion

2. How To Show Our Love For Jesus

1. John 13:1-17 - Jesus washing his disciples feet

2. Romans 12:1-2 - Offering ourselves to God as living sacrifices

Luke 7:39 Now when the Pharisee which had bidden him saw it, he spake within himself, saying, This man, if he were a prophet, would have known who and what manner of woman this is that toucheth him: for she is a sinner.

The Pharisee who invited Jesus to dinner was shocked to see a sinful woman wash his feet with her tears and hair, believing that a true prophet would have known this.

1. Jesus shows us the power of grace and forgiveness by allowing an immoral woman to wash his feet.

2. We must be willing to accept and forgive all people, no matter their past.

1. Romans 5:8 - But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

2. Matthew 7:1 - Judge not, that ye be not judged.

Luke 7:40 And Jesus answering said unto him, Simon, I have somewhat to say unto thee. And he saith, Master, say on.

Jesus encountered Simon and had something to say to him, prompting Simon to ask Him to continue speaking.

1. Jesus has something to say to us all - don't be afraid to listen and ask for more.

2. Open your heart and mind to Jesus - He has something to say to you that can change your life.

1. 1 John 3:18, "Little children, let us not love with word or with tongue, but in deed and truth."

2. James 1:19-20, "So then, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath; for the wrath of man does not produce the righteousness of God."

Luke 7:41 There was a certain creditor which had two debtors: the one owed five hundred pence, and the other fifty.

The parable of the two debtors emphasizes the importance of forgiveness.

1: God's forgiveness is infinitely greater than our own, and we should be quick to forgive those who have wronged us.

2: We should not be overly judgmental of others, as we all have our own sins to bear.

1: Matthew 6:14-15 - “For if you forgive other people when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive others their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.”

2: Ephesians 4:32 - “Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.”

Luke 7:42 And when they had nothing to pay, he frankly forgave them both. Tell me therefore, which of them will love him most?

Jesus told a parable about two debtors who were both forgiven their debt, asking who would love Him most in response.

1. The Unconditional Love of Christ

2. Gratitude in Response to Forgiveness

1. Ephesians 2:4-5 - But God, being rich in mercy, because of his great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our sins, made us alive together with Christ.

2. Psalm 103:11-12 - For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his loving kindness toward those who fear him. As far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us.

Luke 7:43 Simon answered and said, I suppose that he, to whom he forgave most. And he said unto him, Thou hast rightly judged.

Simon correctly guesses that Jesus has forgiven the greater of the two debtors.

1. The Mercy of Jesus - Jesus' willingness to forgive our sins even though we don't deserve it.

2. Jesus' Judgment - How we should strive to make right decisions in accordance with God's will.

1. Romans 5:8 - But God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

2. Ephesians 2:8-9 - For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.

Luke 7:44 And he turned to the woman, and said unto Simon, Seest thou this woman? I entered into thine house, thou gavest me no water for my feet: but she hath washed my feet with tears, and wiped them with the hairs of her head.

Jesus shows us the importance of showing hospitality and compassion.

1. "Living with Compassion: Jesus' Example of Hospitality"

2. "The Power of Compassion: How Jesus Changed Simon's Heart"

1. Ephesians 4:32 - "Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you."

2. James 2:13 - "For judgment is without mercy to one who has shown no mercy. Mercy triumphs over judgment."

Luke 7:45 Thou gavest me no kiss: but this woman since the time I came in hath not ceased to kiss my feet.

This passage speaks of Jesus showing mercy and grace towards a sinful woman, while he was not welcomed with the same respect.

1. Meriting Mercy: Jesus Teaches Us to Welcome Everyone with Love

2. Accepting Grace: How to Receive Forgiveness and Compassion

1. Ephesians 4:32 - And be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving one another, just as God also forgave you in Christ.

2. Proverbs 31:8-9 - Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute. Speak up and judge fairly; defend the rights of the poor and needy.

Luke 7:46 My head with oil thou didst not anoint: but this woman hath anointed my feet with ointment.

This passage speaks of the act of a woman anointing Jesus' feet with ointment.

1: Jesus teaches us that acts of kindness and selfless love are more important than tradition or ritual.

2: Jesus shows us that it is not what we do, but the heart with which we do it that matters.

1: John 13:34-35, "A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another."

2: 1 John 4:7-8, "Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God. He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love."

Luke 7:47 Wherefore I say unto thee, Her sins, which are many, are forgiven; for she loved much: but to whom little is forgiven, the same loveth little.

This passage emphasizes that when someone is forgiven much, they will love much; conversely, when someone is forgiven little, they will love little.

1. The Greater Our Forgiveness, the Greater Our Love

2. The Power of Love Through Forgiveness

1. 1 John 4:19 - We love because he first loved us.

2. Ephesians 4:32 - And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.

Luke 7:48 And he said unto her, Thy sins are forgiven.

This passage from Luke 7:48 speaks of Jesus forgiving a woman's sins.

1: God's mercy and love is available to everyone who turns to Him for forgiveness.

2: Jesus' words of forgiveness bring healing and hope to those who seek it.

1: Ephesians 4:32 - "And be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving one another, just as God also forgave you in Christ."

2: Romans 3:22-25 - "For there is no difference between Jew and Gentile—the same Lord is Lord of all and richly blesses all who call on him, for, “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.” How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? And how can they preach unless they are sent? As it is written, “How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!”

Luke 7:49 And they that sat at meat with him began to say within themselves, Who is this that forgiveth sins also?

At a meal, Jesus' guests noticed that He had the power to forgive sins and they began to wonder who He was.

1. Jesus is the Savior of the World: How His Forgiveness Changes Everything

2. The Power of Forgiveness: How Jesus' Love Transforms Lives

1. Ephesians 1:7 - In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace.

2. Colossians 1:14 - In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins.

Luke 7:50 And he said to the woman, Thy faith hath saved thee; go in peace.

Jesus commends a woman for her faith and tells her to go in peace.

1. The power of faith in Jesus Christ

2. Living a life of peace through faith in Jesus

1. Ephesians 2:8-9, "For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast."

2. James 3:17-18, "But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere. And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace."

Luke 8 contains important teachings from Jesus and recounts several significant miracles, including the parable of the sower, the calming of a storm, and healing miracles.

1st Paragraph: The chapter begins with Jesus traveling from town to town, preaching about the Kingdom of God. He was accompanied by His twelve disciples and some women who had been healed of evil spirits and diseases (Luke 8:1-3). Jesus then shared the parable of the sower to illustrate different responses to God's word. The seeds that fell on good soil represent those who hear God's word, retain it, and produce a crop (Luke 8:4-15). He also emphasized that no one lights a lamp just to hide it; likewise, nothing in our lives is hidden that won't be revealed or kept secret that won't become known (Luke 8:16-18).

2nd Paragraph: As Jesus was teaching, His mother and brothers came to see Him but couldn't reach Him due to the crowd. When told about this, Jesus responded by saying those who hear God's word and put it into practice are His true family (Luke 8:19-21). Later while crossing lake with disciples storm arose causing them fear for their lives despite experienced fishermen among them. In contrast sleeping calmly boat woke up rebuked wind waves calming storm demonstrating authority over nature disciples were left wondering at His power asking "Who is this? He commands even winds water they obey him" (Luke 8:22-25).

3rd Paragraph: Upon reaching other side lake region Gerasenes encountered demon possessed man lived tombs called himself Legion because many demons had entered

him. Demons begged not order them go Abyss instead allowed enter herd pigs nearby which then ran down steep bank into lake drowned demonstrating power over spiritual forces darkness deliverance brought man back sanity returned home proclaiming what done him throughout town (Luke 8:26-39). Chapter concludes two interconnected healing stories woman bleeding twelve years touched edge garment healed faith Jairus synagogue leader whose daughter dying time reached house girl already dead but took her hand said "Child arise!" she got up once began eat both these incidents affirmed authority over disease death ability bring wholeness life where there despair illness death.

Luke 8:1 And it came to pass afterward, that he went throughout every city and village, preaching and shewing the glad tidings of the kingdom of God: and the twelve were with him,

Jesus traveled to preach the good news of the kingdom of God and the twelve were with him.

1. Jesus is the bearer of Good News - Luke 8:1

2. The Call of Discipleship - Luke 8:1

1. Matthew 9:35 - 36 Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and healing every disease and sickness.

2. Mark 6:34 When Jesus landed and saw a large crowd, he had compassion on them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd. So he began teaching them many things.

Luke 8:2 And certain women, which had been healed of evil spirits and infirmities, Mary called Magdalene, out of whom went seven devils,

The passage mentions Mary Magdalene, who was healed of evil spirits and illnesses.

1. A about the power of healing and the love of Christ.

2. A about overcoming adversity and how God can help us through it.

1. Isaiah 53:5 - But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed.

2. James 5:16 - Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.

Luke 8:3 And Joanna the wife of Chuza Herod's steward, and Susanna, and many others, which ministered unto him of their substance.

This passage highlights the many women who contributed to Jesus and his ministry, using their own resources.

1. "Living Generously: The Power of Women's Support"

2. "Women in the Kingdom: A Model of Dedication and Investment"

1. Proverbs 31:10-31

2. Luke 16:10-13

Luke 8:4 And when much people were gathered together, and were come to him out of every city, he spake by a parable:

The large crowd gathered in every city to hear Jesus teach.

1. Jesus Teaches Through Parables

2. The Power of Jesus' Word

1. Matthew 13:3-9 - Jesus explains the parable of the sower.

2. Psalm 19:7-8 - The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul; the testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple.

Luke 8:5 A sower went out to sow his seed: and as he sowed, some fell by the way side;

and it was trodden down, and the fowls of the air devoured it.

A sower went out to distribute his seeds, but some of the seeds fell in a place where it was stepped on and eaten by birds.

1. The Sower's Faithfulness ??How God's Faithfulness can be seen through the Sower's Actions

2. The Risk in Reaching Out ??We must be willing to take risks to reach out and sow the seeds of the gospel.

1. Matthew 13:3-9 ??Jesus explains the parable of the sower and the seed.

2. John 4:35-38 ??Jesus encourages his disciples to sow the seeds of the gospel.

Luke 8:6 And some fell upon a rock; and as soon as it was sprung up, it withered away, because it lacked moisture.

The seed that fell on the rock withered away due to a lack of moisture.

1: God's provision is always sufficient for us; we must take care to seek it out in order to flourish.

2: We must be careful how we respond to God's word if we want to flourish in life.

1: Psalm 1:3 - "He is like a tree planted by streams of water that yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither."

2: Isaiah 58:11 - "And the Lord will guide you continually and satisfy your desire in scorched places and make your bones strong; and you shall be like a watered garden, like a spring of water, whose waters do not fail."

Luke 8:7 And some fell among thorns; and the thorns sprang up with it, and choked it.

This passage teaches us that if we allow distractions to take root in our lives, they can hinder us from growing in our faith.

1. "Sowing Seeds of Faith Despite Distractions"

2. "Growing in Faith in Spite of Challenges"

1. Colossians 3:2 - "Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things."

2. 1 Corinthians 10:13 - "No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it."

Luke 8:8 And other fell on good ground, and sprang up, and bare fruit an hundredfold. And when he had said these things, he cried, He that hath ears to hear, let him hear.

The parable of the sower encourages listeners to put their faith in God to grow and bear fruit.

1. When We Put Our Faith in God, He Will Provide for Us

2. The Power of Faith in God to Transform Lives

1. 2 Corinthians 9:8 - And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work.

2. Matthew 17:20 - He said to them, ?□ecause of your little faith. For truly, I say to you, if you have faith like a grain of mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, ?□ove from here to there,??and it will move, and nothing will be impossible for you.??

Luke 8:9 And his disciples asked him, saying, What might this parable be?

This passage tells of Jesus' disciples inquiring about the meaning of a parable he had spoken.

1. We must always be willing to ask questions to better understand God's Word.

2. We should approach God with an open heart and mind, seeking truth and wisdom.

1. Proverbs 2:3-5 - if you call out for insight and raise your voice for understanding, if you seek it like silver and search for it as for hidden treasures, then you will understand the fear of the Lord and find the knowledge of God.

2. James 1:5 - If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you.

Luke 8:10 And he said, Unto you it is given to know the mysteries of the kingdom of God: but to others in parables; that seeing they might not see, and hearing they might not understand.

The mysteries of the Kingdom of God are revealed to those who seek it, but remain hidden from those who do not.

1. The Power of Faith: Seeking the Mysteries of the Kingdom of God

2. The Veil of Unbelief: Uncovering the Mysteries of the Kingdom of God

1. Matthew 13:11-17 - Parable of the Sower

2. John 6:44-45 - Drawing All to God

Luke 8:11 Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God.

This parable is teaching us that the Word of God is like a seed that needs to be sown and tended to in order to grow and bear fruit.

1. "The Word of God is Like a Seed"

2. "Growing in Faith Through the Word of God"

1. Matthew 13:1-9 - The Parable of the Sower

2. James 1:18-25 - Being Doers of the Word

Luke 8:12 Those by the way side are they that hear; then cometh the devil, and taketh

away the word out of their hearts, lest they should believe and be saved.

The Word of God is not always accepted by all, and the devil is quick to take away its message from those who do not receive it.

1. Heeding the Word of God: The Power of Acceptance

2. Rejecting the Word of God: The Consequences of Disobedience

1. Matthew 13:18-23 - The Parable of the Sower

2. James 1:21 - The Word of Truth in Action

Luke 8:13 They on the rock are they, which, when they hear, receive the word with joy; and these have no root, which for a while believe, and in time of temptation fall away.

The parable of the sower teaches that not everyone who hears the Word of God will truly receive it. Some will accept it, but not have a deep enough root to remain faithful when tested.

1. Cultivate a Deep Root: How to Ensure Your Faithfulness in the Face of Temptation

2. The Parable of the Sower: Gaining a Deeper Understanding of the Word of God

1. James 1:2-4 - Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, 3 because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. 4 Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.

2. Colossians 2:6-7 - So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him, 7 rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness.

Luke 8:14 And that which fell among thorns are they, which, when they have heard, go forth, and are choked with cares and riches and pleasures of this life, and bring no fruit to perfection.

The parable of the sower reveals that some people who hear the word of God are easily

distracted by worldly cares and pleasures, thus preventing them from bearing fruit.

1: Don't let the cares of this world choke out your faith.

2: Reject the distractions of the world and keep your focus on God.

1: Matthew 6:24-34 - Jesus encourages us to not let our hearts be weighted down by worldly concerns.

2: James 4:7-10 - Resist the devil and draw near to God.

Luke 8:15 But that on the good ground are they, which in an honest and good heart, having heard the word, keep it, and bring forth fruit with patience.

Those who hear the Word of God and keep it in their hearts, showing patience and perseverance, will bring forth good fruit.

1. The Power of Patience in the Christian Life

2. Cultivating a Good and Honest Heart

1. James 1:2-4 - Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.

2. Psalm 51:10 - Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me.

Luke 8:16 No man, when he hath lighted a candle, covereth it with a vessel, or putteth it under a bed; but setteth it on a candlestick, that they which enter in may see the light.

No man hides a light when they have lit it; instead, it is placed in a visible place for others to see.

1: Shine your light for the world to see and be a beacon of hope for others.

2: We are called to be beacons of light and to share the truth of the Gospel with the world.

1: Matthew 5:16 - Let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.

2: John 1:4-5 - In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

Luke 8:17 For nothing is secret, that shall not be made manifest; neither any thing hid, that shall not be known and come abroad.

Nothing is hidden, nothing will remain a secret; all secrets will be revealed.

1: We should strive to live a life of integrity and honesty, for God sees all and nothing is hidden from Him.

2: God is sovereign and no secret is hidden from Him, we should seek to be obedient and act in accordance with His will.

1: Job 34:21-22 - For his eyes are upon the ways of man, and he seeth all his goings. There is no darkness, nor shadow of death, where the workers of iniquity may hide themselves.

2: Proverbs 5:21 - For the ways of man are before the eyes of the LORD, and he pondereth all his goings.

Luke 8:18 Take heed therefore how ye hear: for whosoever hath, to him shall be given; and whosoever hath not, from him shall be taken even that which he seemeth to have.

Jesus teaches us to take heed to what we hear so we can receive blessings from God and not lose what we already have.

1. Put on the Ears of Faith: Learning to Listen to God's Word

2. A Blessing for the Listening Heart: Unlocking the Riches of God's Word

1. James 1:19-21 - Understand that God's Word is perfect and should be applied to our

lives.

2. Psalm 119:105 - Meditate on God's Word day and night to understand it more deeply.

Luke 8:19 Then came to him his mother and his brethren, and could not come at him for the press.

Jesus' mother and brothers tried to reach Him, but were unable to because of the large crowd.

1. Do not let any obstacle stop you from seeking God.

2. It is important to prioritize our relationships with family and with God.

1. Matthew 6:33 - But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.

2. Mark 3:31-35 - There came then his brethren and his mother, and, standing without, sent unto him, calling him. And the multitude sat about him, and they said unto him, Behold, thy mother and thy brethren without seek for thee. And he answered them, saying, Who is my mother, or my brethren? And he looked round about on them which sat about him, and said, Behold my mother and my brethren! For whosoever shall do the will of God, the same is my brother, and my sister, and mother.

Luke 8:20 And it was told him by certain which said, Thy mother and thy brethren stand without, desiring to see thee.

Jesus is informed by people that his mother and his brothers are outside wanting to see him.

1. ?□amily Ties: The Love of Jesus for His Own??

2. ?□he Power of Love: The Unconditional Love of Jesus??

1. Matthew 12:46-50 (Jesus' response to his mother and brothers)

2. Mark 3:31-35 (Jesus' response to his mother and brothers)

Luke 8:21 And he answered and said unto them, My mother and my brethren are these which hear the word of God, and do it.

My mother and my brethren are those who listen to the word of God and act on it.

1. 'The Promise of Abundant Life', emphasizing the importance of living according to God's Word

2. 'The Power of Listening', emphasizing the importance of taking time to deeply listen to God's Word

1. James 1:22-25, which speaks of being doers of the Word and not just hearers

2. John 14:15-21, which speaks of Jesus' promise of eternal life for those who keep his commandments

Luke 8:22 Now it came to pass on a certain day, that he went into a ship with his disciples: and he said unto them, Let us go over unto the other side of the lake. And they launched forth.

Jesus and his disciples get into a boat and set sail to the other side of the lake.

1. Jesus' Journey with His Disciples: The Power of Togetherness

2. The Faith of Jesus and His Disciples: Learning to Trust God in Difficult Situations

1. Hebrews 11:1 - "Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen."

2. Romans 8:28 - "And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose."

Luke 8:23 But as they sailed he fell asleep: and there came down a storm of wind on the lake; and they were filled with water, and were in jeopardy.

The disciples experienced a storm while sailing with Jesus, during which they were in

danger of sinking.

1. We can trust God in times of danger and uncertainty.

2. Even when things seem out of control, God is in control and can bring us through any situation.

1. Psalm 46:1-3 - God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

2. Isaiah 43:2 - When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you.

Luke 8:24 And they came to him, and awoke him, saying, Master, master, we perish. Then he arose, and rebuked the wind and the raging of the water: and they ceased, and there was a calm.

The disciples feared they would perish in a storm, but Jesus calmed the wind and water.

1. In times of trouble, we can trust in Jesus to bring us peace.

2. God is sovereign over all the elements of nature, and He will protect us even in the midst of a storm.

1. Matthew 6:25-27 - Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes? Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they?

2. Psalm 46:10 - He says, ?□e still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth.??

Luke 8:25 And he said unto them, Where is your faith? And they being afraid wondered, saying one to another, What manner of man is this! for he commandeth even the winds and water, and they obey him.

Faith is essential to obeying God's commands.

1. "The Power of Faith: Obeying God's Commands"

2. "Fear Not: The Strength of Faith"

1. Hebrews 11:1-6

2. Romans 10:17

Luke 8:26 And they arrived at the country of the Gadarenes, which is over against Galilee.

The passage tells of Jesus and his disciples arriving in the country of the Gadarenes, which is across from Galilee.

1. Jesus' Journey to the Opposite Side - Exploring the Significance of Jesus' Miracle at the Country of the Gadarenes

2. Stepping Out of Our Comfort Zones - The Example of Jesus' Mission to the Country of the Gadarenes

1. Matthew 8:28-34 - Jesus' Miracle in the Country of the Gadarenes

2. Mark 5:1-20 - Jesus' Miracle with the Demon-Possessed Man in the Country of the Gadarenes

Luke 8:27 And when he went forth to land, there met him out of the city a certain man, which had devils long time, and ware no clothes, neither abode in any house, but in the tombs.

Passage A man with demons in him, who was not dressed and lived in tombs, met Jesus when he arrived on land.

1. The Hope of the Outcast: How Jesus Redeems the Most Lost.

2. Jesus' Unconditional Love: How He Reaches Out to All.

1. Matthew 12:22-28 - Jesus casts out a demon and is accused of casting out demons by the power of Beelzebul.

2. Mark 5:1-20 - Jesus casts out many demons from a man and sends them into a herd of pigs.

Luke 8:28 When he saw Jesus, he cried out, and fell down before him, and with a loud voice said, What have I to do with thee, Jesus, thou Son of God most high? I beseech thee, torment me not.

The man asked Jesus not to torment him as he recognized Jesus to be the Son of God.

1. The Power of Recognizing Jesus as the Son of God

2. The Importance of Trusting in Jesus

1. Matthew 8:29 - "And, behold, they cried out, saying, What have we to do with thee, Jesus, thou Son of God?"

2. Philippians 4:6-7 - "Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus."

Luke 8:29 (For he had commanded the unclean spirit to come out of the man. For oftentimes it had caught him: and he was kept bound with chains and in fetters; and he brake the bands, and was driven of the devil into the wilderness.)

The passage speaks of a man who was being kept by the devil in chains, but Jesus commanded the unclean spirit to come out of him.

1: We can always turn to Jesus in moments of despair, for He will always set us free.

2: Even when we feel powerless, Jesus can provide us strength to break the chains of our captivity.

1: Romans 8:1-2 (There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ

Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death.)

2: Psalm 146:7 (Which executeth judgment for the oppressed: which giveth food to the hungry. The LORD looseth the prisoners:)

Luke 8:30 And Jesus asked him, saying, What is thy name? And he said, Legion: because many devils were entered into him.

This passage describes how Jesus encountered a man who was possessed by many devils, to which Jesus asked him his name and the man replied with "Legion".

1. Overcoming our inner demons through faith in Jesus

2. Understanding our identity in Christ

1. Matthew 8:28-34 ??Jesus casts out demons from two men

2. Romans 8:37-39 ??No power can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus

Luke 8:31 And they besought him that he would not command them to go out into the deep.

A group of demons asked Jesus not to send them into the deep.

1. The Depths of Faith: Learning to Trust in Jesus

2. Overcoming Temptation: Rejecting Satan's Lies

1. Matthew 4:1-11 - Jesus' temptation in the wilderness

2. James 4:7 - Resist the devil and he will flee from you

Luke 8:32 And there was there an herd of many swine feeding on the mountain: and they besought him that he would suffer them to enter into them. And he suffered them.

The herd of swine were allowed to enter the mountains by Jesus.

1: We should remember that Jesus is full of grace and mercy and we can trust Him to do what is best for us.

2: Jesus's power is limitless and He can heal and help in ways that we cannot imagine.

1: Matthew 8:1-3 - When Jesus entered Capernaum, a centurion came to Him asking for help for his servant.

2: John 8:1-11 - Jesus forgave the woman caught in adultery and told her to go and sin no more.

Luke 8:33 Then went the devils out of the man, and entered into the swine: and the herd ran violently down a steep place into the lake, and were choked.

The devils left a man and possessed a herd of swine, which then ran down a steep place and died in the lake.

1. The Power of Jesus to Overcome Demonic Possession

2. The Importance of Trusting in the Lord

1. Matthew 8:28-34 - Jesus Takes Authority Over the Demons

2. James 1:2-4 - Finding Joy in Trials and Tribulations.

Luke 8:34 When they that fed them saw what was done, they fled, and went and told it in the city and in the country.

The people who were feeding the demon-possessed man were frightened when they saw Jesus cast out the demons and ran to tell others what happened.

1. The Power of Jesus Christ - How Jesus has the power to overcome anything.

2. Responding to the Miracles of Jesus - How we should respond to the miracles and

wonders Jesus performs.

1. Matthew 8:16 - When evening came, many who were demon-possessed were brought to Jesus, and he drove out the spirits with a word and healed all the sick.

2. Mark 5:19 - However, Jesus did not allow him, but said to him, ?□o home to your own people and tell them how much the Lord has done for you, and how he has had mercy on you.??

Luke 8:35 Then they went out to see what was done; and came to Jesus, and found the man, out of whom the devils were departed, sitting at the feet of Jesus, clothed, and in his right mind: and they were afraid.

The man with demons was healed by Jesus and was found at His feet, clothed and of sound mind.

1. God's power to heal and restore us can be found in Jesus.

2. Jesus is the source of our hope and healing.

1. Isaiah 53:5 - ?□ut he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed.??

2. Matthew 11:28 - ?□ome to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.??

Luke 8:36 They also which saw it told them by what means he that was possessed of the devils was healed.

This passage tells of how Jesus healed someone from their possession by the devil.

1. God's power to heal the oppressed

2. The truth of Jesus' power to save

1. Isaiah 53:5 - "But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are

healed."

2. Acts 10:38 - "How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him."

Luke 8:37 Then the whole multitude of the country of the Gadarenes round about besought him to depart from them; for they were taken with great fear: and he went up into the ship, and returned back again.

The people of the Gadarenes begged Jesus to leave their town out of fear. Jesus then returned to the boat and left.

1. God's power and presence can bring fear even to those who don't know Him.

2. When we feel overwhelmed or scared, Jesus is always there to help us.

1. Psalm 34:7 - The angel of the Lord encamps around those who fear him, and delivers them.

2. Isaiah 41:10 - Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.

Luke 8:38 Now the man out of whom the devils were departed besought him that he might be with him: but Jesus sent him away, saying,

The man who was freed from demons asked to stay with Jesus, but Jesus told him to go and spread the good news about what had happened.

1. The importance of witnessing - the man asked to stay with Jesus, but Jesus told him to go out and spread the good news about what had happened.

2. The power of Jesus - Jesus had the powerful ability to cast out demons and set a man free.

1. Mark 16:15-20 - And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.

2. Acts 1:8 - But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

Luke 8:39 Return to thine own house, and shew how great things God hath done unto thee. And he went his way, and published throughout the whole city how great things Jesus had done unto him.

A man was healed by Jesus, and he returned home and told everyone in the city about Jesus' healing power.

1. How the Power of Jesus Heals and Transforms Lives

2. The Power of Testimony: How Our Stories Can Impact the World

1. Mark 5:19 - ?nd he comandeth them strictly that no man should know it; and commanded that something should be given her to eat.??

2. Romans 10:14-15 - ?ow then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach, except they be sent???

Luke 8:40 And it came to pass, that, when Jesus was returned, the people gladly received him: for they were all waiting for him.

The people eagerly awaited the return of Jesus.

1: Waiting on the Lord brings joy and satisfaction.

2: God sometimes delays but will never disappoint.

1: Psalm 27:14 - Wait for the Lord; be strong and take heart and wait for the Lord.

2: Isaiah 40:31 - But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.

Luke 8:41 And, behold, there came a man named Jairus, and he was a ruler of the synagogue: and he fell down at Jesus' feet, and besought him that he would come into

his house:

A man named Jairus, a ruler of the synagogue, fell at Jesus' feet and begged Him to come to his house.

1. The Humility and Faith of Jairus

2. The Power of Jesus' Presence

1. Matthew 15:22-28 - The faith of the Canaanite woman

2. Mark 5:21-43 - Jesus healing the woman with a hemorrhage and raising Jairus' daughter from the dead

Luke 8:42 For he had one only daughter, about twelve years of age, and she lay a dying. But as he went the people thronged him.

The passage tells of a father who had one daughter who was about twelve years old and was dying. The people around him thronged him as he went.

1. The Value of Family: A Father's Love in Times of Sorrow

2. The Power of Compassion: A Father's Grief in Times of Need

1. Psalm 34:18 - ?□he LORD is near to the brokenhearted and saves the crushed in spirit.??

2. Matthew 9:36 - ?□hen he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.??

Luke 8:43 And a woman having an issue of blood twelve years, which had spent all her living upon physicians, neither could be healed of any,

This passage tells of a woman who had been suffering from a bleeding disorder for 12 years and had spent all her money on medical treatment without success.

1. God is the ultimate healer and our hope for healing lies in Him.

2. God's power is greater than all of our combined efforts.

1. James 5:14-15 ?s anyone among you sick? Let them call the elders of the church to pray over them and anoint them with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise them up.??

2. Isaiah 53:5 "But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed."

Luke 8:44 Came behind him, and touched the border of his garment: and immediately her issue of blood stanched.

This passage from Luke 8:44 tells the story of a woman with a severe medical condition who was healed when she touched the hem of Jesus' garment.

1. Jesus' Healing Power: A Sign of His Divinity

2. Faith and Miracles: How Our Beliefs Can Help Us Overcome Adversity

1. Matthew 9:20-22 (And, behold, a woman, which was diseased with an issue of blood twelve years, came behind him, and touched the hem of his garment: For she said within herself, If I may but touch his garment, I shall be whole. But Jesus turned him about, and when he saw her, he said, Daughter, be of good comfort; thy faith hath made thee whole. And the woman was made whole from that hour.)

2. Hebrews 11:1 (Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.)

Luke 8:45 And Jesus said, Who touched me? When all denied, Peter and they that were with him said, Master, the multitude throng thee and press thee, and sayest thou, Who touched me?

Jesus was asking who had touched Him, even though He was surrounded by a large crowd of people.

1. The Power of a Touch: How Jesus Sees Every Prayer and Act of Obedience

2. The Importance of Emotional Connection: Jesus Seeks a Relationship with His Followers

1. John 20:27-29 - Jesus? appearance to Thomas and his call for Thomas to touch Him.

2. Matthew 9:20-22 - Jesus? healing of the woman with the issue of blood and the power of faith that enabled her to touch Him.

Luke 8:46 And Jesus said, Somebody hath touched me: for I perceive that virtue is gone out of me.

Jesus sensed that someone had touched him and that His power had gone out from Him.

1. The Power of Jesus??Touch: Learning to Receive God? Grace and Mercy

2. The Miracle of Jesus??Touch: Experiencing the Healing Power of God

1. Mark 5:30, "And Jesus, immediately knowing in himself that virtue had gone out of him, turned him about in the press, and said, Who touched my clothes?"

2. James 5:14-16, "Is any sick among you? let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord: And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him. Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much."

Luke 8:47 And when the woman saw that she was not hid, she came trembling, and falling down before him, she declared unto him before all the people for what cause she had touched him, and how she was healed immediately.

The woman recognized the power of Jesus and fell down before him, declaring the cause of why she touched him and how she was healed.

1. The Power of Faith: Recognizing the Power of Jesus

2. The Healing of Faith: Experiencing the Miracles of Jesus

1. Matthew 9:20-22 - "And behold, a woman who had suffered from a discharge of blood for twelve years came up behind him and touched the fringe of his garment, for she said to herself, ?f I only touch his garment, I will be made well.??Jesus turned, and seeing her he said, ?ake heart, daughter; your faith has made you well.??And instantly the woman was made well.

2. Mark 5:25-34 - And a woman was there who had been subject to bleeding for twelve years. She had suffered a great deal under the care of many doctors and had spent all she had, yet instead of getting better she grew worse. When she heard about Jesus, she came up behind him in the crowd and touched his cloak, because she thought, ?f I just touch his clothes, I will be healed.??Immediately her bleeding stopped and she felt in her body that she was freed from her suffering.

Luke 8:48 And he said unto her, Daughter, be of good comfort: thy faith hath made thee whole; go in peace.

This verse emphasizes the importance of faith in bringing peace.

1: Our faith in God can bring us peace and comfort in difficult times.

2: We can find peace and comfort in the Lord even when life gets hard.

1: Philippians 4:7 - And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

2: Isaiah 26:3 - Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee.

Luke 8:49 While he yet spake, there cometh one from the ruler of the synagogue's house, saying to him, Thy daughter is dead; trouble not the Master.

Jesus was speaking to a synagogue ruler when a messenger arrived with news that his daughter had died. The messenger told him not to bother the Master.

1. Jesus Cares: The Power of Compassion and Love

2. Signs and Miracles: How Jesus Transforms Lives

1. John 11:25-26 - Jesus said to her, ? am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes

in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die.

2. Mark 5:35-36 - While he was still speaking, there came from the ruler's house some who said, ?□our daughter is dead. Why trouble the Teacher any further???But overhearing what they said, Jesus said to the ruler of the synagogue, ?□o not fear, only believe.??

Luke 8:50 But when Jesus heard it, he answered him, saying, Fear not: believe only, and she shall be made whole.

The passage encourages faith in Jesus and promises healing.

1. Trust in Jesus: Believe and Receive His Healing

2. Fear Not: Put Your Faith in Jesus and Receive His Blessing

1. Hebrews 11:6 - And without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him.

2. Isaiah 41:10 - Fear not, for I am with you; Be not dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, Yes, I will help you, I will uphold you with My righteous right hand.

Luke 8:51 And when he came into the house, he suffered no man to go in, save Peter, and James, and John, and the father and the mother of the maiden.

Jesus enters the home of a sick girl and only allows Peter, James, John, and the girl's parents to enter.

1. The Power of Jesus: How Jesus Healed the Sick Girl

2. The Faith of the Father: How the Father's Faith Changed the Course of History

1. Matthew 8:14-15 ??Jesus heals the sick

2. Mark 5:22-43 ??Jesus raises Jairus' daughter from the dead

Luke 8:52 And all wept, and bewailed her: but he said, Weep not; she is not dead, but sleepeth.

The woman who was thought to be dead was only sleeping and Jesus commanded the mourning crowd to not weep.

1: Weeping in Faith - Trusting in God in times of sorrow

2: The Power of Jesus - How Jesus brought life to the dead

1: John 11:25-26 - Jesus said to her, ?□ am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die.

2: Mark 5:35-43 - Jesus raises Jairus' daughter from the dead.

Luke 8:53 And they laughed him to scorn, knowing that she was dead.

The people laughed at Jesus for claiming that he could bring the dead woman back to life.

1. Jesus: The Hope of Eternal Life

2. Have Faith in Jesus Even When It Seems Impossible

1. John 11:25-26 - Jesus said, ?□ am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die.??

2. Matthew 17:20 - He said to them, ?□ecause of your little faith. For truly, I say to you, if you have faith like a grain of mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, ?□ove from here to there,??and it will move, and nothing will be impossible for you.??

Luke 8:54 And he put them all out, and took her by the hand, and called, saying, Maid, arise.

Jesus healed a woman who had been suffering from a sickness for a long time by taking her hand and telling her to arise.

1. Faith in Jesus Heals: A Study on the Miraculous Power of Jesus

2. Experiencing Miraculous Healing in Jesus' Name

1. Matthew 9:2- 8; Jesus heals a man with paralysis

2. Mark 5:25-34; Jesus heals a woman with a hemorrhage

Luke 8:55 And her spirit came again, and she arose straightway: and he commanded to give her meat.

This passage describes Jesus healing a woman by restoring life to her spirit and then commanding food to be given to her.

1. Jesus' power to heal and provide sustenance

2. The importance of following Jesus' commands

1. Matthew 8:2-3 - "And, behold, there came a leper and worshipped him, saying, Lord, if thou wilt, thou canst make me clean. And Jesus put forth his hand, and touched him, saying, I will; be thou clean. And immediately his leprosy was cleansed."

2. Mark 1:40-41 - "And there came a leper to him, beseeching him, and kneeling down to him, and saying unto him, If thou wilt, thou canst make me clean. And Jesus, moved with compassion, put forth his hand, and touched him, and saith unto him, I will; be thou clean."

Luke 8:56 And her parents were astonished: but he charged them that they should tell no man what was done.

This passage from Luke 8:56 tells us of a miraculous healing that Jesus performed on a young girl who had been dead for a period of time. He then asked the girl's parents to not tell anyone about what had happened.

1. "The Power of Faith: The Miraculous Healing of the Young Girl"

2. "The Will of God: Keeping His Miracles Secret"

1. Matthew 8:1-4, Jesus Heals a Man with Leprosy

2. Acts 5:12-16, Peter Heals a Lame Man at the Gate of the Temple

Luke 9 includes the sending out of the twelve disciples, the feeding of the five thousand, Peter's confession of Christ, and Jesus' transfiguration.

1st Paragraph: The chapter begins with Jesus giving His twelve disciples power and authority to drive out demons and cure diseases. He sent them out to proclaim God's kingdom and heal the sick. He instructed them not to take anything for their journey but rely on hospitality from those who would receive their message (Luke 9:1-6). Meanwhile, Herod Antipas heard about all that was happening and was perplexed because some were saying that John had been raised from the dead (Luke 9:7-9).

2nd Paragraph: After returning from their mission trip, Jesus took His disciples aside privately near Bethsaida but crowds found out followed Him welcomed people spoke about Kingdom God healed those needed healing as day wearing on Twelve suggested dismiss crowd could find food lodging nearby villages however challenged "You give them something eat." They protested only five loaves two fish unless went bought food all people. But organizing crowd groups fifty had disciples distribute loaves fishes after given thanks miraculous multiplication everyone ate satisfied twelve baskets leftover pieces collected demonstrating divine provision compassion needs multitude (Luke 9:10-17).

3rd Paragraph: Later in private setting asked His disciples who crowds say He is they reported some thought John Baptist others Elijah still others one ancient prophets come back life then asked "But what about you? Who do you say I am?" Peter answered "God's Messiah" showing recognition Jesus' true identity mission (Luke 9:18-20). Following this Jesus began teach must suffer many things rejected elders chief priests teachers law must killed third day raised life also spoke cost following Him self-denial taking up one's cross daily losing one's life sake gain it warning those ashamed Him Son Man will be ashamed when comes glory Father holy angels (Luke 9:21-27). Chapter concludes account transfiguration where Jesus took Peter John James up mountain pray appearance changed clothes became dazzling white Moses Elijah appeared glorious splendor talked departure which about bring fulfillment Jerusalem witnessed voice heaven affirming "This my Son whom chosen; listen him!" After this experience kept secret told no one time what seen final part chapter deals unsuccessful exorcism boy demon possessed later successfully performed by rebuking impure spirit healing boy returning him father again demonstrating authority over spiritual forces also includes brief teaching greatness welcoming little children name prediction His betrayal desire follow wherever goes correction misguided zeal James John wanted call fire down Samaritan village did not welcome Him journey Jerusalem underlines radical demands costs discipleship challenges conventional expectations what means follow serve Kingdom God.

Luke 9:1 Then he called his twelve disciples together, and gave them power and authority over all devils, and to cure diseases.

Jesus called his twelve disciples and gave them power and authority over demons and to heal diseases.

1. The Power of Jesus: How Jesus Gave His Disciples Power and Authority to Heal

2. Jesus's Love for His Disciples: How Jesus Showed His Disciples His Great Love Through Granting Them Authority

1. Matthew 10:1 - And when he had called unto him his twelve disciples, he gave them power against unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all manner of sickness and all manner of disease.

2. Mark 6:7 - And he called unto him the twelve, and began to send them forth by two and two; and gave them power over unclean spirits.

Luke 9:2 And he sent them to preach the kingdom of God, and to heal the sick.

Jesus sent his disciples to preach the message of the kingdom of God and to heal the sick.

1. The Power of Preaching: How Jesus Changed Lives Through His Gospel

2. Healing Through Faith: Understanding the Miracles of Jesus

1. Matthew 10:6-8 - "Go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. And proclaim as you go, saying, 'The kingdom of heaven is at hand.' Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse lepers, cast out demons."

2. James 5:13-16 - "Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray. Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing praise. Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer of faith will save the one who is sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven."

Luke 9:3 And he said unto them, Take nothing for your journey, neither staves, nor scrip, neither bread, neither money; neither have two coats apiece.

Jesus instructed his disciples to not take anything with them on their journey.

1. Trusting God in Unfamiliar Situations

2. Living a Life of Simplicity

1. Matthew 10:9-10 “Provide neither gold, nor silver, nor brass in your purses, Nor scrip for your journey, neither two coats, neither shoes, nor yet staves: for the workman is worthy of his meat.”

2. Deuteronomy 8:2-3 “And thou shalt remember all the way which the LORD thy God led thee these forty years in the wilderness, to humble thee, and to prove thee, to know what was in thine heart, whether thou wouldest keep his commandments, or no. And he humbled thee, and suffered thee to hunger, and fed thee with manna, which thou knewest not, neither did thy fathers know; that he might make thee know that man doth not live by bread only, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of the LORD doth man live.”

Luke 9:4 And whatsoever house ye enter into, there abide, and thence depart.

This passage from Luke encourages believers to stay where they are welcomed and to leave when it is time to go.

1. The Power of Hospitality: How Welcoming Others Can Transform Our Lives

2. The Blessings of Obedience: How Following God's Commands Brings Rewards

1. Romans 12:13 - “Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality.”

2. Hebrews 13:2 - “Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares.”

Luke 9:5 And whosoever will not receive you, when ye go out of that city, shake off the very dust from your feet for a testimony against them.

The passage discusses the importance of testifying against those who do not accept Jesus' message.

1. The Power of Testimony: How to Use Your Witness to Spread the Word of God

2. Refusing to Be Silenced: The Strength of Our Faith in the Face of Rejection

1. Acts 5:29-32 - Peter and the other apostles' decision to obey God instead of men.

2. Jeremiah 5:1 - God's call to search for faithfulness in Jerusalem.

Luke 9:6 And they departed, and went through the towns, preaching the gospel, and healing every where.

Jesus sent his disciples to preach the gospel and heal the sick.

1. The Power of Jesus' Ministry: How Jesus Sent His Disciples to Preach and Heal

2. God's Love in Action: The Example of Jesus' Ministry of Preaching and Healing

1. Acts 10:38 - "How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power, who went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him."

2. Matthew 5:14-16 - "You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven."

Luke 9:7 Now Herod the tetrarch heard of all that was done by him: and he was perplexed, because that it was said of some, that John was risen from the dead;

Herod was perplexed by the claims that John the Baptist had risen from the dead.

1: Jesus' power is greater than death, and nothing is impossible for Him.

2: We cannot be perplexed by God's power, but must trust in His faithfulness.

1: John 11:25-26 - Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die.”

2: Romans 8:38-39 - For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Luke 9:8 And of some, that Elias had appeared; and of others, that one of the old prophets was risen again.

The people had heard of the miraculous events of Elijah and one of the old prophets being resurrected.

1. Miracles are Possible Through Faith

2. The Power of Hope in Difficult Times

1. Matthew 17:1-9 - Jesus Transfiguration

2. John 11:17-44 - Jesus Raises Lazarus from the Dead

Luke 9:9 And Herod said, John have I beheaded: but who is this, of whom I hear such things? And he desired to see him.

This passage tells the story of Herod hearing about Jesus and wanting to meet Him.

1. The Power of Jesus' Fame: How the Gospel Spreads

2. The Curiosity of Herod: How God Uses Our Desires

1. Mark 6:14-16 - Herod's reaction to Jesus parallels the story of Herod hearing about the miracles of Jesus and wanting to meet Him.

2. Proverbs 16:3 - Commit your work to the Lord, and your plans will be established.

Luke 9:10 And the apostles, when they were returned, told him all that they had done. And he took them, and went aside privately into a desert place belonging to the city called Bethsaida.

The apostles told Jesus all that they had done, and then Jesus took them to a desert place near the city of Bethsaida.

1. The Power of Obedience: Obeying Jesus Through Action

2. Jesus: A Model of Compassionate Leadership

1. Luke 6:40, "A disciple is not above his teacher, but everyone when he is fully trained will be like his teacher."

2. Matthew 9:35-36, "Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and healing every disease and sickness. When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd."

Luke 9:11 And the people, when they knew it, followed him: and he received them, and spake unto them of the kingdom of God, and healed them that had need of healing.

Jesus received a large crowd of people who followed him and he spoke to them about the Kingdom of God and healed those who were in need of healing.

1. Jesus' Welcoming Love: How Jesus Welcomed and Healed a Crowd

2. The Power of the Kingdom: How Jesus Demonstrated the Kingdom of God

1. Colossians 1:13-14 - For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

2. Romans 12:12 - Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer.

Luke 9:12 And when the day began to wear away, then came the twelve, and said unto

him, Send the multitude away, that they may go into the towns and country round about, and lodge, and get victuals: for we are here in a desert place.

The disciples asked Jesus to send away the crowds that had followed Him into the desert so that they could find food and lodging.

1. Jesus showed compassion to the crowds even in a difficult situation.

2. We should be mindful of the needs of others, especially in times of hardship.

1. Matthew 14:13-21 – Jesus fed the five thousand.

2. Acts 6:1-7 – The early Church appointed deacons to care for the needs of the widows.

Luke 9:13 But he said unto them, Give ye them to eat. And they said, We have no more but five loaves and two fishes; except we should go and buy meat for all this people.

The disciples of Jesus were worried because there were so many people to feed with so little food, but Jesus told them to give the people what they had.

1. God can use what we have to accomplish His will.

2. Even when it seems impossible, trust God to provide.

1. Philippians 4:19 - And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus.

2. Matthew 14:16-21 - Jesus took the five loaves and two fish, blessed and broke them, and fed the 5000.

Luke 9:14 For they were about five thousand men. And he said to his disciples, Make them sit down by fifties in a company.

Jesus fed five thousand people with five loaves and two fish, and he asked his disciples to arrange the people into groups of fifty.

1. Jesus' example of generosity and hospitality.

2. The importance of disciples carrying out the Lord's commands.

1. Matthew 14:13-21 - Jesus Feeds the Five Thousand

2. John 6:1-15 - Jesus Feeds the Five Thousand Again

Luke 9:15 And they did so, and made them all sit down.

The disciples followed Jesus' command and made everyone sit down.

1: God wants us to obey His commands to keep order and peace in our lives.

2: When we obey Jesus, we demonstrate our faith and trust in Him.

1: Ephesians 6:1-3 - Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. “Honor your father and mother”—which is the first commandment with a promise— “so that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth.”

2: Matthew 28:19-20 - Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.

Luke 9:16 Then he took the five loaves and the two fishes, and looking up to heaven, he blessed them, and brake, and gave to the disciples to set before the multitude.

Jesus took five loaves and two fishes, blessed them, and then distributed them to the multitude.

1. God's Provision - the miracle of Jesus feeding the multitude with only a few loaves and fishes.

2. Jesus' Compassion - Jesus' care and compassion for the people, providing for their physical and spiritual needs.

1. John 6:5-13 - Jesus feeding the five thousand.

2. Matthew 15:32-39 - Jesus feeding the four thousand.

Luke 9:17 And they did eat, and were all filled: and there was taken up of fragments that remained to them twelve baskets.

Jesus fed a large crowd of people with five loaves of bread and two fishes, and they were all filled. There were 12 baskets of leftovers.

1. God can do the impossible - Luke 9:17

2. The Power of Generosity - Luke 9:17

1. Philippians 4:19 - And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus.

2. 2 Corinthians 9:8 - And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work.

Luke 9:18 And it came to pass, as he was alone praying, his disciples were with him: and he asked them, saying, Whom say the people that I am?

Passage Jesus asked his disciples, "Whom do people say that I am?"

1. Who Do You Say Jesus Is?

2. Recognizing Jesus in Everyday Life

1. Matthew 16:13-20

2. John 1:1-18

Luke 9:19 They answering said, John the Baptist; but some say, Elias; and others say, that one of the old prophets is risen again.

This passage speaks of some saying John the Baptist, others saying Elijah, and others saying that one of the old prophets has risen again.

1. Forgiveness of Sins: The Power of Repentance and Faith

2. Following God's Will: The Legacy of the Old Prophets

1. Luke 15:7 - "Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance."

2. Isaiah 55:8-9 - "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts."

Luke 9:20 He said unto them, But whom say ye that I am? Peter answering said, The Christ of God.

This passage recounts the time when Jesus asked the disciples who they thought he was, and Peter answered that Jesus was the Christ of God.

1. The Power of Testimony: What it Means to Say Jesus is the Christ of God

2. The Identity of Jesus: Learning to Recognize Him as the Christ of God

1. Romans 10:9-10 - If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

10 For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved.

2. Colossians 1:13-20 - He has delivered us from the dominion of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. 17 And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. 18 And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent.

Luke 9:21 And he straitly charged them, and commanded them to tell no man that thing;

Jesus commands his disciples to keep his upcoming death and resurrection a secret.

1. The Power of Secrecy - How God may ask us to keep certain knowledge hidden from the world for a greater purpose.

2. Keeping Faith - How faith can help us to keep secrets for God, even when we don't understand why.

1. Matthew 16:20-21 - Then he strictly charged the disciples to tell no one that he was the Christ.

2. John 20:19 - On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being locked where the disciples were for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you.”

Luke 9:22 Saying, The Son of man must suffer many things, and be rejected of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be slain, and be raised the third day.

Jesus must endure great suffering and rejection before his death and resurrection.

1: The Cross: Jesus' Suffering and Rejection

2: The Power of the Resurrection

1: Philippians 3:10-11 - "That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death; If by any means I might attain unto the resurrection of the dead."

2: Isaiah 53:7-8 - "He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth: he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he openeth not his mouth. He was taken from prison and from judgment: and who shall declare his generation? for he was cut off out of the land of the living: for the transgression of my people was he stricken."

Luke 9:23 And he said to them all, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me.

This passage calls for each of us to deny ourselves and take up our crosses daily in order to follow Jesus.

1: "Be Ready to Take Up Your Cross"

2: "Deny Yourself and Follow Jesus"

1: Mark 8:34 - He called the crowd to him along with his disciples and said: “If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me.

2: Galatians 2:20 - I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

Luke 9:24 For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: but whosoever will lose his life for my sake, the same shall save it.

Jesus encourages his followers to be willing to sacrifice their lives for his sake, as it is the only way to truly save it.

1. "The Power of Sacrifice: How Laying Down Our Lives Can Lead to True Life"

2. "Living for Christ: How to Live a Life of Self-Sacrifice"

1. John 15:13 - "Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one’s life for one’s friends."

2. Romans 12:1 - "Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship."

Luke 9:25 For what is a man advantaged, if he gain the whole world, and lose himself, or be cast away?

This passage is about the importance of personal value over worldly gain.

1. "What Good is the World if We Lose Ourselves?"

2. "The Value of Self Over Material Gain"

1. Matthew 16:26 - "For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul?"

2. Proverbs 22:1 - "A good name is to be chosen rather than great riches, loving favor rather than silver and gold."

Luke 9:26 For whosoever shall be ashamed of me and of my words, of him shall the Son of man be ashamed, when he shall come in his own glory, and in his Father's, and of the holy angels.

This passage teaches us that we should not be ashamed of Jesus and His words, as Jesus will be ashamed of us when He returns in His glory.

1. Standing Firmly in Jesus: Not Being Ashamed of His Words

2. The Cost of Discipleship: Jesus's Expectations of Us

1. Matthew 10:32-33 - “Whoever acknowledges me before others, I will also acknowledge before my Father in heaven. But whoever disowns me before others, I will disown before my Father in heaven.”

2. Romans 1:16 - “For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile.”

Luke 9:27 But I tell you of a truth, there be some standing here, which shall not taste of death, till they see the kingdom of God.

Jesus tells his disciples that some of them will not die until they see the Kingdom of God.

1. The Living Hope of Heaven: Understanding Jesus' Promise of Eternal Life

2. Knowing God's Kingdom: Are You Ready to See It?

1. 1 Corinthians 15:50-58 - Explaining that our mortal bodies must be changed to immortal bodies to enter the Kingdom of God

2. 1 John 3:2-3 - Describing what we will be like when we see the Kingdom of God

Luke 9:28 And it came to pass about an eight days after these sayings, he took Peter and John and James, and went up into a mountain to pray.

The disciples went up a mountain to pray with Jesus about 8 days after He made some significant statements.

1. The importance of prayer and spending time with Jesus

2. The significance of Jesus' words and the relevance they have in our lives

1. Colossians 4:2 - "Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful."

2. John 15:7 - "If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you."

Luke 9:29 And as he prayed, the fashion of his countenance was altered, and his raiment was white and glistering.

Jesus' appearance changed and his clothing became dazzlingly bright while he prayed.

1: Jesus' prayer life was so powerful that it changed his appearance and clothing.

2: Jesus' devotion to prayer was evident in his altered appearance and clothing.

1: Matthew 17:2 - "And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became white as light."

2: 1 Corinthians 15:52 - "in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed."

Luke 9:30 And, behold, there talked with him two men, which were Moses and Elias:

Passage Jesus was talking with Moses and Elijah.

1. The Power of Conversation: Learning from Jesus in Luke 9:30

2. The Encounter of Jesus with Moses and Elijah: What We Can Learn from Their Interaction

1. Hebrews 11:24-26 - By faith Moses, when he was come to years, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter; Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season; Esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt: for he had respect unto the recompence of the reward.

2. Matthew 17:3 - And, behold, there appeared unto them Moses and Elias talking with him.

Luke 9:31 Who appeared in glory, and spake of his decease which he should accomplish at Jerusalem.

Jesus appeared in glory and spoke of his death, which he would fulfill in Jerusalem.

1. Jesus' Obedience to God's Plan: A Model for Our Lives

2. The Glory of Jesus' Sacrifice: His Death for Our Salvation

1. Phil. 2:5-11 - "Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name."

2. Heb. 12:1-2 - "Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God."

Luke 9:32 But Peter and they that were with him were heavy with sleep: and when they were awake, they saw his glory, and the two men that stood with him.

Peter and his companions were overcome with sleep, but when they awoke, they saw Jesus' glory and two men who were with him.

1. The Power of Christ's Glory: Discovering the Strength to Persevere

2. Awakening to God's Presence: Recognizing His Majesty and Mercy

1. Ephesians 5:14 - "Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you."

2. Isaiah 40:31 - “But those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint.”

Luke 9:33 And it came to pass, as they departed from him, Peter said unto Jesus, Master, it is good for us to be here: and let us make three tabernacles; one for thee, and one for Moses, and one for Elias: not knowing what he said.

Peter suggests building three tabernacles to honor Jesus, Moses, and Elijah, without understanding the implications of his suggestion.

1. Be mindful of what we say and how it impacts our faith journey.

2. Don't be afraid to take risks in faith and trust in God's guidance.

1. Proverbs 15:28 - The heart of the righteous studieth to answer: but the mouth of the wicked poureth out evil things.

2. Philippians 4:6-7 - Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

Luke 9:34 While he thus spake, there came a cloud, and overshadowed them: and they feared as they entered into the cloud.

The disciples were filled with fear when a cloud came and overshadowed them.

1. Fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.

2. God's presence can be both comforting and overwhelming.

1. Psalm 111:10: "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom; all those who practice it have a good understanding. His praise endures forever!"

2. Isaiah 6:5: "Woe is me! For I am lost; for I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts!"

Luke 9:35 And there came a voice out of the cloud, saying, This is my beloved Son: hear him.

This passage emphasizes Jesus Christ's divinity and encourages believers to listen to him.

1. We must always listen to the Lord, for He is the beloved Son of God.

2. Obeying the Lord is not a choice, but a privilege - we must be willing to listen to Him.

1. Matthew 17:5 - While he was still speaking, a bright cloud overshadowed them, and behold, a voice out of the cloud said, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him."

2. John 3:34 - For he whom God has sent utters the words of God, for he gives the Spirit without measure.

Luke 9:36 And when the voice was past, Jesus was found alone. And they kept it close, and told no man in those days any of those things which they had seen.

Jesus was found alone after a voice was heard and his disciples kept quiet about it.

1. The importance of silence in the face of spiritual experiences

2. Jesus' example of humility and obedience

1. Matthew 17:5 - "While he was still speaking, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them; and suddenly a voice came out of the cloud, saying, “This is My beloved Son, in

whom I am well pleased. Hear Him!”

2. James 3:17 - But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy.

Luke 9:37 And it came to pass, that on the next day, when they were come down from the hill, much people met him.

The next day Jesus was met by a large crowd.

1: Jesus' teachings and ministry are so powerful that people from far and wide are drawn to Him.

2: We should not be afraid to share the news of Jesus' teachings and ministry with others.

1: Acts 2:46-47 “And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.”

2: Philippians 1:15-18 “It is true that some preach Christ out of envy and rivalry, but others out of goodwill. The latter do so out of love, knowing that I am put here for the defense of the gospel. The former proclaim Christ out of selfish ambition, not sincerely, supposing that they can stir up trouble for me while I am in chains. But what does it matter? The important thing is that in every way, whether from false motives or true, Christ is preached. And because of this I rejoice. Yes, and I will continue to rejoice.”

Luke 9:38 And, behold, a man of the company cried out, saying, Master, I beseech thee, look upon my son: for he is mine only child.

A man with an only son asked Jesus to look upon him.

1. The Privilege of Asking Jesus for Help

2. The Power of Faith and Prayer

1. Mark 10:46-52 - Jesus Heals Blind Bartimaeus

2. James 5:13-16 - The Power of Prayer and Confession

Luke 9:39 And, lo, a spirit taketh him, and he suddenly crieth out; and it teareth him that he foameth again, and bruising him hardly departeth from him.

A spirit comes upon a man and causes him to cry out in agony, foaming at the mouth and causing him great pain before departing from him.

1. "The Power of the Enemy: Standing Firm Against Spiritual Attack"

2. "The Strength of Faith: Overcoming Challenges With God's Help"

1. 1 Peter 5:8-9 - "Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world."

2. James 4:7-8 - "Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded."

Luke 9:40 And I besought thy disciples to cast him out; and they could not.

Jesus asked his disciples to cast out an evil spirit, but they were unable to do so.

1. The Power of Faith: Learning to Trust God in Difficult Situations

2. Overcoming Fear: Relying on God for Strength and Courage

1. Matthew 17:20 - And Jesus said unto them, Because of your unbelief: for verily I say unto you, If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, Remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible unto you.

2. Mark 9:23 - Jesus said unto him, If thou canst believe, all things are possible to him that believeth.

Luke 9:41 And Jesus answering said, O faithless and perverse generation, how long shall I

be with you, and suffer you? Bring thy son hither.

Jesus rebuked the people for their lack of faith and asked them to bring their son to Him.

1: We must have faith in God and trust Him to bring us through our struggles.

2: We must have patience and perseverance and bring our problems to God.

1: Hebrews 11:1 - "Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen."

2: James 1:3-4 - "For you know that when your faith is tested, your endurance has a chance to grow. So let it grow, for when your endurance is fully developed, you will be perfect and complete, needing nothing."

Luke 9:42 And as he was yet a coming, the devil threw him down, and tare him. And Jesus rebuked the unclean spirit, and healed the child, and delivered him again to his father.

Jesus encountered a child who was possessed by a devil and healed him, delivering him to his father.

1. Jesus Reveals His Authority Through Miracles

2. The Power of Faith in Overcoming Challenges

1. Matthew 8:28-34, Jesus casts out demons

2. Mark 5:1-20, Jesus heals a man possessed by demons

Luke 9:43 And they were all amazed at the mighty power of God. But while they wondered every one at all things which Jesus did, he said unto his disciples,

The disciples were amazed by the power of God that Jesus displayed.

1. Let us be in awe of the power of God

2. Let us learn from Jesus to appreciate God's might

1. Psalm 33:6 - By the word of the LORD were the heavens made; and all the host of them by the breath of his mouth.

2. Matthew 19:26 - But Jesus looked at them and said to them, “With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.”

Luke 9:44 Let these sayings sink down into your ears: for the Son of man shall be delivered into the hands of men.

The Son of Man will be delivered into the hands of men.

1: Jesus Christ our Savior willingly gave Himself up to be handed to men for our salvation.

2: The Lord our God was willing to suffer at the hands of men to save us from our sins.

1: John 3:16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

2: Romans 5:8 But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

Luke 9:45 But they understood not this saying, and it was hid from them, that they perceived it not: and they feared to ask him of that saying.

The disciples did not comprehend Jesus' words and were too afraid to ask Him for clarification.

1: We must seek to understand the teachings of Jesus, even if we don't understand them at first.

2: We must be brave enough to ask for explanation of the things we don't understand.

1: Isaiah 55:8-9 - “For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways

higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts."

2: James 1:5 - "If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him."

Luke 9:46 Then there arose a reasoning among them, which of them should be greatest.

This passage speaks about how the disciples argued among themselves over who would be the greatest in the kingdom of God.

1. How Pride Can Threaten Our Calling: Examining the Disciples' Arrogance in Luke 9:46

2. How to Remain Humble: Letting Go of Self-Importance in Luke 9:46

1. Luke 22:24-27 - Jesus teaches His disciples to be humble and serve one another.

2. Matthew 23:11-12 - Jesus rebukes the Pharisees for seeking greatness and praises humility.

Luke 9:47 And Jesus, perceiving the thought of their heart, took a child, and set him by him,

Jesus responded to the disciples' attitudes of exclusion by setting an example of welcoming a child.

1: We can learn from Jesus' example that everyone should be welcomed.

2: We should follow Jesus' example of extending love and hospitality to all people, regardless of their background.

1: Mark 10:13-14 "And they were bringing children to him that he might touch them, and the disciples rebuked them. But when Jesus saw it, he was indignant and said to them, "Let the children come to me; do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of God."

2: Ephesians 5:1-2 "Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God."

Luke 9:48 And said unto them, Whosoever shall receive this child in my name receiveth me: and whosoever shall receive me receiveth him that sent me: for he that is least among you all, the same shall be great.

Jesus tells his disciples that whoever welcomes a child in His name will be welcoming Him, and the one who welcomes Him also welcomes the sender of Jesus. He further tells them that the least among them will be the greatest.

1. "The Power of Welcoming"

2. "The Value of Humility"

1. Matthew 18:3-4 - “And said, Verily I say unto you, Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven. Whosoever therefore shall humble himself as this little child, the same is greatest in the kingdom of heaven.”

2. James 4:10 - “Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up.”

Luke 9:49 And John answered and said, Master, we saw one casting out devils in thy name; and we forbad him, because he followeth not with us.

John and his disciples forbade a man from casting out devils in Jesus' name as he did not follow them.

1. The importance of unity in the body of Christ.

2. Jesus' authority overcasting out evil spirits.

1. 1 Corinthians 12:12-20 - For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also is Christ.

2. Mark 3:14-15 - And he ordained twelve, that they should be with him, and that he might send them forth to preach, And to have power to heal sicknesses, and to cast out devils.

Luke 9:50 And Jesus said unto him, Forbid him not: for he that is not against us is for us.

Jesus tells his disciples not to stop someone from joining them as anyone who is not against them is for them.

1. Together we are stronger: Learning to embrace unity in diversity.

2. Moving forward with Faith: Overcoming opposition and embracing the positive.

1. Galatians 6:2 - Bear one another’s burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.

2. Romans 12:18 - If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.

Luke 9:51 And it came to pass, when the time was come that he should be received up, he stedfastly set his face to go to Jerusalem,

Jesus set his face to Jerusalem to fulfill His mission and destiny.

1: Jesus was determined to fulfill His mission and destiny, no matter the cost.

2: Jesus' determination to follow God's will shows us that we must be willing to do the same.

1: Romans 8:28 - And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.

2: Philippians 2:5-8 - Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

Luke 9:52 And sent messengers before his face: and they went, and entered into a village of the Samaritans, to make ready for him.

This verse discusses how Jesus sent messengers ahead of him to prepare for his arrival in a Samaritan village.

1. The importance of preparation and readiness.

2. The importance of humility in spreading the gospel.

1. Matthew 28:19-20 – “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you.”

2. Philippians 2:1-4 – “So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from rivalry or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.”

Luke 9:53 And they did not receive him, because his face was as though he would go to Jerusalem.

Jesus and his disciples were on their way to Jerusalem, but the people they encountered did not welcome them because Jesus appeared to be heading there.

1. Jesus endured rejection in order to fulfill God's will

2. We should be willing to sacrificially serve God, even when it is difficult

1. John 15:13 - "Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends."

2. Matthew 16:24 - "Then Jesus said to his disciples, “Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me.”

Luke 9:54 And when his disciples James and John saw this, they said, Lord, wilt thou that we command fire to come down from heaven, and consume them, even as Elias did?

James and John asked Jesus if they could call down fire from heaven to consume the Samaritans, like Elijah did.

1. Don't Be a Zealot: The Danger of Overzealousness

2. Responding to Rejection with Love

1. Matthew 5:43-48 - "You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you..."

2. James 1:19-20 - "Know this, my beloved brothers: let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger; for the anger of man does not produce the righteousness of God."

Luke 9:55 But he turned, and rebuked them, and said, Ye know not what manner of spirit ye are of.

Jesus rebuked the people for not understanding the type of spirit that they had.

1. The Power of Rebuke: A Study of Jesus' Call to Repentance

2. Understanding the Spirit of God: What It Means to Follow the Lord

1. Ephesians 4:30-32 - "And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you."

2. Hebrews 12:14-15 - "Make every effort to live in peace with everyone and to be holy; without holiness no one will see the Lord. See to it that no one falls short of the grace of God and that no bitter root grows up to cause trouble and defile many."

Luke 9:56 For the Son of man is not come to destroy men's lives, but to save them. And they went to another village.

The Son of man came to save lives, not to destroy them.

1: We should seek to bring salvation to others instead of destruction.

2: Jesus desires that our focus be on saving lives and not destroying them.

1: John 3:16-17 - For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

2: Matthew 5:44-45 - But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you; That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven.

Luke 9:57 And it came to pass, that, as they went in the way, a certain man said unto him, Lord, I will follow thee whithersoever thou goest.

Jesus' disciples encounter a man who is eager to follow wherever Jesus goes.

1. The importance of dedication to Christ's mission.

2. The power of a willing heart to accomplish great works.

1. Matthew 16:24 - "Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me."

2. Romans 12:1 - "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service."

Luke 9:58 And Jesus said unto him, Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests; but the Son of man hath not where to lay his head.

Jesus taught that a life of true discipleship requires a willingness to give up material possessions and be willing to provide for oneself.

1: True discipleship requires us to give up our worldly possessions and trust in God to provide for our needs.

2: Jesus’ example of a life free from material possessions teaches us to trust in God’s provision.

1: Matthew 6:25-34 - Jesus teaches us to not worry about our basic needs, but to trust in God's provision.

2: Philippians 4:19 - God will supply all our needs according to His riches in glory.

Luke 9:59 And he said unto another, Follow me. But he said, Lord, suffer me first to go and bury my father.

This passage highlights Jesus' response to a man asking to follow Him after burying his father.

1: We must always remember our commitments to those closest to us, even if they come into conflict with our commitments to God.

2: God is always calling us to follow Him, regardless of our current commitments and situations.

1: Matthew 8:21-22 - "And another of his disciples said unto him, Lord, suffer me first to go and bury my father. But Jesus said unto him, Follow me; and let the dead bury their dead."

2: Philippians 3:13-14 - "Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus."

Luke 9:60 Jesus said unto him, Let the dead bury their dead: but go thou and preach the kingdom of God.

Jesus encourages a man to go and preach the kingdom of God instead of attending to burying the dead.

1. Prioritizing God's Mission Over Human Priorities

2. Living a Life of Radical Obedience

1. Matthew 28:19-20 - Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.

2. Mark 16:15-16 - And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.

Luke 9:61 And another also said, Lord, I will follow thee; but let me first go bid them farewell, which are at home at my house.

Jesus teaches us the importance of prioritizing our commitment to Him over our family and earthly possessions.

1: Our Commitment to Jesus Should Be Our Highest Priority

2: We Must Choose Jesus Above All Else

1: Matthew 6:33 - But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

2: Hebrews 12:1-2 - Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith.

Luke 9:62 And Jesus said unto him, No man, having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.

No one who looks back while plowing is fit for the kingdom of God.

1: We must strive to stay focused on the Lord and not be distracted by the world around us.

2: We must remain steadfast in our faith and not be tempted to turn back.

1: Philippians 3:13-14 “Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining towards what is ahead, I press on towards the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.”

2: Hebrews 12:1-2 “Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith.”

Luke 10 recounts the sending out of the seventy-two disciples, the parable of the Good Samaritan, and Jesus' visit to Martha and Mary's house.

1st Paragraph: The chapter begins with Jesus appointing seventy-two other disciples and sending them out in pairs to every town where He was about to go. He instructed them on how they should conduct themselves, stressing that they were like lambs among wolves. They were not to carry any money or extra clothing, but rather rely on the hospitality of those who welcomed them (Luke 10:1-12). When they returned rejoicing because even demons submitted to them in His name, Jesus reminded them not to rejoice in their power over spirits but that their names are written in heaven (Luke 10:17-20).

2nd Paragraph: Following this exchange, Jesus praised God for revealing these things to "little children" - those humble enough to receive God's revelation - rather than the wise and learned. He also affirmed His unique relationship with God as Son Father only one who knows Father fully vice versa only one can reveal Father others (Luke 10:21-24). Then a lawyer tested Him by asking what he must do inherit eternal life. In response, Jesus pointed him back towards law which said love God all heart soul strength mind neighbor self agreed upon this interpretation added story Good Samaritan illustrate true neighborliness isn't limited social religious boundaries but involves showing mercy compassion anyone need regardless their ethnicity or status (Luke 10:25-37).

3rd Paragraph: The chapter concludes with an account of a visit by Jesus to Martha and Mary’s house. While Martha was busy with all preparations for hosting guests, her sister Mary sat at Jesus’ feet listening to His teachings. When Martha complained about having all work herself asked Lord tell sister help Him replied "Martha Martha you are worried upset about many things few things needed indeed only one Mary has chosen what better it will not be taken away from her." This incident highlights importance prioritizing spiritual nourishment relationship over busyness serving even good things like hospitality if distract us from truly hearing receiving word.

Luke 10:1 After these things the LORD appointed other seventy also, and sent them two and two before his face into every city and place, whither he himself would come.

The Lord appointed seventy more people to go into every city and place in which He Himself was to come.

1. God entrusts us with important tasks, and we must remain faithful and obedient to carry them out.

2. The Lord is with us in all of our endeavors, and He will provide us with the guidance and strength to accomplish His will.

1. Matthew 28:18-20 - "And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

2. Proverbs 3:5-6 - “Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.”

Luke 10:2 Therefore said he unto them, The harvest truly is great, but the labourers are few: pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he would send forth labourers into his harvest.

Jesus is encouraging his disciples to pray to God to send more laborers to help with the harvest.

1. The Power of Prayer and the Provision of God - emphasizing the importance of prayer and the faithfulness of God to provide when we ask.

2. The Greatness of the Harvest and the Need for Laborers - emphasizing the great need for laborers and the significance of the harvest.

1. Matthew 9:35-38 - Jesus sending out the disciples to preach and heal.

2. James 5:13-18 - The power of prayer and the faithfulness of God.

Luke 10:3 Go your ways: behold, I send you forth as lambs among wolves.

The passage speaks of Jesus sending out his disciples as lambs among wolves.

1. A Call to Fearless Faith: Embracing God's Power in Difficult Situations

2. The Courage of Sheep: Taking a Stand in the Face of Adversity

1. Isaiah 40:31 - "But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint."

2. Philippians 4:13 - "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me."

Luke 10:4 Carry neither purse, nor scrip, nor shoes: and salute no man by the way.

This passage encourages followers of Jesus to travel lightly and to be humble in their interactions with others.

1: Live Humbly - A message to Christians to not carry possessions that show wealth or pride and to greet people with respect and humility.

2: Travel Lightly - A reminder to followers of Jesus to not take more than what is necessary for their journey and to trust in God's provision.

1: Matthew 10:8-10 - Freely ye have received, freely give. Provide neither gold, nor silver, nor brass in your purses, Nor scrip for your journey, neither two coats, neither shoes, nor yet staves: for the workman is worthy of his meat.

2: Philippians 4:19 - But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

Luke 10:5 And into whatsoever house ye enter, first say, Peace be to this house.

Jesus instructs His disciples to enter any house they enter and greet it with the phrase "Peace be to this house."

1. "Peace is a Gift from God"

2. "Greeting Others with Peace"

1. John 14:27 - "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid."

2. Romans 12:18 - "If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone."

Luke 10:6 And if the son of peace be there, your peace shall rest upon it: if not, it shall turn to you again.

The son of peace is a blessing and a source of peace for those who receive him. 1. The Power of the Son of Peace 2. Receive the Blessings of the Son of Peace. 1. Romans 5:1-2 - Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. 2. Philippians 4:7 - And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Luke 10:7 And in the same house remain, eating and drinking such things as they give: for the labourer is worthy of his hire. Go not from house to house.

The passage emphasizes the importance of staying in one house and eating and drinking whatever is provided, as labourers are worthy of their wages.

1. Understanding the importance of hard work and its rewards.

2. Practicing humility and gratitude in the workplace.

1. Matthew 20:1-16 - Story of the laborers in the vineyard.

2. Ephesians 4:28 - Work with integrity and earn wages.

Luke 10:8 And into whatsoever city ye enter, and they receive you, eat such things as are set before you:

The passage encourages us to accept hospitality graciously and to partake of the food offered.

1: Accepting hospitality with grace and gratitude.

2: Showing appreciation through our actions.

1: Romans 12:13 - Distributing to the necessity of saints; given to hospitality.

2: Hebrews 13:2 - Be not forgetful to entertain strangers: for thereby some have entertained angels unawares.

Luke 10:9 And heal the sick that are therein, and say unto them, The kingdom of God is

come nigh unto you.

Jesus instructs his followers to heal the sick and proclaim the coming of the Kingdom of God.

1. The Good Samaritan: Showing Compassion and Proclaiming the Kingdom of God

2. Proclaiming the Good News: The Coming of the Kingdom of God

1. Isaiah 61:1-2 - The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me; because the Lord hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; he hath sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound;

2. John 14:27 - Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.

Luke 10:10 But into whatsoever city ye enter, and they receive you not, go your ways out into the streets of the same, and say,

The passage in Luke 10:10 encourages the readers to proclaim the Gospel even if the people refuse to accept it.

1: We must never be discouraged in our mission to spread the message of the Gospel through our actions and words.

2: The Lord commands us to bring the good news of the Gospel to all people no matter the response.

1: Matthew 28:19-20 - “Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”

2: Mark 16:15 - “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation.”

Luke 10:11 Even the very dust of your city, which cleaveth on us, we do wipe off against you: notwithstanding be ye sure of this, that the kingdom of God is come nigh unto you.

The Kingdom of God is near to all people, regardless of their location.

1: God's love for us is unconditional and ever-present.

2: We are called to seek out the Kingdom of God in our everyday lives.

1: Romans 8:38-39 - "For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord."

2: Psalm 34:8 - "Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good! Blessed is the man who takes refuge in him!"

Luke 10:12 But I say unto you, that it shall be more tolerable in that day for Sodom, than for that city.

God will judge those who are not obedient to Him more harshly than those who are.

1: God is a just judge and will not let the wicked go unpunished.

2: Obey God and be found righteous in His sight.

1: Romans 2:6-8 - God "will render to each one according to his deeds: eternal life to those who by patient continuance in doing good seek for glory, honor, and immortality; but to those who are self-seeking and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness—indignation and wrath.

2: Isaiah 1:16-17 - Wash yourselves, make yourselves clean; Put away the evil of your doings from before My eyes. Cease to do evil, Learn to do good; Seek justice, Rebuke the oppressor; Defend the fatherless, Plead for the widow.

Luke 10:13 Woe unto thee, Chorazin! woe unto thee, Bethsaida! for if the mighty works had been done in Tyre and Sidon, which have been done in you, they had a great while ago repented, sitting in sackcloth and ashes.

Jesus declares woes on two Galilean towns for refusing to repent despite witnessing His mighty works.

1. Recognizing God's Miracles and Responding in Repentance

2. The Consequences of Refusal to Acknowledge God's Power

1. Isaiah 45:22 - “Turn to me and be saved, all you ends of the earth; for I am God, and there is no other.”

2. Romans 10:9-10 - “If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved.”

Luke 10:14 But it shall be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon at the judgment, than for you.

Jesus warns his disciples that the punishment for those who reject them will be worse than for Tyre and Sidon.

1. "Living as Witnesses of Jesus: The Consequences of Rejection"

2. "The Wrath of God: Why Rejection of the Gospel is Worse Than Ignorance"

1. Matthew 11:20-24 - Jesus warns the cities of Chorazin, Bethsaida, and Capernaum of the greater punishment for their unbelief.

2. Romans 11:22 - God's mercy is extended to those who do not know Him, but His wrath is reserved for those who have rejected Him.

Luke 10:15 And thou, Capernaum, which art exalted to heaven, shalt be thrust down to hell.

Jesus warns Capernaum that if it does not repent, it will be cast down to hell.

1. The Warning of Jesus: Repent or Face Eternal Punishment

2. The Consequences of Refusing to Repent: Capernaum as a Warning

1. Matthew 11:20-24 - Jesus rebukes the cities of Chorazin and Bethsaida for not repenting despite his miracles.

2. Isaiah 5:14 - God will punish those who reject his word.

Luke 10:16 He that heareth you heareth me; and he that despiseth you despiseth me; and he that despiseth me despiseth him that sent me.

The passage highlights that Jesus' disciples are to be respected, and any disrespect directed at them is the same as disrespecting Jesus and God.

1. Jesus' disciples are to be seen as representatives of God's will, and should be treated with respect.

2. Disrespecting Jesus' disciples is equivalent to disrespecting Jesus and God, and should not be done.

1. Romans 13:1-7 - Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God.

2. Matthew 7:12 - Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them: for this is the law and the prophets.

Luke 10:17 And the seventy returned again with joy, saying, Lord, even the devils are subject unto us through thy name.

The disciples were filled with joy when they found out that they had authority over the devils through Jesus' name.

1. The Power of Jesus' Name - Examining the Authority of Believers

2. Joy in Service - Learning from the Disciple's Response

1. Matthew 28:18-20 - Jesus' Great Commission and the Authority Given to Believers

2. Ephesians 6:10-18 - Putting on the Armor of God for Spiritual Warfare

Luke 10:18 And he said unto them, I beheld Satan as lightning fall from heaven.

This passage describes Jesus' vision of Satan being thrown out of heaven like lightning.

1. The Reality and Power of Satan in Our Lives

2. The Consequences of Rejecting God's Authority

1. Isaiah 14:12-15 - The Fall of Satan

2. Ephesians 6:11-12 - Putting on the Whole Armor of God

Luke 10:19 Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you.

Jesus gives us the power to overcome all the power of the enemy and promises that nothing will harm us.

1. The Power of Jesus: How to be Unhurt by the Enemy

2. Overcoming Fear with the Power of Jesus

1. Romans 8:31 - What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us?

2. Psalm 91:3-4 - Surely he shall deliver thee from the snare of the fowler, and from the noisome pestilence. He shall cover thee with his feathers, and under his wings shalt thou trust: his truth shall be thy shield and buckler.

Luke 10:20 Notwithstanding in this rejoice not, that the spirits are subject unto you; but rather rejoice, because your names are written in heaven.

Rejoice in being saved and having your name written in heaven, not in having authority over spirits.

1. Rejoicing in Salvation: Our Names Written in Heaven

2. The Power of Authority: Rejoicing in the Spirits Subject to Us

1. Romans 10:13 - For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.

2. Ephesians 2:8-9 - For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast.

Luke 10:21 In that hour Jesus rejoiced in spirit, and said, I thank thee, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that thou hast hid these things from the wise and prudent, and hast revealed them unto babes: even so, Father; for so it seemed good in thy sight.

Jesus rejoices in the Father's decision to reveal the truth of God to those who are humble and childlike.

1. Rejoice in the Father's Will: Celebrating the Divine Revelation of God

2. Humbleness before the Lord: The Blessing of a Childlike Faith

1. Matthew 11:25-26 "At that time Jesus said, "I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and learned, and revealed them to little children. Yes, Father, for this is what you were pleased to do."

2. James 4:6-10 "But he gives us more grace. That is why Scripture says: "God opposes the proud but shows favor to the humble." So humble yourselves under the mighty power of God, and at the right time he will lift you up in honor. Give all your worries and cares to God, for he cares about you. Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that your brothers and sisters throughout the world are going through the same kind of sufferings. And the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast."

Luke 10:22 All things are delivered to me of my Father: and no man knoweth who the Son is, but the Father; and who the Father is, but the Son, and he to whom the Son will reveal him.

Jesus reveals that only He knows the Father and only the Father knows Him, and He will reveal the Father to those whom He chooses.

1. The Revealing Nature of Jesus - understanding the importance of Jesus revealing the Father to those whom He has chosen.

2. The Mystery of the Father and Son - exploring the unique relationship between the Father and Son and its implications for us.

1. Matthew 11:25-27 - At that time Jesus answered and said, I thank thee, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because thou hast hid these things from the wise and prudent, and hast revealed them unto babes.

2. John 16:25-27 - These things have I spoken unto you in proverbs: but the time cometh, when I shall no more speak unto you in proverbs, but I shall shew you plainly of the Father.

Luke 10:23 And he turned him unto his disciples, and said privately, Blessed are the eyes which see the things that ye see:

The disciples are blessed to see the things that they are seeing.

1: God has given us a great blessing in the ability to see the wonders of his creation.

2: Through our eyes we can experience the joy of God's love and provision.

1: Isaiah 6:1-3 - In the year that King Uzziah died I saw the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up; and the train of his robe filled the temple.

2: Matthew 5:8 - Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

Luke 10:24 For I tell you, that many prophets and kings have desired to see those things which ye see, and have not seen them; and to hear those things which ye hear, and have not heard them.

This verse emphasizes the privilege of being able to see and hear the things of the Gospel that many prophets and kings desired to experience.

1. "The Privilege of Hearing the Gospel"

2. "The Value of Seeing What the Prophets and Kings Longed For"

1. Isaiah 29:18-19, "And in that day shall the deaf hear the words of the book, and the eyes of the blind shall see out of obscurity, and out of darkness. The meek also shall increase their joy in the Lord, and the poor among men shall rejoice in the Holy One of Israel."

2. Matthew 13:16-17, "But blessed are your eyes, for they see: and your ears, for they hear. For verily I say unto you, That many prophets and righteous men have desired to see those things which ye see, and have not seen them; and to hear those things which ye hear, and have not heard them."

Luke 10:25 And, behold, a certain lawyer stood up, and tempted him, saying, Master, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?

A lawyer asked Jesus what he must do to inherit eternal life.

1. Fulfilling God's Plan: How to Receive Eternal Life.

2. The Lawyer's Question: What Must We Do To Receive Eternal Life?

1. Matthew 19:16-30 - The Rich Young Man

2. John 3:16 - For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

Luke 10:26 He said unto him, What is written in the law? how readest thou?

Jesus teaches that to know God's will, we must study and understand His word.

1. The Importance of Knowing and Understanding God's Word

2. Living a Life of Obedience to God's Word

1. Psalm 119:11 - "Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee."

2. Isaiah 8:20 - "To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them."

Luke 10:27 And he answering said, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy strength, and with all thy mind; and thy neighbour as thyself.

Jesus teaches us to love God with our whole heart, soul, strength, and mind, and to love our neighbor as ourselves.

1. “Love God and Love Your Neighbor”

2. “The Greatest Commandment”

1. Matthew 22:37-40 - “Jesus said to him, ‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’”

2. 1 John 4:20-21 - “If someone says, ‘I love God,’ and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen, how can he love God whom he has not seen? And this commandment we have from Him: that he who loves God must love his brother also.”

Luke 10:28 And he said unto him, Thou hast answered right: this do, and thou shalt live.

This passage emphasizes the importance of following God's commands to be saved and live.

1. God's Commands are Life-Giving - Luke 10:28

2. Obey God and Live - Luke 10:28

1. Deuteronomy 30:19-20 - "I call heaven and earth to witness against you today, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and curse. Therefore choose life, that you and your offspring may live."

2. Ephesians 2:8-9 - "For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast."

Luke 10:29 But he, willing to justify himself, said unto Jesus, And who is my neighbour?

A man asks Jesus who his neighbor is.

1. "Love Thy Neighbor: God's Commandment and Our Community"

2. "A Heart of Compassion: Who is My Neighbor?"

1. Matthew 22:39 - "And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself."

2. Romans 13:8-10 - "Owe no man any thing, but to love one another: for he that loveth another hath fulfilled the law. For this, Thou shalt not commit adultery, Thou shalt not kill, Thou shalt not steal, Thou shalt not bear false witness, Thou shalt not covet; and if there be any other commandment, it is briefly comprehended in this saying, namely, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. Love worketh no ill to his neighbour: therefore love is the fulfilling of the law."

Luke 10:30 And Jesus answering said, A certain man went down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell among thieves, which stripped him of his raiment, and wounded him, and departed, leaving him half dead.

A certain man went from Jerusalem to Jericho and was attacked by robbers, leaving him half dead.

1: We must have compassion on those in need, just as the Good Samaritan did.

2: We can learn from the story of the Good Samaritan to put others first.

1: Matthew 22:37-40 - "Jesus said to him, “ ‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.”

2: James 2:14-17 - "What does it profit, my brethren, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can faith save him? If a brother or sister is naked and destitute of daily food, and one of you says to them, “Depart in peace, be warmed and filled,” but you do not give them the things which are needed for the body, what does it profit? Thus also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead."

Luke 10:31 And by chance there came down a certain priest that way: and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side.

The priest passed by on the other side when he saw a man in need.

1. The Power of Compassion: Learning to Love and Help Those in Need

2. Witnessing to God's Love: How We Can Make a Difference in Others' Lives

1. James 2:16 "For if one of you says to them, 'Go in peace; keep warm and well fed,' but does nothing about their physical needs, what good is it?"

2. Matthew 25:35-40 "For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me."

Luke 10:32 And likewise a Levite, when he was at the place, came and looked on him, and passed by on the other side.

The Parable of the Good Samaritan: Jesus teaches a lesson about helping those in need, no matter their background.

1. "A Heart of Compassion: Being a Neighbor to Everyone"

2. "Love for All: Showing Kindness to Everyone"

1. Galatians 6:9-10 - "And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up. So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith."

2. James 1:27 - "Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unstained from the world."

Luke 10:33 But a certain Samaritan, as he journeyed, came where he was: and when he saw him, he had compassion on him,

The Good Samaritan had compassion on the one in need.

1. The Power of Compassion

2. The Power of Humility

1. Matthew 9:36 - When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.

2. James 2:14-17 - What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone claims to have faith but has no deeds? Such faith cannot save them. Suppose a brother or a sister is without clothes and daily food. If one of you says to them, “Go in peace; keep warm and well fed,” but does nothing about their physical needs, what good is it? In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.

Luke 10:34 And went to him, and bound up his wounds, pouring in oil and wine, and set him on his own beast, and brought him to an inn, and took care of him.

A Samaritan helps a man who has been wounded by robbers by binding his wounds, pouring oil and wine on them, and bringing him to an inn to care for him.

1. The Good Samaritan: A Model of Compassion

2. The Innkeeper's Generosity: Caring for the Stranger

1. Isaiah 58:10 - "if you spend yourselves in behalf of the hungry and satisfy the needs of the oppressed, then your light will rise in the darkness, and your night will become like the noonday."

2. 1 John 3:17 - "If anyone has material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need but has no pity on them, how can the love of God be in that person?"

Luke 10:35 And on the morrow when he departed, he took out two pence, and gave them to the host, and said unto him, Take care of him; and whatsoever thou spendest more, when I come again, I will repay thee.

This passage tells of Jesus entrusting a host with two coins and telling him that he will repay any additional expenses incurred.

1. Living a Life of Generosity;

2. Following Jesus' Example of Trust.

1. 2 Corinthians 9:7-8 - “Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.”

2. Proverbs 11:25 - “A generous person will prosper; whoever refreshes others will be refreshed.”

Luke 10:36 Which now of these three, thinkest thou, was neighbour unto him that fell among the thieves?

The parable of the Good Samaritan asks who is a neighbor to someone in need.

1. We should put others before ourselves and help those in need.

2. Loving your neighbor has a greater meaning than the person living next door.

1. Matthew 22:37-40 - Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.

2. Galatians 6:10 - So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith.

Luke 10:37 And he said, He that shewed mercy on him. Then said Jesus unto him, Go, and do thou likewise.

This passage emphasizes the importance of showing mercy to others.

1. "Living with Mercy: Practicing Unconditional Love and Kindness"

2. "The Power of Mercy: How Compassion Can Transform Lives"

1. Micah 6:8 - “He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?”

2. Matthew 5:7 - “Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.”

Luke 10:38 Now it came to pass, as they went, that he entered into a certain village: and a certain woman named Martha received him into her house.

Martha welcomed Jesus into her home.

1. The lesson of hospitality: Welcoming others into our homes.

2. Learning from Martha's example on how to be hospitable.

1. Romans 12:13 - “Share with the Lord’s people who are in need. Practice hospitality.”

2. 1 Peter 4:9 - “Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling.”

Luke 10:39 And she had a sister called Mary, which also sat at Jesus' feet, and heard his word.

Mary was a sister of Martha who was devoted to listening to Jesus' teachings.

1) Devotion to Hearing Jesus' Teachings is Paramount

2) Mary's Example of Listening to Jesus' Teachings is Inspiring

1) James 1:22-25 - But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks intently at his natural face in a mirror. For he looks at himself and goes away and at once forgets what he was like. But the one who looks into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and perseveres, being no hearer who forgets but a doer who acts, he will be blessed in his doing.

2) Proverbs 4:20-22 - My son, be attentive to my words; incline your ear to my sayings. Let them not escape from your sight; keep them within your heart. For they are life to those who find them, and healing to all their flesh.

Luke 10:40 But Martha was cumbered about much serving, and came to him, and said, Lord, dost thou not care that my sister hath left me to serve alone? bid her therefore that she help me.

Martha complained to Jesus that her sister left her to do all the work alone and asked Him to tell her sister to help her.

1. The importance of working together in unity

2. The importance of not taking on too much.

1. 1 Corinthians 12:14-26 - Explains how the body of Christ works together and how each part is important

2. Ecclesiastes 4:9-10 - Describes the importance of having companions in life and how more is accomplished together than apart.

Luke 10:41 And Jesus answered and said unto her, Martha, Martha, thou art careful and troubled about many things:

Martha was overly anxious, and Jesus teaches her to prioritize.

1: Prioritizing God's will over our own

2: Calmness of Mind and Heart

1: Philippians 4:6-7 - "Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."

2: Matthew 6:25-34 - "Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes? Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? Can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life?"

Luke 10:42 But one thing is needful: and Mary hath chosen that good part, which shall not be taken away from her.

Mary chose the one thing that is needful, which will not be taken away from her.

1. The Needful Thing: Choosing what is Best

2. Mary's Example: Pursuing What is Most Important

1. Proverbs 4:23, "Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it."

2. Matthew 6:33, "But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well."

Luke 11 contains the Lord's Prayer, Jesus' teaching on prayer, His disputes with the Pharisees and teachers of the law, and warnings about unbelief.

1st Paragraph: The chapter begins with one of Jesus' disciples asking Him to teach them how to pray. In response, Jesus provided a model prayer known as the Lord's Prayer (Luke 11:1-4). He then taught them about persistence in prayer through a parable about a friend who comes at midnight asking for bread. The friend doesn't get help because of friendship but because of his boldness and persistence (Luke 11:5-8). Jesus emphasized that they should ask, seek, and knock in their prayers for God is like a good father who gives good gifts to those who ask Him (Luke 11:9-13).

2nd Paragraph: After this teaching on prayer, Jesus cast out a demon from a man which made him able to speak. Some in the crowd accused Him of casting out demons by Beelzebul (Satan), but He refuted this by saying that if Satan is divided against himself then his kingdom cannot stand. He also asserted that if he drives out demons by Beelzebul then by whom do their followers drive them out? Thus they will be judges themselves indicating inconsistency their logic further stated whoever not with him against him does not gather with him scatters showing neutrality not option when comes kingdom God spiritual warfare between good evil (Luke 11:14-23).

3rd Paragraph: Then Jesus spoke about an unclean spirit that leaves person goes through arid places seeking rest does not find it says 'I will return house came from.' When it arrives finds house swept clean put order then goes takes seven other spirits more wicked than itself they go live there final condition person worse than first warning danger empty religiosity without genuine repentance transformation leading even worse state spiritual bondage before (Luke 11:24-26). As He was saying these things woman crowd called out "Blessed womb gave you birth breasts which nursed you!" But replied "Blessed rather those hear word God obey it" emphasizing importance obedience faith over physical biological connections finally chapter concludes series woes pronounced

Pharisees experts law hypocrisy legalism neglect justice love God light lamp body eye healthy whole body full light but when unhealthy body full darkness cautioning careful ensure light within us not darkness signifying importance inner purity over external appearances religious observances.

Luke 11:1 And it came to pass, that, as he was praying in a certain place, when he ceased, one of his disciples said unto him, Lord, teach us to pray, as John also taught his disciples.

The disciples asked Jesus to teach them to pray.

1. Learning to Pray with Jesus: How to Develop an Intimate Relationship with God

2. The Power of Prayer: How to Access God’s Miracles and Blessings

1. John 15:7 - “If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.”

2. Hebrews 4:16 - “Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.”

Luke 11:2 And he said unto them, When ye pray, say, Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, as in heaven, so in earth.

Jesus taught his disciples how to pray, instructing them to address God as “Our Father in Heaven” and to pray for His will to be done on earth as it is in Heaven.

1. Praying for God's Will: The Meaning and Relevance of Jesus's Teachings

2. Seeking the Kingdom of God: Bringing Heaven to Earth Through Prayer

1. Matthew 6:9-13 - Jesus's Teaching on the Lord's Prayer

2. 1 John 5:14-15 - Praying According to God's Will

Luke 11:3 Give us day by day our daily bread.

This verse is a request from Jesus to God for provision of daily sustenance.

1. "What Does it Mean to Ask for Our Daily Bread?"

2. "The Power of Faithful Petition to God"

1. Matthew 6:11 – “Give us this day our daily bread.”

2. Psalm 145:15-16 – “The eyes of all look to you, and you give them their food in due season. You open your hand; you satisfy the desire of every living thing.”

Luke 11:4 And forgive us our sins; for we also forgive every one that is indebted to us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil.

The passage encourages us to ask God for forgiveness, not to be led into temptation, and to be delivered from evil.

1. A Call to Repentance and Forgiveness

2. God's Protection From Temptation

1. Matthew 6:12-15 - Forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors

2. James 1:13-15 - Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am being tempted by God," for God cannot be tempted with evil, and he himself tempts no one.

Luke 11:5 And he said unto them, Which of you shall have a friend, and shall go unto him at midnight, and say unto him, Friend, lend me three loaves;

Jesus encourages us to ask for help from others when we are in need.

1: We should not be afraid to ask for help from others when we are in need.

2: We should be willing to help others in need as God has helped us.

1: Luke 6:38 - Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom.

2: Philippians 2:3-4 - Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.

Luke 11:6 For a friend of mine in his journey is come to me, and I have nothing to set before him?

A friend is visiting and the speaker has nothing to offer them.

1. The importance of hospitality: Luke 14:12-14

2. The power of faith: Matthew 17:20

1. Proverbs 25:21: If your enemy is hungry, give him bread to eat; and if he is thirsty, give him water to drink.

2. Romans 12:13: Share with the Lord’s people who are in need. Practice hospitality.

Luke 11:7 And he from within shall answer and say, Trouble me not: the door is now shut, and my children are with me in bed; I cannot rise and give thee.

A man refuses to get up and open the door to give a person standing outside what they are asking for, as his children are in bed with him.

1. The Power of Family: Exploring the importance of protecting and investing in our families.

2. The Value of Generosity: Discussing the impact of showing kindness to others.

1. Ephesians 6:4 - “Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord.”

2. Matthew 25:35-36 - “For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty

and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in.”

Luke 11:8 I say unto you, Though he will not rise and give him, because he is his friend, yet because of his importunity he will rise and give him as many as he needeth.

The importance of persistence and determination is emphasized as Jesus explains that even if a request is denied, if one is persistent, they will be granted what they need.

1. "The Power of Persistence: Reaching Beyond Denial"

2. "God's Provision Through Perseverance"

1. James 5:16 - "Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much."

2. Philippians 4:6-7 - "Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus."

Luke 11:9 And I say unto you, Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you.

God will answer our prayers if we ask, seek, and knock.

1. God will provide for our needs if we pray in faith.

2. God will open doors if we seek Him earnestly.

1. James 1:5-8 - If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him.

2. Matthew 7:7-8 - Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you: For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened.

Luke 11:10 For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened.

God rewards those who ask, seek, and knock.

1: The Power of Prayer - God will always answer our prayers and will open the door to our needs.

2: The Blessing of Faith - Have faith in God that He will always provide for us.

1: James 4:8 - Draw near to God, and He will draw near to you.

2: 1 John 5:14-15 - This is the confidence which we have before Him, that, if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests which we have asked from Him.

Luke 11:11 If a son shall ask bread of any of you that is a father, will he give him a stone? or if he ask a fish, will he for a fish give him a serpent?

Jesus asks the crowd a rhetorical question about the relationship between parents and their children, and whether a father would give his son a stone or a snake instead of bread or a fish.

1. The Love of a Father - Exploring the unconditional love a father has for his child.

2. The Power of the Rhetorical Question - Exploring the power of Jesus' use of rhetorical questions to challenge and inspire his audience.

1. Matthew 7:9-11 - "Which of you, if his son asks for bread, will give him a stone?"

2. Isaiah 28:23-29 - "He will be like a refreshing breeze from the north, a warm gust from the desert. He will refresh tired people, revive them like a spring of water in a dry and weary land."

Luke 11:12 Or if he shall ask an egg, will he offer him a scorpion?

The passage is asking why God would give something bitter in return for a request for something sweet.

1: God does not give us what we deserve, He gives us what we need.

2: Ask God for what you need, He will give you what is best.

1: James 1:2-4 - Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.

2: Romans 8:28 - And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.

Luke 11:13 If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?

God is eager to give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him.

1. The Gift of the Holy Spirit - How God's Love is Greater Than Our Own

2. Learning to Ask for the Holy Spirit - Growing in Faith and Relationship with God

1. James 4:2-3 - You do not have because you do not ask.

2. 1 John 5:14-15 - Ask and you will receive, so that your joy may be full.

Luke 11:14 And he was casting out a devil, and it was dumb. And it came to pass, when the devil was gone out, the dumb spake; and the people wondered.

Jesus cast out a demon from a man, which caused the man to regain the ability to speak. The people were amazed by the miracle.

1. God's power to restore: Jesus' miracle of healing the mute man

2. God's faithfulness in extraordinary circumstances

1. Matthew 9:6-7 - But that ye may know that the Son of man hath power on earth to

forgive sins, (then saith he to the sick of the palsy,) Arise, take up thy bed, and go unto thine house. And he arose, and departed to his house.

2. Psalm 103:1-5 - Bless the Lord, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless his holy name. Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits: Who forgiveth all thine iniquities; who healeth all thy diseases; Who redeemeth thy life from destruction; who crowneth thee with lovingkindness and tender mercies; Who satisfieth thy mouth with good things; so that thy youth is renewed like the eagle's.

Luke 11:15 But some of them said, He casteth out devils through Beelzebub the chief of the devils.

Some people accused Jesus of using Beelzebub, the chief of demons, to cast out devils.

1. The Accusations of Jesus: How to Respond to False Allegations

2. The Power of Jesus: How Jesus Overcomes Opposition

1. Matthew 12:28-29, "But if I cast out demons by the Spirit of God, surely the kingdom of God has come upon you. Or how can one enter a strong man's house and plunder his goods, unless he first binds the strong man? And then he will plunder his house."

2. Romans 8:31-32, "What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?"

Luke 11:16 And others, tempting him, sought of him a sign from heaven.

Some people asked Jesus for a sign from heaven as a way of testing him.

1. The Danger of Testing God

2. The Importance of Faith in Jesus

1. Hebrews 11:1 - "Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen."

2. Matthew 4:7 - "Jesus said to him, "Again it is written, 'You shall not put the Lord your

God to the test.’”

Luke 11:17 But he, knowing their thoughts, said unto them, Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation; and a house divided against a house falleth.

Every kingdom divided against itself will be destroyed.

1: Unity among community is essential for success.

2: Togetherness brings strength and stability.

1: Matthew 12:25 - Jesus said, “Every kingdom divided against itself will be ruined, and every city or household divided against itself will not stand.”

2: Ephesians 4:3 - Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.

Luke 11:18 If Satan also be divided against himself, how shall his kingdom stand? because ye say that I cast out devils through Beelzebub.

Satan's kingdom will not stand if he is divided against himself, yet Jesus' enemies falsely accused him of casting out devils through Beelzebub.

1. The ultimate futility of evil - God's power will always overcome Satan's schemes.

2. The importance of truth - Jesus has the power to overcome lies and false accusations.

1. Ephesians 6:12 - For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.

2. 1 John 4:4 - Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world.

Luke 11:19 And if I by Beelzebub cast out devils, by whom do your sons cast them out? therefore shall they be your judges.

Jesus challenges the Pharisees to accept His authority as the Son of God by asking how they explain the power of His miracles if He is not from Heaven.

1: Jesus' words in Luke 11:19 serve as a reminder that we must be willing to accept His authority and follow Him as the Son of God.

2: We must humble ourselves and recognize the power of Jesus' miracles, and choose to accept His authority as the Son of God.

1: Matthew 28:18-20 - “And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

2: John 14:6 - Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

Luke 11:20 But if I with the finger of God cast out devils, no doubt the kingdom of God is come upon you.

The Kingdom of God has come when Jesus casts out devils with the finger of God.

1. God is with us and has come to bring us the Kingdom of Heaven

2. Jesus is the Messiah and brings salvation through the power of God

1. Isaiah 9:6-7 - For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; and the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

2. Romans 14:17 - For the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.

Luke 11:21 When a strong man armed keepeth his palace, his goods are in peace:

The strong man mentioned in this passage is a symbol of how those who are powerful and secure can protect their belongings with ease.

1. The Power of God to Protect Us

2. The Strength of Faith in Difficult Times

1. Psalm 91:1-2 - He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty. I will say of the Lord, He is my refuge and my fortress: my God; in him will I trust.

2. Romans 8:31-32 - What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us? He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?

Luke 11:22 But when a stronger than he shall come upon him, and overcome him, he taketh from him all his armour wherein he trusted, and divideth his spoils.

The strong can take away the trust of the weak.

1: Strength in God is the only true protection.

2: We must be wary of relying on power other than God's.

1: Psalm 18:2 - The Lord is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer, my God, my rock, in whom I take refuge, my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.

2: Ephesians 6:10-13 - Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.

Luke 11:23 He that is not with me is against me: and he that gathereth not with me scattereth.

Whoever is not on God's side is against Him and will be scattered instead of gathered.

1: We must choose to be on God's side so that we may be gathered up with Him.

2: We must be unified in our faith in God to ensure that we are not scattered.

1: Matthew 12:30 - "He that is not with me is against me; and he that gathereth not with me scattereth abroad."

2: James 4:4 - "Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God."

Luke 11:24 When the unclean spirit is gone out of a man, he walketh through dry places, seeking rest; and finding none, he saith, I will return unto my house whence I came out.

The unclean spirit, when expelled from man, seeks out a new place to inhabit but is unable to find rest and thus returns to the person it came from.

1. God's power can overcome the unclean spirit

2. Humility and prayer can help to resist the unclean spirit

1. James 4:7-8 Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

2. Ephesians 6:12 For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.

Luke 11:25 And when he cometh, he findeth it swept and garnished.

The passage speaks of a house that is empty and orderly.

1. “The Cost of Being Prepared” – A on the importance of having an orderly, prepared life for when the Lord returns.

2. “The Beauty of Order” – A on the beauty and power of order and discipline in our lives.

1. Matthew 6:33 – “But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.”

2. Proverbs 16:9 – “A man’s heart plans his way, But the Lord directs his steps.”

Luke 11:26 Then goeth he, and taketh to him seven other spirits more wicked than himself; and they enter in, and dwell there: and the last state of that man is worse than the first.

Jesus warns that if an unclean spirit is allowed back into a person's life, it will bring seven other unclean spirits with it, resulting in a much worse state than before.

1. The dangers of allowing the enemy to return to your life.

2. The importance of guarding your heart and mind from sin.

1. Ephesians 6:10-18 - Put on the full armor of God to protect against spiritual forces of evil.

2. 1 Peter 5:8-10 - Be alert and sober-minded, resisting the devil and he will flee.

Luke 11:27 And it came to pass, as he spake these things, a certain woman of the company lifted up her voice, and said unto him, Blessed is the womb that bare thee, and the paps which thou hast sucked.

A certain woman praised Jesus for being born from a blessed womb and having a blessed upbringing.

1. How We Can Receive Blessing from Jesus

2. The Power of Praise and Blessing

1. Luke 1:42 - "And she spake out with a loud voice, and said, Blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb."

2. Psalm 103:1-5 - "Bless the Lord, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless his holy name. Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits: Who forgiveth all thine iniquities; who healeth all thy diseases; Who redeemeth thy life from destruction; who crowneth thee with lovingkindness and tender mercies; Who satisfieth thy mouth with good things; so that thy youth is renewed like the eagle's."

Luke 11:28 But he said, Yea rather, blessed are they that hear the word of God, and keep it.

Jesus declared that those who listen to the Word of God and obey it are blessed.

1. The Blessings of Obedience

2. The Power of Listening to the Word of God

1. James 1:22-25 But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.

2. Psalm 119:11 Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.

Luke 11:29 And when the people were gathered thick together, he began to say, This is an evil generation: they seek a sign; and there shall no sign be given it, but the sign of Jonas the prophet.

This passage speaks of Jesus' admonishment of the people for seeking signs from Him instead of faith.

1. "The Sign of Faith: Learning to Trust God"

2. "The Sign of Jonah: A Study of Obedience"

1. Isaiah 7:9 - "If you do not believe, you will not be established."

2. James 2:17-18 - "So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead. But someone will say, 'You have faith and I have works.' Show me your faith apart from your works, and I will show you my faith by my works."

Luke 11:30 For as Jonas was a sign unto the Ninevites, so shall also the Son of man be to this generation.

Jesus is a sign to this generation, just as Jonah was a sign to the Ninevites.

1. Jesus is the Fulfillment of the Old Testament Prophecies

2. Hope in Jesus for a New Generation

1. Jonah 1:1-3, “Now the word of the Lord came to Jonah the son of Amittai, saying, ‘Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and call out against it, for their evil has come up before me.’ But Jonah rose to flee to Tarshish from the presence of the Lord. He went down to Joppa and found a ship going to Tarshish.”

2. Matthew 16:4, “An evil and adulterous generation seeks for a sign, but no sign will be given to it except the sign of Jonah.”

Luke 11:31 The queen of the south shall rise up in the judgment with the men of this generation, and condemn them: for she came from the utmost parts of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon; and, behold, a greater than Solomon is here.

God's wisdom is greater than any wisdom found on earth.

1: Seek God's Wisdom Above All Others

2: The Queen of the South Shows Us the Importance of Seeking God's Wisdom

1: James 1:5 - If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him.

2: Proverbs 2:1-5 - My son, if thou wilt receive my words, and hide my commandments with thee; So that thou incline thine ear unto wisdom, and apply thine heart to understanding; Yea, if thou criest after knowledge, and liftest up thy voice for understanding; If thou seekest her as silver, and searchest for her as for hid treasures; Then shalt thou understand the fear of the Lord, and find the knowledge of God.

Luke 11:32 The men of Nineve shall rise up in the judgment with this generation, and shall condemn it: for they repented at the preaching of Jonas; and, behold, a greater than Jonas is here.

God's judgment of this generation will come from comparison to the repentance of the Ninevites in response to the preaching of Jonah.

1: We must humble ourselves and repent for our sins in order to receive God's grace.

2: We must remember God's judgment of this generation will come from comparing it to the repentance of the Ninevites in response to Jonah's preaching.

1: Joel 2:12-13 "Yet even now," declares the Lord, "return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; and rend your hearts and not your garments." Return to the Lord your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love.

2: Isaiah 55:6-7 Seek the Lord while he may be found; call upon him while he is near; let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him return to the Lord, that he may have compassion on him, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.

Luke 11:33 No man, when he hath lighted a candle, putteth it in a secret place, neither under a bushel, but on a candlestick, that they which come in may see the light.

Jesus encourages people to share the light of knowledge and truth, so that those who come in may benefit from it.

1. "Lighting the Way: Sharing the Light of Knowledge and Truth"

2. "The Bushel and the Candlestick: The Power of Illuminating Others"

1. Matthew 5:14-16 “You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.”

2. Proverbs 4:18 “But the path of the righteous is like the light of dawn, which shines brighter and brighter until full day.”

Luke 11:34 The light of the body is the eye: therefore when thine eye is single, thy whole body also is full of light; but when thine eye is evil, thy body also is full of darkness.

Jesus teaches that if the eye is good, the entire body will be full of light, but if the eye is evil, the whole body will be filled with darkness.

1. Seeing with the Eyes of Faith

2. Walking in the Light of God's Word

1. Ephesians 5:8 - For ye were sometimes darkness, but now are ye light in the Lord: walk as children of light.

2. Matthew 6:22-23 - The eye is the lamp of the body. So, if your eye is healthy, your whole body will be full of light, but if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness.

Luke 11:35 Take heed therefore that the light which is in thee be not darkness.

Jesus warns his followers to make sure that the light within them is not replaced by darkness.

1. The Light of the World: The Power of Faith

2. Overcoming the Darkness of Sin Through the Light of Jesus

1. Matthew 5:14-16 – “You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.”

2. Philippians 2:15-16 – “That you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, holding fast to the word of life.”

Luke 11:36 If thy whole body therefore be full of light, having no part dark, the whole shall be full of light, as when the bright shining of a candle doth give thee light.

Jesus teaches that if our whole body is full of light, it will be illuminated just like a candle gives light.

1. "The Light of the World: Embracing and Sharing the Light of Christ"

2. "The Body of Light: How to Live in the Light of Christ"

1. Matthew 5:14-16 - "Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven."

2. John 8:12 - "Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life."

Luke 11:37 And as he spake, a certain Pharisee besought him to dine with him: and he went in, and sat down to meat.

The Pharisee asked Jesus to have dinner with him, and Jesus accepted.

1. Accepting Invitations: Jesus' Example of Humility

2. The Power of Hospitality: Welcoming Jesus into our Lives

1. Matthew 11:29 - “Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.”

2. Ephesians 5:1-2 - “Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.”

Luke 11:38 And when the Pharisee saw it, he marvelled that he had not first washed before dinner.

A Pharisee was surprised when Jesus did not wash before eating dinner.

1. "The Meaning of Washing: A Lesson from Jesus"

2. "The Significance of Jesus' Actions: A Reflection from Luke 11:38"

1. John 13:12-17 - Jesus washing his disciples’ feet as a demonstration of love and humility.

2. Mark 7:1-5 - Jesus criticizing the Pharisees for their emphasis on ritual washing rather than the importance of inner purity.

Luke 11:39 And the Lord said unto him, Now do ye Pharisees make clean the outside of the cup and the platter; but your inward part is full of ravening and wickedness.

The Lord rebuked the Pharisees for having a hypocritical nature.

1: We must look within ourselves and ensure our hearts are pure and free from wickedness.

2: We must strive to be authentic in our faith and practice what we preach.

1: Matthew 15:8-10 “These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me. They worship me in vain; their teachings are merely human rules.”

2: James 1:26-27 “If anyone considers himself religious and yet does not keep a tight rein on his tongue, he deceives himself and his religion is worthless. Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world.”

Luke 11:40 Ye fools, did not he that made that which is without make that which is within also?

Jesus rebukes the Pharisees for not understanding that God created both the external and internal aspects of humans.

1. The Power of God's Creation - Exploring how God's power and love is evident in the creation of both our external and internal beings.

2. The Need for Internal Growth - Understanding the necessity of internal spiritual growth alongside physical growth.

1. Genesis 1:27 - So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.

2. Psalm 139:13-14 - For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother’s womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well.

Luke 11:41 But rather give alms of such things as ye have; and, behold, all things are clean unto you.

Jesus encourages his followers to give charity and to recognize that God will forgive them.

1. Using What We Have to Help Others: The Challenge of Charity

2. From Unclean to Clean: The Power of Forgiveness

1. Matthew 6:1-4 - “Take heed that ye do not your alms before men, to be seen of them: otherwise ye have no reward of your Father which is in heaven. Therefore when thou doest thine alms, do not sound a trumpet before thee, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may have glory of men. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward. But when thou doest alms, let not thy left hand know what thy right hand doeth: That thine alms may be in secret: and thy Father which seeth in secret himself shall reward thee openly.”

2. James 2:15-17 - “If a brother or sister be naked, and destitute of daily food, And one of you say unto them, Depart in peace, be ye warmed and filled; notwithstanding ye give them not those things which are needful to the body; what doth it profit? Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone. Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: shew me thy faith without thy works, and I will shew thee my faith by my works.”

Luke 11:42 But woe unto you, Pharisees! for ye tithe mint and rue and all manner of herbs, and pass over judgment and the love of God: these ought ye to have done, and not to leave the other undone.

This verse speaks of the Pharisees’ failure to prioritize spiritual matters over following the letter of the law.

1: We must prioritize our spiritual life and seek to serve God with our whole heart, not just our actions.

2: We must not forget to show love to our fellow man, for it is through our love that we show our devotion to God.

1: Matthew 22:37-40 - Jesus said to him, “‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.”

2: Deuteronomy 10:12-13 - And now, Israel, what does the Lord your God require of you, but to fear the Lord your God, to walk in all His ways and to love Him, to serve the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul, and to keep the commandments of the Lord and His statutes which I command you today for your good?

Luke 11:43 Woe unto you, Pharisees! for ye love the uppermost seats in the synagogues, and greetings in the markets.

The Pharisees are reprimanded for their love of being in positions of honor, and for seeking recognition in public spaces.

1: The Lord's message to the Pharisees is to instead seek honor in humility.

2: We should not be motivated by recognition but instead seek to serve others humbly.

1: Matthew 23:12 - "And whosoever shall exalt himself shall be abased; and he that shall humble himself shall be exalted."

2: Philippians 2:3 - "Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves."

Luke 11:44 Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye are as graves which appear not, and the men that walk over them are not aware of them.

Jesus criticizes the scribes and Pharisees for their hypocrisy.

1: We must be honest in our faith and not just go through the motions.

2: We must be careful to never become complacent in our faith and not just go through the motions.

1: Matthew 23:27-28 - “Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You are like whitewashed tombs, which look beautiful on the outside but on the inside are full of the bones of the dead and everything unclean. In the same way, on the outside you appear to people as righteous but on the inside you are full of hypocrisy and wickedness.”

2: Isaiah 29:13 - “These people come near to me with their mouth and honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me. Their worship of me is based on merely human rules they have been taught.”

Luke 11:45 Then answered one of the lawyers, and said unto him, Master, thus saying thou reproachest us also.

A lawyer rebukes Jesus for accusing the lawyers and scribes of hypocrisy.

1. The Sin of Hypocrisy: Exposing Falsehood and Loving the Truth

2. Living a Life of Authenticity: Practicing What We Preach

1. Romans 12:9 - "Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good."

2. James 4:17 - "So whoever knows the right thing to do and fails to do it, for him it is sin."

Luke 11:46 And he said, Woe unto you also, ye lawyers! for ye lade men with burdens grievous to be borne, and ye yourselves touch not the burdens with one of your fingers.

The lawyers of Jesus' time oppressed people with heavy burdens and refused to help them.

1. We must not forget our obligation to help those who are struggling.

2. The hypocrisy of those who refuse to assist those in need.

1. James 2:14-17 - For if a man with gold rings and in fine clothing comes into your assembly, and a poor man in shabby clothing also comes in, and you pay attention to the one who wears the fine clothing and say, “Sit here in a good place,” while you say to the poor man, “Stand there,” or, “Sit at my feet,” have you not made distinctions among yourselves and become judges with evil thoughts?

2. Matthew 25:31-46 - "When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne. Before him will be gathered all the nations, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats.

Luke 11:47 Woe unto you! for ye build the sepulchres of the prophets, and your fathers killed them.

The passage condemns those who build monuments to prophets that their ancestors killed.

1. We must remember the prophets and learn from their teachings rather than simply honoring them with monuments.

2. We must be careful not to repeat the mistakes of our ancestors and instead strive for righteousness.

1. Matthew 5:7 - "Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy."

2. James 2:13 - "For judgment is without mercy to one who has shown no mercy. Mercy triumphs over judgment."

Luke 11:48 Truly ye bear witness that ye allow the deeds of your fathers: for they indeed killed them, and ye build their sepulchres.

Jesus is condemning the Pharisees for honoring the deeds of their ancestors, who killed the prophets, while ignoring the warnings of the prophets.

1. Honoring the Righteous, Not the Wicked

2. Remembering Our History and Learning from It

1. Matthew 23:29-31 - "Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! because ye build the tombs of the prophets, and garnish the sepulchres of the righteous, And say, If we had been in the days of our fathers, we would not have been partakers with them in the blood of the prophets. Wherefore ye be witnesses unto yourselves, that ye are the children of them which killed the prophets."

2. Proverbs 27:1 - "Boast not thyself of tomorrow; for thou knowest not what a day may bring forth."

Luke 11:49 Therefore also said the wisdom of God, I will send them prophets and

apostles, and some of them they shall slay and persecute:

God sent prophets and apostles to the people, some of whom were persecuted and even killed.

1. The Strength of Faith in the Face of Persecution

2. The Power of God's Wisdom and Love

1. Hebrews 11:32-39 – The heroes of faith who were persecuted, but remained faithful.

2. Romans 5:8 – God's love in sending His Son, Jesus, to be persecuted for us.

Luke 11:50 That the blood of all the prophets, which was shed from the foundation of the world, may be required of this generation;

This generation is accountable for all the blood of the prophets that has been shed since the beginning of time.

1: All people are responsible to God for the violence and injustice done against his prophets since the beginning of time.

2: We must all take responsibility for the injustices committed by our generation and those that have come before us.

1: Isaiah 58:1 - "Cry aloud, spare not, lift up thy voice like a trumpet, and shew my people their transgression, and the house of Jacob their sins."

2: Micah 6:8 - "He hath shewed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the Lord require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?"

Luke 11:51 From the blood of Abel unto the blood of Zacharias, which perished between the altar and the temple: verily I say unto you, It shall be required of this generation.

This passage speaks of the consequences of a generation's sins, which will be required of them.

1. God's Justice and Mercy: Understanding the Consequence of Sin

2. The Price of Disobedience: Learning from the Past

1. Hebrews 9:22 - "And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission."

2. Romans 6:23 - "For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."

Luke 11:52 Woe unto you, lawyers! for ye have taken away the key of knowledge: ye entered not in yourselves, and them that were entering in ye hindered.

The lawyers had taken away the key of knowledge and were preventing others from gaining it.

1: We should not prevent others from gaining knowledge, but instead aid them in their journey.

2: We need to remember to stay humble when we have knowledge, and not keep it to ourselves.

1: James 3:17-18 - But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere. Peacemakers who sow in peace reap a harvest of righteousness.

2: Proverbs 11:9 - With his mouth the godless man would destroy his neighbor, but by knowledge the righteous are delivered.

Luke 11:53 And as he said these things unto them, the scribes and the Pharisees began to urge him vehemently, and to provoke him to speak of many things:

The scribes and Pharisees greatly provoked Jesus to speak of many things.

1. The Power of Speech: How Our Words Impact Our Lives

2. Jesus vs. the Scribes and Pharisees: What Can We Learn From Their Confrontation?

1. Matthew 12:36-37 – “But I say unto you, that every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment. For by thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned.”

2. Psalm 19:14 – “Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O LORD, my strength, and my redeemer.”

Luke 11:54 Laying wait for him, and seeking to catch something out of his mouth, that they might accuse him.

The religious leaders were trying to trap Jesus by catching something out of his mouth to accuse him.

1. The Danger of Being Misled By Pride

2. The Power of Humility in the Face of Persecution

1. James 1:19-20 "Know this, my beloved brothers: let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger; for the anger of man does not produce the righteousness of God."

2. Proverbs 16:18 "Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall."

Luke 12 features Jesus' teachings on hypocrisy, worry, wealth, watchfulness, and division.

1st Paragraph: The chapter begins with Jesus warning His disciples about the hypocrisy of the Pharisees and encouraging them not to fear those who can kill the body but cannot do more. Instead, they should fear God who has authority over both body and soul (Luke 12:1-7). He also emphasized that whoever acknowledges Him before others will be acknowledged before God's angels. However, those who deny Him will be denied (Luke 12:8-12). In response to a man's request for Jesus to tell his brother to divide the family inheritance with him, Jesus warned against all kinds of greed and told a parable about a rich fool who stored up wealth for himself but was not rich towards God (Luke 12:13-21).

2nd Paragraph: Following this teaching on greed, Jesus turned to His disciples and encouraged them not to worry about life's necessities because God knows their needs. Instead of worrying about material things they should seek God’s kingdom these things will be given as well (Luke 12:22-31). He assured them it is Father’s good pleasure give kingdom thus need fear little flock rather sell possessions give alms provide purses don’t wear out unfailing treasure heaven where no thief comes near moth destroys where your

treasure there your heart also emphasizing priority spiritual eternal values over temporal material ones (Luke 12:32-34).

3rd Paragraph: The latter part of Luke 12 focuses on watchfulness readiness for Son Man’s coming which compared unexpected arrival thief night or master returning wedding banquet servants need always ready waiting master’s return blessed are those whom master finds alert when he comes (Luke 12:35-40). Peter asked whether parable meant just disciples or everyone answered another parable faithful wise manager whom master puts charge his servants give them food at proper time contrasted wicked servant says heart ‘My master taking long time coming’ starts beat menservants maidservants eat drink get drunk if that servant's master comes day when does not expect him hour unaware cut pieces assign place unfaithful indicating serious consequences unfaithfulness unpreparedness Lord's return further emphasized division His message would bring even within families underlining cost commitment following Him finally concluded signs times people ability interpret weather signs but failure interpret present time warning heed signs recognize urgent need repentance readiness Kingdom God.

Luke 12:1 In the mean time, when there were gathered together an innumerable multitude of people, insomuch that they trode one upon another, he began to say unto his disciples first of all, Beware ye of the leaven of the Pharisees, which is hypocrisy.

Jesus warned his disciples to be wary of the hypocrisy of the Pharisees.

1. "The Danger of Hypocrisy"

2. "Living a Life of Authenticity"

1. Matthew 23:27-28 - "Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye are like unto whited sepulchers, which indeed appear beautiful outward, but are within full of dead men's bones, and of all uncleanness"

2. Romans 12:9 - "Let love be without dissimulation. Abhor that which is evil; cleave to that which is good."

Luke 12:2 For there is nothing covered, that shall not be revealed; neither hid, that shall not be known.

God will reveal all secrets and nothing will remain hidden.

1. Be truthful and honest in all our actions, for God will reveal what we hide.

2. All our deeds will be exposed before God, so do what is right in His sight.

1. Ecclesiastes 12:14 - For God will bring every deed into judgment, including every hidden thing, whether it is good or evil.

2. Proverbs 28:13 - Whoever conceals their sins does not prosper, but the one who confesses and renounces them finds mercy.

Luke 12:3 Therefore whatsoever ye have spoken in darkness shall be heard in the light; and that which ye have spoken in the ear in closets shall be proclaimed upon the housetops.

People should be cautious of what they say as it will be heard and may be repeated.

1: Speak Life, Not Death - Words have the power to build up or tear down. Choose words that bring life and edify others.

2: Be Careful What You Say - Be mindful of the words that come out of your mouth, as they will be heard and repeated.

1: Proverbs 18:21 - Death and life are in the power of the tongue: and they that love it shall eat the fruit thereof.

2: James 3:5-10 - Even so the tongue is a little member, and boasteth great things. Behold, how great a matter a little fire kindleth! And the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity: so is the tongue among our members, that it defileth the whole body, and setteth on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire of hell. For every kind of beasts, and of birds, and of serpents, and of things in the sea, is tamed, and hath been tamed of mankind: But the tongue can no man tame; it is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison. Therewith bless we God, even the Father; and therewith curse we men, which are made after the similitude of God. Out of the same mouth proceedeth blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not so to be.

Luke 12:4 And I say unto you my friends, Be not afraid of them that kill the body, and after that have no more that they can do.

Jesus encourages his friends not to fear those who can only harm the physical body, as they have no power to do anything more.

1. The Power of Fearless Faith: How to Overcome the Fear of Man

2. Releasing our Fear of Death: Finding Strength in Jesus’s Words

1. Psalm 56:3-4 "When I am afraid, I put my trust in you. In God, whose word I praise, in God I trust; I shall not be afraid. What can flesh do to me?"

2. Matthew 10:28 "And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell."

Luke 12:5 But I will forewarn you whom ye shall fear: Fear him, which after he hath killed hath power to cast into hell; yea, I say unto you, Fear him.

Fear God, for He has the power to cast into hell.

1. The Fear of the Lord is the Beginning of Wisdom

2. Heed the Warning of the Lord: Fear Him

1. Proverbs 9:10 - The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the holy is understanding.

2. Hebrews 10:31 - It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

Luke 12:6 Are not five sparrows sold for two farthings, and not one of them is forgotten before God?

God remembers and cares for even the smallest of creatures.

1: God cares for us, even when we feel forgotten.

2: We can trust in God's providence, no matter the size of our problem.

1: Matthew 10:29-31 - “Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground outside your Father’s care. And even the very hairs of your head are all numbered. So don’t be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows.”

2: Psalm 147:3-4 - “He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds. He determines the number of the stars and calls them each by name.”

Luke 12:7 But even the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Fear not therefore: ye are of more value than many sparrows.

God cares for us, even in the smallest details.

1. We are Valuable to God - Luke 12:7

2. God Sees and Cares for Everything - Luke 12:7

1. Matthew 10:30-31 - Even the sparrows are not overlooked by God.

2. Isaiah 43:1-4 - God loves us and will never forget us.

Luke 12:8 Also I say unto you, Whosoever shall confess me before men, him shall the Son of man also confess before the angels of God:

The Son of Man will confess those who confess Him before men.

1. The Power of Confessing Christ in Public

2. The Rewards of True Confession

1. Matthew 10:32-33 - "Therefore whoever confesses Me before men, him I will also confess before My Father who is in heaven. But whoever denies Me before men, him I will also deny before My Father who is in heaven."

2. Romans 10:9-10 - "That if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation."

Luke 12:9 But he that denieth me before men shall be denied before the angels of God.

The verse emphasizes that denying Jesus before people will lead to being denied before God's angels.

1. "The Importance of Owning Faith in Jesus"

2. "The Consequences of Denying Jesus"

1. Matthew 10:32-33 - "Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven. But whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my Father which is in heaven."

2. 1 John 4:15 - "Whosoever shall confess that Jesus is the Son of God, God dwelleth in him, and he in God."

Luke 12:10 And whosoever shall speak a word against the Son of man, it shall be forgiven him: but unto him that blasphemeth against the Holy Ghost it shall not be forgiven.

The passage states that speaking against the Son of man will be forgiven, but blaspheming against the Holy Ghost will not be forgiven.

1. The Power of Forgiveness - A look at Luke 12:10

2. Blaspheming Against the Holy Ghost - How to Recognize and Avoid It

1. Matthew 12:31-32 - "Therefore I say unto you, Every sin and blasphemy shall be forgiven unto men: but the blasphemy against the Holy Ghost shall not be forgiven unto men. And whosoever speaketh a word against the Son of man, it shall be forgiven him: but whosoever speaketh against the Holy Ghost, it shall not be forgiven him, neither in this world, neither in the world to come."

2. Mark 3:29 - "But he that shall blaspheme against the Holy Ghost hath never forgiveness, but is in danger of eternal damnation."

Luke 12:11 And when they bring you unto the synagogues, and unto magistrates, and powers, take ye no thought how or what thing ye shall answer, or what ye shall say:

Jesus teaches not to worry about what to say when brought before magistrates and other authorities.

1. Trust in the Lord, Not in Yourself: How to Lean on Faith When Facing Difficult Situations

2. Living Without Fear: How to Follow Christ's Example of Courageous Living

1. Isaiah 41:10 - "Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness."

2. Ephesians 6:16 - "Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked."

Luke 12:12 For the Holy Ghost shall teach you in the same hour what ye ought to say.

This passage emphasizes the importance of the Holy Spirit in guiding us in the right words to say.

1. The Power of the Holy Spirit in Our Lives

2. Speaking Through the Power of the Holy Spirit

1. John 14:26 - “But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you.”

2. Acts 2:4 - “And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance.”

Luke 12:13 And one of the company said unto him, Master, speak to my brother, that he divide the inheritance with me.

A man in the crowd asked Jesus to intervene in a dispute between him and his brother concerning a family inheritance.

1. The importance of having the right perspective on material possessions.

2. The power of forgiveness and reconciliation within family.

1. Matthew 6:19-21 - Jesus teaches us to not be concerned with earthly possessions.

2. Colossians 3:12-15 - Paul's instruction to forgive one another as God has forgiven us.

Luke 12:14 And he said unto him, Man, who made me a judge or a divider over you?

This verse speaks of Jesus' refusal to judge another person. He reminds the man that it is not his place to make such decisions.

1: We must not be quick to judge others, as Jesus reminds us in Luke 12:14.

2: We must not be too confident in our own judgments, as Jesus cautioned in Luke 12:14.

1: James 4:11-12 “Do not speak evil against one another, brothers. The one who speaks against a brother or judges his brother, speaks evil against the law and judges the law. But if you judge the law, you are not a doer of the law but a judge.”

2: Matthew 7:1-5 “Judge not, that you be not judged. For with the judgment you pronounce you will be judged, and with the measure you use it will be measured to you. Why do you see the speck that is in your brother's eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye? Or how can you say to your brother, ‘Let me take the speck out of your eye,’ when there is the log in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your brother's eye.”

Luke 12:15 And he said unto them, Take heed, and beware of covetousness: for a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth.

This passage teaches that true life does not come from having many possessions, but instead from trusting in God.

1. Loving God More Than Possessions

2. Recognizing the Blessing of Contentment

1. Matthew 6:19-21 - "Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and

steal."

2. Ecclesiastes 5:10 - "He who loves money will not be satisfied with money, nor he who loves wealth with his income; this also is vanity."

Luke 12:16 And he spake a parable unto them, saying, The ground of a certain rich man brought forth plentifully:

The parable of the rich man emphasizes the need to utilize material blessings responsibly.

1: We must use our material blessings responsibly and not become overconfident in ourselves.

2: We must use our material blessings to glorify God and not become prideful in our own accomplishments.

1: Proverbs 21:20, "There is precious treasure and oil in the house of the wise; but a foolish man spendeth it up."

2: Ecclesiastes 5:10, "He that loveth silver shall not be satisfied with silver; nor he that loveth abundance with increase: this is also vanity."

Luke 12:17 And he thought within himself, saying, What shall I do, because I have no room where to bestow my fruits?

A man was wondering what to do with his abundance of fruits, since he had no place to store it.

1. The Blessing of Abundance: How to Make the Most of Your Blessings

2. Contentment in All Circumstances: Finding Joy in the Midst of Adversity

1. Philippians 4:11-13 - Not that I am speaking of being in need, for I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content.

12 I know how to be brought low, and I know how to abound. In any and every circumstance, I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and

need.

2. Proverbs 3:9-10 - Honor the Lord with your wealth and with the firstfruits of all your produce; 10 then your barns will be filled with plenty, and your vats will be bursting with wine.

Luke 12:18 And he said, This will I do: I will pull down my barns, and build greater; and there will I bestow all my fruits and my goods.

A man decides to demolish his existing barns and build larger ones in order to store all of his possessions.

1. The Need for Generosity: Using Jesus' teaching in Luke 12:18 to explore how we can share our abundance with others.

2. Contentment: Examining Jesus' words in Luke 12:18 to reflect on the importance of understanding the limitations of our material possessions.

1. 2 Corinthians 9:6-7 - Reflecting on the importance of cheerful giving.

2. Proverbs 11:24 - Considering the blessings of generosity.

Luke 12:19 And I will say to my soul, Soul, thou hast much goods laid up for many years; take thine ease, eat, drink, and be merry.

Jesus warns against the danger of becoming too focused on material goods and instead advises to focus on spiritual nourishment.

1. The Danger of Materialism: Challenges of Focusing on Spiritual Needs

2. The Value of Contentment: Satisfied with Spiritual Abundance

1. Matthew 6:19-21, "Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

2. Ecclesiastes 5:10-12, "He who loves silver will not be satisfied with silver; nor he who

loves abundance, with increase. This also is vanity. When goods increase, they increase who eat them; so what profit have the owners except to see them with their eyes?"

Luke 12:20 But God said unto him, Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided?

This passage speaks of the foolishness of hoarding possessions as they will not be able to be taken with us when we die.

1. The Vanity of Hoarding Possessions

2. The Impermanence of Life

1. Matthew 6:19-21 - "Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth...where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal."

2. Ecclesiastes 5:13-14 - "There is a grievous evil which I have seen under the sun: riches kept for their owner to his hurt."

Luke 12:21 So is he that layeth up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God.

This passage speaks of the importance of being rich towards God rather than storing up earthly treasures.

1. Godliness is Greater Than Riches - Looking at Luke 12:21 and its reminder that we should prioritize our relationship with God over material possessions.

2. Your Wealth in Heaven - Exploring the idea that our true wealth lies in our relationship with God and not in earthly possessions.

1. James 4:13-15 - “Come now, you who say, ‘Today or tomorrow we will go into such and such a town and spend a year there and trade and make a profit’— yet you do not know what tomorrow will bring. What is your life? For you are a mist that appears for a little time and then vanishes. Instead you ought to say, ‘If the Lord wills, we will live and do this or that.’”

2. Ecclesiastes 5:10 - “Whoever loves money never has enough; whoever loves wealth is never satisfied with their income. This too is meaningless.”

Luke 12:22 And he said unto his disciples, Therefore I say unto you, Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat; neither for the body, what ye shall put on.

Do not worry about your needs as God will provide.

1: Trust in the Lord and He will provide all your needs.

2: Have faith in God and He will meet your needs.

1: Philippians 4:19 - And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus.

2: Matthew 6:25-34 - Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat or drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing?

Luke 12:23 The life is more than meat, and the body is more than raiment.

The life is of greater value than physical sustenance and clothing.

1: God values our lives more than our physical needs.

2: We should prioritize spiritual growth over material needs.

1: Matthew 6:25-34 - Jesus teaches us to not be anxious about our physical needs and instead to seek God's kingdom first.

2: Philippians 4:11-13 - Paul encourages us to be content with whatever state we are in, for God will provide our needs.

Luke 12:24 Consider the ravens: for they neither sow nor reap; which neither have storehouse nor barn; and God feedeth them: how much more are ye better than the fowls?

God looks after even the simplest creatures, so how much more will He take care of us?

1: God Cares About Every Creature and Will Provide for Us

2: Even the Smallest of Creatures is Worthy of God's Attention

1: Matthew 6:26 - Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them.

2: Psalm 147:9 - He gives to the beasts their food, and to the young ravens that cry.

Luke 12:25 And which of you with taking thought can add to his stature one cubit?

This passage speaks about the limitations of human power and effort.

1. Contentment in the Lord: Relying on the Strength of God and Not Your Own

2. Trusting in the Lord: Finding Joy in God and Not in Possessions

1. Matthew 6:25-34, "Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes?"

2. Isaiah 40:28-31, "Do you not know? Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He will not grow tired or weary, and his understanding no one can fathom."

Luke 12:26 If ye then be not able to do that thing which is least, why take ye thought for the rest?

This passage encourages us to focus on what is important and to not worry about things that are out of our control.

1. Let Go and Let God: Trusting in the Lord and the Power of His Providence

2. Don’t Sweat the Small Stuff: Prioritizing What Matters

1. Matthew 6:25-34 - Jesus teaching on worrying

2. Philippians 4:6-7 - Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God.

Luke 12:27 Consider the lilies how they grow: they toil not, they spin not; and yet I say unto you, that Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these.

Jesus encourages his listeners to take note of how the lilies grow and that Solomon, in all his earthly glory, could not be as beautifully dressed as them.

1. The Beauty of God's Creation: Admiring the Majesty of Nature

2. Trusting in God's Provision: Contentment and Gratitude in Everyday Life

1. Psalms 104:24-25 - O LORD, how manifold are your works! In wisdom have you made them all; the earth is full of your creatures.

2. Romans 11:33-36 - Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways! For who has known the mind of the Lord, or who has been his counselor? Or who has given a gift to him that he might be repaid? For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be glory forever. Amen.

Luke 12:28 If then God so clothe the grass, which is to day in the field, and to morrow is cast into the oven; how much more will he clothe you, O ye of little faith?

God cares for even the smallest of things, so how much more will He take care of those who have faith in Him.

1. The Faithful Are Clothed in Love: God's Unconditional Care for Those Who Believe

2. Having Little Faith is No Excuse: God's Inexhaustible Compassion for All

1. Matthew 6:30-31 - "Wherefore, if God so clothe the grass of the field, which to day is, and to morrow is cast into the oven, shall he not much more clothe you, O ye of little faith?

2. Romans 8:31-32 - What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us? He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?

Luke 12:29 And seek not ye what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink, neither be ye of doubtful mind.

People should not worry about what they are going to eat or drink, and instead should trust in God to provide.

1. Let Go and Let God: Relying on God for our Needs

2. Doubt No More: Trusting God in Times of Uncertainty

1. Matthew 6:25-34 - Do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear.

2. Psalm 37:3-5 - Trust in the Lord and do good; dwell in the land and enjoy safe pasture. Delight yourself in the Lord and He will give you the desires of your heart. Commit your way to the Lord; trust in Him and He will do this.

Luke 12:30 For all these things do the nations of the world seek after: and your Father knoweth that ye have need of these things.

The nations of the world seek after material wealth, but our Father knows that we need more than that.

1. Do Not Strive After Worldly Riches - Luke 12:30

2. Seek God's Provision - Luke 12:30

1. Proverbs 23:4-5 - Do not wear yourself out to get rich; have the wisdom to show restraint. Cast but a glance at riches, and they are gone, for they will surely sprout wings and fly off to the sky like an eagle.

2. Matthew 6:24-25 - “No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money. Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body

more than clothes?

Luke 12:31 But rather seek ye the kingdom of God; and all these things shall be added unto you.

Seek God first and all your needs will be met.

1. A Kingdom of Abundance: Trusting God to Provide

2. Pursuing the Kingdom: The Path to Contentment

1. Philippians 4:19 “And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus.”

2. Matthew 6:33 “But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.”

Luke 12:32 Fear not, little flock; for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom.

Jesus encourages his disciples to have faith in God, as it is His good pleasure to give them the kingdom.

1. "Fear Not: God's Good Pleasure to Grant Us the Kingdom"

2. "Trust in God: He Wants to Give Us the Kingdom"

1. Isaiah 41:10 - "Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand."

2. Psalm 118:6 - "The Lord is on my side; I will not fear. What can man do to me?"

Luke 12:33 Sell that ye have, and give alms; provide yourselves bags which wax not old, a treasure in the heavens that faileth not, where no thief approacheth, neither moth corrupteth.

Sell your possessions and give generously to the poor, for your reward is stored in Heaven where it will not diminish or be stolen.

1. God's generous reward: seize the opportunity to gain eternal treasure

2. The importance of charity: investing in God's eternal Kingdom

1. Matthew 6:19–21 - “Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

2. Proverbs 19:17 - “Whoever is generous to the poor lends to the Lord, and he will repay him for his deed.”

Luke 12:34 For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

This passage encourages us to invest our hearts into what we value most.

1: Investing Our Hearts - We must be careful to invest our hearts in things that will last and bring us closer to God.

2: Living with Intention - We should be purposeful in how we spend our time and attention, knowing that our hearts will follow.

1: Matthew 6:19-21 - We should focus on storing up our treasures in heaven, where our hearts will find true satisfaction.

2: Colossians 3:1-2 - We should set our minds and hearts on things that are above, not on the things of this world.

Luke 12:35 Let your loins be girded about, and your lights burning;

Be prepared for the Lord's return.

1: We must always remain prepared for Christ's return and live our lives accordingly.

2: We should live every day with anticipation of Christ's return, and be ready to receive Him when He comes.

1: Matthew 24:44 - "Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect."

2: 1 Thessalonians 5:2-4 - "For you yourselves are fully aware that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. While people are saying, “There is peace and security,” then sudden destruction will come upon them as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and they will not escape. But you are not in darkness, brothers, for that day to surprise you like a thief."

Luke 12:36 And ye yourselves like unto men that wait for their lord, when he will return from the wedding; that when he cometh and knocketh, they may open unto him immediately.

Believers should be like servants waiting for their Lord, eager to open the door to Him when He returns.

1. Living in Anticipation of the Lord's Return

2. Preparing Our Hearts and Minds for the Day of the Lord

1. Matthew 25:13, “Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh.”

2. 1 Thessalonians 5:2-4, “For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night. For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape. But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief.”

Luke 12:37 Blessed are those servants, whom the lord when he cometh shall find watching: verily I say unto you, that he shall gird himself, and make them to sit down to meat, and will come forth and serve them.

Jesus encourages his followers to be ready and obedient when he returns, for he will reward them with a great feast.

1. Be Prepared: Ready for Jesus' Return

2. The Promise of God's Blessing: Rewarded with a Feast

1. Matthew 24:42-44 - "Therefore, stay awake, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. But know this, that if the master of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.

2. Isaiah 25:6 - On this mountain the Lord of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wine, of rich food full of marrow, of aged wine well refined.

Luke 12:38 And if he shall come in the second watch, or come in the third watch, and find them so, blessed are those servants.

The passage talks about the blessedness of those who are found ready no matter when the master arrives.

1: Be Ready at Any Time: Preparing for the Master's Return

2: Living for the Master: Doing What He Expects of Us

1: 1 Thessalonians 5:2-4 - For you know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. While people are saying, “Peace and security,” destruction will come upon them suddenly, as labor pains on a pregnant woman, and they will not escape.

2: Matthew 24:36-44 - “But concerning that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father only. For as were the days of Noah, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day when Noah entered the ark, and they were unaware until the flood came and swept them all away, so will be the coming of the Son of Man.

Luke 12:39 And this know, that if the goodman of the house had known what hour the thief would come, he would have watched, and not have suffered his house to be broken through.

Jesus teaches his disciples to be watchful and to stay prepared, as they never know when a thief might come to their house.

1. Be Ready: The Importance of Preparation

2. The Vigilant House: Staying Alert and Secure

1. Matthew 24:42-43 "Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come. But know this, that if the goodman of the house had known in what watch the thief would come, he would have watched, and would not have suffered his house to be broken up."

2. 1 Peter 5:8 "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour."

Luke 12:40 Be ye therefore ready also: for the Son of man cometh at an hour when ye think not.

This verse emphasizes the importance of being prepared for the return of the Son of Man, as it will happen when one least expects it.

1: The Unexpected Return: Be Ready for the Son of Man

2: The Importance of Being Prepared: Heed the Words of Luke 12:40

1: Matthew 24:44 - "Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect."

2: 1 Thessalonians 5:2-4 - "For you yourselves are fully aware that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. While people are saying, “There is peace and security,” then sudden destruction will come upon them as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and they will not escape. But you are not in darkness, brothers, for that day to surprise you like a thief."

Luke 12:41 Then Peter said unto him, Lord, speakest thou this parable unto us, or even to all?

Jesus teaches his disciples through parables to gain insight into the Kingdom of God.

1. What are we learning from Jesus in the Parables?

2. How can we apply the lessons of Jesus' Parables to our daily lives?

1. Matthew 13:1-52 - Jesus explains the parables of the Kingdom of Heaven.

2. Mark 4:1-34 - Jesus teaches the parables of the Sower and the Lamp.

Luke 12:42 And the Lord said, Who then is that faithful and wise steward, whom his lord shall make ruler over his household, to give them their portion of meat in due season?

Jesus asks who is the faithful and wise steward who will be given authority over the household to provide food in due season.

1. The Power of Faithful Stewardship

2. The Rewards of Wise Decision Making

1. Colossians 3:17 - And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

2. Proverbs 16:3 - Commit to the Lord whatever you do, and he will establish your plans.

Luke 12:43 Blessed is that servant, whom his lord when he cometh shall find so doing.

This passage emphasizes the importance of being prepared and faithful in service.

1. "Be Ready: Living Faithfully in Service"

2. "The Blessing of Being Prepared"

1. Matthew 25:21 - His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much.

'.

2. Hebrews 11:6 - And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him.

Luke 12:44 Of a truth I say unto you, that he will make him ruler over all that he hath.

Jesus tells the crowd that the faithful servant will be rewarded with rulership over all his master has.

1. Faithful service to God is rewarded with great blessings.

2. We should give our best effort in everything we do, trusting in the Lord's promise of reward.

1. Colossians 3:23-24 - "Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving."

2. Galatians 6:9 - "Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up."

Luke 12:45 But and if that servant say in his heart, My lord delayeth his coming; and shall begin to beat the menservants and maidens, and to eat and drink, and to be drunken;

The servant who does not recognize his master's authority and power will bear the consequences.

1. We must be faithful and obedient to God's commands, for He is all-powerful and will not tolerate disobedience.

2. Even in times of delay, we must remain steadfast in our faith and trust in God's plan.

1. Ephesians 6:5-8 - Servants, be obedient to them that are your masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in singleness of your heart, as unto Christ;

2. Deuteronomy 8:10-11 - When thou hast eaten and art full, then thou shalt bless the Lord thy God for the good land which he hath given thee. Beware that thou forget not the Lord thy God, in not keeping his commandments, and his judgments, and his statutes, which I command thee this day.

Luke 12:46 The lord of that servant will come in a day when he looketh not for him, and

at an hour when he is not aware, and will cut him in sunder, and will appoint him his portion with the unbelievers.

The Lord will come unexpectedly and judge the wicked, assigning them to the unbelievers.

1: Be prepared for the Lord's coming and live a life of faithfulness.

2: The Lord will judge the wicked and reward the faithful.

1: Matthew 25:31-46 - Jesus speaks of the Final Judgment when the righteous will be rewarded and the wicked will be punished.

2: Revelation 20:11-15 - Final Judgment will occur and the wicked will be cast into the lake of fire.

Luke 12:47 And that servant, which knew his lord's will, and prepared not himself, neither did according to his will, shall be beaten with many stripes.

Those who know the Lord's will but do not follow it will be severely punished.

1. We Must Follow God's Will or Face Consequences

2. Obeying God's Commands Brings Blessing and Disobeying Brings Punishment

1. Deuteronomy 6:17 - "You shall diligently keep the commandments of the LORD your God, and his testimonies and his statutes, which he has commanded you."

2. Romans 13:1-2 - "Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God. Therefore whoever resists the authorities resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgment."

Luke 12:48 But he that knew not, and did commit things worthy of stripes, shall be beaten with few stripes. For unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall be much required: and to whom men have committed much, of him they will ask the more.

Every action has a consequence, and those with more privilege and responsibility will be

held to a higher standard.

1. With Great Privilege Comes Great Responsibility

2. Everyone Reaps What They Sow

1. Matthew 25:14-30 - Parable of the Talents

2. James 3:1 - We Will All Be Judged According to Our Words and Actions

Luke 12:49 I am come to send fire on the earth; and what will I, if it be already kindled?

Jesus is warning his disciples that a great division is coming between those who accept him and those who reject him.

1. The Fire of Division: How Jesus Divides Us and Unites Us

2. The Fire of Christ: How to Respond to God's Call

1. Matthew 10:34-35 - “Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I have not come to bring peace, but a sword. For I have come to set a man against his father, and a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law.”

2. Acts 2:2-3 - “And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them.”

Luke 12:50 But I have a baptism to be baptized with; and how am I straitened till it be accomplished!

This passage speaks of the coming baptism of Jesus and how he is eager to fulfill it.

1. "Living with Anticipation: Jesus and His Coming Baptism"

2. "The Importance of Following through on Our Commitments as Demonstrated by Jesus"

1. Matthew 3:13-17 - Jesus' baptism in the Jordan River

2. Philippians 2:8 - Jesus' commitment to humbly obey the Father's will

Luke 12:51 Suppose ye that I am come to give peace on earth? I tell you, Nay; but rather division:

Jesus teaches that He has not come to bring peace to the earth, but rather division.

1. The Cost of Following Jesus - examining the cost of being a true disciple of Christ and how it can bring division.

2. The Necessity of Division - exploring how division can be a necessary part of seeking after righteousness.

1. Matthew 10:34-36 - discussing the potential for division between family members that come from following Jesus.

2. Romans 16:17-18 - warning against those who create divisions in the church and cause people to be stumbled.

Luke 12:52 For from henceforth there shall be five in one house divided, three against two, and two against three.

Jesus warns his disciples that families will be divided due to his teachings.

1: The importance of unity in the family.

2: The power of Jesus' teachings and how it can bring about division.

1: John 17:21-23 "That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me. And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one: I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know that thou hast sent me, and hast loved them, as thou hast loved me."

2: Ephesians 4:3 "Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace."

Luke 12:53 The father shall be divided against the son, and the son against the father; the mother against the daughter, and the daughter against the mother; the mother in law against her daughter in law, and the daughter in law against her mother in law.

Families are divided against each other due to conflict.

1. How to Love Through Conflict - Finding peace in the midst of family disagreements

2. The Beauty of Reconciliation - Reuniting families after division

1. Matthew 5:21-26 - Jesus explains how to reconcile relationships through forgiving and loving one another

2. Galatians 5:22-26 - The fruits of the Spirit and how it contributes to reconciling relationships

Luke 12:54 And he said also to the people, When ye see a cloud rise out of the west, straightway ye say, There cometh a shower; and so it is.

Jesus speaks to the people, telling them that when they see a cloud coming from the west, they know that it will bring rain.

1. Recognizing the Signs of God's Provision - How to identify God's promises in our lives.

2. The Cloud of God's Presence - Understanding how God's presence is always with us.

1. Psalm 65:9-13 - You visit the earth and water it, you greatly enrich it; the river of God is full of water; you provide the people with grain, for so you have prepared it.

10 You water its furrows abundantly, settling its ridges, softening it with showers, and blessing its growth.

11 You crown the year with your bounty; your wagon tracks overflow with abundance.

12 The pastures of the wilderness overflow, the hills gird themselves with joy,

13 the meadows clothe themselves with flocks, the valleys deck themselves with grain, they shout and sing together for joy.

2. Matthew 6:25-34 - “Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes? 26 Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? 27 Can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life[d]?

28 “And why do you worry about clothes? See how the flowers of the field grow. They do not labor or spin. 29 Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these. 30 If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith? 31 So do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ 32 For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. 33 But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. 34 Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.

Luke 12:55 And when ye see the south wind blow, ye say, There will be heat; and it cometh to pass.

The passage speaks of the accuracy of recognizing weather patterns.

1. God's wisdom is manifested in the natural world around us.

2. We can trust in the Lord's provision even when the forecast looks uncertain.

1. Psalm 19:1 - "The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands."

2. Ecclesiastes 11:5 - "As you do not know the path of the wind, or how the body is formed in a mother’s womb, so you cannot understand the work of God, the Maker of all things."

Luke 12:56 Ye hypocrites, ye can discern the face of the sky and of the earth; but how is it that ye do not discern this time?

This verse is a warning to discern the time in which we are living.

1. God is calling us to be mindful of the present and to see the signs of our times.

2. Be wise and understand the signs and the times that we are living in.

1. Romans 12:2 - “Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.”

2. Ephesians 5:15-17 - “Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, making the best use of the time, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is.”

Luke 12:57 Yea, and why even of yourselves judge ye not what is right?

Jesus advises people to not judge others, but to instead use self-reflection to determine what is right.

1. Let us look inside ourselves to discern what is right and avoid passing judgement on others.

2. We can use self-reflection and faith to make decisions that are ethically correct.

1. Matthew 7:1-5 - “Judge not, that you be not judged. For with the judgment you pronounce you will be judged, and with the measure you use it will be measured to you.”

2. Proverbs 14:12 - “There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way to death.”

Luke 12:58 When thou goest with thine adversary to the magistrate, as thou art in the way, give diligence that thou mayest be delivered from him; lest he hale thee to the judge, and the judge deliver thee to the officer, and the officer cast thee into prison.

Jesus urges us to be careful when we are dealing with adversaries and to do our best to be delivered from them before arriving at the magistrate.

1. Overcoming Adversity Through Diligence

2. When Dealing With Adversaries, Stay Vigilant

1. James 1:2-4 - Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.

2. Proverbs 22:3 - The prudent sees danger and hides himself, but the simple go on and suffer for it.

Luke 12:59 I tell thee, thou shalt not depart thence, till thou hast paid the very last mite.

The passage emphasizes the importance of being responsible with one's finances and paying back debt in full.

1: God reminds us of our responsibility to pay our debts in full.

2: Strive to be a good steward of God's resources and pay off debt.

1: Proverbs 22:7 "The rich ruleth over the poor, and the borrower is servant to the lender."

2: Matthew 6:24 "No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money."

Luke 13 features Jesus' teachings on repentance, the Kingdom of God, and healing on the Sabbath, as well as His lament over Jerusalem.

1st Paragraph: The chapter begins with people telling Jesus about Galileans whose blood Pilate had mixed with their sacrifices. In response, Jesus pointed out that those who suffered such tragedies were not worse sinners than others. He emphasized that unless they repented, they too would perish (Luke 13:1-5). He then told a parable about a barren fig tree. The owner wanted to cut it down because it wasn't bearing fruit but the gardener asked for one more year to fertilize and care for it before making that decision (Luke 13:6-9). This parable underscores God's patience and desire for repentance.

2nd Paragraph: On a Sabbath day in synagogue, Jesus healed a woman who had been crippled by a spirit for eighteen years. The synagogue leader was indignant because Jesus healed on the Sabbath but Jesus rebuked him saying "You hypocrites! Doesn’t each

of you on the Sabbath untie your ox or donkey from the stall and lead it out to give it water? Then should not this woman, a daughter of Abraham whom Satan has kept bound for eighteen long years, be set free on the Sabbath day from what bound her?" All his opponents were humiliated but people delighted all wonderful things he was doing (Luke 13:10-17).

3rd Paragraph: After this incident, Jesus spoke two parables about kingdom God first compared mustard seed which smallest seeds yet when fully grown becomes large enough birds nest its branches second yeast mixed into large amount flour until whole dough leavened These parables illustrate dynamic growth pervasive influence Kingdom despite small seemingly insignificant beginnings (Luke 13:18-21). As continued journey toward Jerusalem someone asked him "Lord are only few people going be saved?" He replied strive enter through narrow door many I tell you will try enter will not able once master house gets up closes door outside stand knock door saying 'Sir open us' answer 'I don't know you where come from.' Those left outside may see Abraham Isaac Jacob prophets kingdom God themselves thrown out indicating urgency need personal commitment rather relying merely religious heritage or association close chapter laments over Jerusalem wishes gather children together hen gathers chicks under wings but they were unwilling predicts house left desolate declares "You will not see me again until you say 'Blessed is he who comes in name Lord.'" expressing deep sorrow unresponsiveness His call longing eventual recognition Him Messiah.

Luke 13:1 There were present at that season some that told him of the Galilaeans, whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices.

Jesus warns his listeners of the consequences of not repenting from their sins. Two 1. Repentance is the only way to be saved from God's wrath. 2. We must take every moment as an opportunity to turn away from our sins and turn to God. Two 1. Isaiah 55:6-7 - Seek the Lord while he may be found; call on him while he is near. Let the wicked forsake their ways and the unrighteous their thoughts. Let them turn to the Lord, and he will have mercy on them, and to our God, for he will freely pardon. 2. Acts 2:38 - Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Luke 13:2 And Jesus answering said unto them, Suppose ye that these Galilaeans were sinners above all the Galilaeans, because they suffered such things?

Jesus questions the assumption that the Galilaeans were sinners above all others because of the suffering they endured.

1: We should never assume that suffering is a sign of God's judgment or displeasure.

2: God's love and mercy endures even in the midst of suffering.

1: Romans 8:28 - And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.

2: Isaiah 53:4-5 - Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.

Luke 13:3 I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish.

Jesus warns us that if we do not repent, we will perish.

1. Repentance: The Path to Eternal Life

2. The Danger of Unrepentance

1. Ezekiel 18:30-32 - “Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, every one according to his ways, saith the Lord GOD. Repent, and turn yourselves from all your transgressions; so iniquity shall not be your ruin. Cast away from you all your transgressions, whereby ye have transgressed; and make you a new heart and a new spirit: for why will ye die, O house of Israel?”

2. John 3:16 - “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.”

Luke 13:4 Or those eighteen, upon whom the tower in Siloam fell, and slew them, think ye that they were sinners above all men that dwelt in Jerusalem?

Jesus poses a question to the crowd about the death of eighteen people who were killed when a tower in Siloam fell on them, asking whether they were sinners more than anyone else living in Jerusalem.

1. God's Love and Mercy despite Human Suffering

2. The Power of Faith and Perseverance

1. Romans 8:38-39 - For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor

things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

2. 1 Peter 5:7- Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.

Luke 13:5 I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish.

Jesus warns that all must repent or face the same consequences.

1: Repent and be saved from everlasting punishment.

2: God's love is revealed in his mercy and grace for those who turn back to him.

1: John 3:16 - For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

2: Isaiah 1:18 - “Come now, let us settle the matter,” says the Lord. “Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red as crimson, they shall be like wool.

Luke 13:6 He spake also this parable; A certain man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came and sought fruit thereon, and found none.

This parable teaches us about the consequences of bearing no fruit. 1: Every person should strive to bear fruit in their lives, for if we do not, we will suffer the consequences. 2: God desires that we bear fruit in our lives and will take action if we do not. 1: Matthew 3:10 - "And now also the axe is laid unto the root of the trees: therefore every tree which bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire." 2: James 3:17-18 - "But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be entreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy."

Luke 13:7 Then said he unto the dresser of his vineyard, Behold, these three years I come seeking fruit on this fig tree, and find none: cut it down; why cumbereth it the ground?

Jesus tells a parable of a fig tree that has not produced fruit for three years, and asks why it should continue to take up space on the ground.

1. "The Power of Patience: Waiting for Fruit in our Lives"

2. "The Fruit of Faith: God's Call to Action"

1. Galatians 5:22-23 - "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law."

2. James 5:7-8 - "Be patient, then, brothers and sisters, until the Lord’s coming. See how the farmer waits for the land to yield its valuable crop, patiently waiting for the autumn and spring rains. You too, be patient and stand firm, because the Lord’s coming is near."

Luke 13:8 And he answering said unto him, Lord, let it alone this year also, till I shall dig about it, and dung it:

This parable speaks of the necessity of tending to the spiritual health of the soul.

1: "Put in the Effort: The Need to Invest in Our Spiritual Health"

2: "Patience and Perseverance: The Virtue of Diligence in Maintaining Our Spiritual Health"

1: 2 Peter 3:18 - But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

2: James 1:4 - But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.

Luke 13:9 And if it bear fruit, well: and if not, then after that thou shalt cut it down.

God desires us to bear fruit in our lives; if not, we are to be cut off.

1: Cultivating a Fruitful Life - Living a life that is pleasing to God and produces good fruits

2: Being Pruned for Greater Fruitfulness - Being willing to be cut off from what does not bring good fruit

1: Colossians 1:10 That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful

in every good work

2: John 15:2 Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit.

Luke 13:10 And he was teaching in one of the synagogues on the sabbath.

Jesus was teaching in a synagogue on the Sabbath.

1. The Power of Sabbath: How Jesus' Teaching on the Sabbath Can Transform Our Lives

2. Taking Time for God: How Making Time for the Sabbath Can Impact Our Lives

1. Isaiah 58:13-14 - "If you turn away your foot from the Sabbath, from doing your pleasure on my holy day, and call the Sabbath a delight and the holy day of the Lord honorable; if you honor it, not going your own ways, or seeking your own pleasure, or talking idle talk, then you shall take delight in the Lord, and I will make you ride on the heights of the earth."

2. Colossians 2:16-17 - "Therefore let no one pass judgment on you in questions of food and drink, or with regard to a festival or a new moon or a Sabbath. These are a shadow of the things to come, but the substance belongs to Christ."

Luke 13:11 And, behold, there was a woman which had a spirit of infirmity eighteen years, and was bowed together, and could in no wise lift up herself.

The woman had been suffering from a spirit of infirmity for 18 years and could not lift up her body.

1. "Healing: Faith to Receive"

2. "The Power of Jesus to Heal"

1. James 5:14-15 - Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord.

2. Isaiah 53:4-5 - Surely He has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed Him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. But He was wounded for our

transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement for our peace was upon Him, and by His stripes we are healed.

Luke 13:12 And when Jesus saw her, he called her to him, and said unto her, Woman, thou art loosed from thine infirmity.

Jesus healed a woman of her infirmity.

1: Jesus is a compassionate healer who is full of grace and mercy.

2: We can find freedom and healing through Jesus.

1: Isaiah 53:5 - “But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed.”

2: Matthew 8:17 - “This was to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet Isaiah: “He took up our infirmities and bore our diseases.”

Luke 13:13 And he laid his hands on her: and immediately she was made straight, and glorified God.

Jesus healed a woman who was crippled and she glorified God in response.

1. The Power of Jesus' Touch: How Jesus' Healing Miracles Reveal His Divinity

2. Rejoicing in the Lord: How Our Response to His Miracles Reflects Our Faith

1. Isaiah 53:5 - "But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed."

2. Matthew 8:2-3 - "And behold, a leper came to him and knelt before him, saying, “Lord, if you will, you can make me clean.” And Jesus stretched out his hand and touched him, saying, “I will; be clean.” And immediately his leprosy was cleansed."

Luke 13:14 And the ruler of the synagogue answered with indignation, because that Jesus had healed on the sabbath day, and said unto the people, There are six days in which

men ought to work: in them therefore come and be healed, and not on the sabbath day.

Jesus healed on the sabbath day and was met with indignation.

1. The Power of Grace: Jesus Heals on the Sabbath.

2. The Authority of God: Working in the Days He Has Established.

1. Exodus 20:8-11 - Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.

2. Matthew 12:8 - For the Son of Man is Lord even of the Sabbath.

Luke 13:15 The Lord then answered him, and said, Thou hypocrite, doth not each one of you on the sabbath loose his ox or his ass from the stall, and lead him away to watering?

Jesus rebukes a man for not allowing a woman who had been crippled by a spirit to be healed on the Sabbath.

1. The Sabbath is Not an Excuse to Deny Compassion

2. The Power of Jesus' Love and Grace

1. Matthew 12:7, "And if you had known what this means, 'I desire mercy, and not sacrifice,' you would not have condemned the guiltless."

2. James 2:13, "For judgment is without mercy to one who has shown no mercy. Mercy triumphs over judgment."

Luke 13:16 And ought not this woman, being a daughter of Abraham, whom Satan hath bound, lo, these eighteen years, be loosed from this bond on the sabbath day?

This passage highlights the fact that Jesus is asking why this woman, being a daughter of Abraham should not be liberated from the bondage of Satan on the Sabbath.

1. The Sabbath is Not Just for Rest, but for Renewal

2. God's Compassion for Those in Bondage

1. Exodus 20:8-11 - Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.

2. Romans 6:6-7 - Our old self was crucified with Him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin.

Luke 13:17 And when he had said these things, all his adversaries were ashamed: and all the people rejoiced for all the glorious things that were done by him.

Jesus spoke to his adversaries and the people rejoiced for the glorious things He did.

1. The Power of God's Word - How Jesus spoke with authority to bring glory to God.

2. Overcoming Adversity - How Jesus faced his adversaries with courage and faith.

1. Psalm 19:7-9 - The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul; the testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple; the precepts of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes;

2. Ephesians 6:10-13 - Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm.

Luke 13:18 Then said he, Unto what is the kingdom of God like? and whereunto shall I resemble it?

The kingdom of God is compared to an unknown quantity.

1: God’s kingdom is mysterious and wonderful; it is beyond our understanding, but that doesn't mean we cannot attempt to comprehend it.

2: The kingdom of God is something that we should strive to understand, despite the fact that it is a mystery.

1: Isaiah 55:8-9 “For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.”

2: Psalm 145:3 “Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised; and his greatness is unsearchable.”

Luke 13:19 It is like a grain of mustard seed, which a man took, and cast into his garden; and it grew, and waxed a great tree; and the fowls of the air lodged in the branches of it.

Jesus tells a parable of a man who plants a mustard seed in his garden, which grows into a great tree, providing shelter for birds.

1. "The Power of a Mustard Seed: Lessons in Faith and Patience"

2. "The Mustard Seed: An Invitation to Share God's Love"

1. Matthew 17:20 - "He said to them, “Because of your little faith. For truly, I say to you, if you have faith like a grain of mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, ‘Move from here to there,’ and it will move, and nothing will be impossible for you.”

2. Mark 4:30-32 - "And he said, “With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable shall we use for it? It is like a grain of mustard seed, which, when sown on the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth, yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes larger than all the garden plants and puts out large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade.”

Luke 13:20 And again he said, Whereunto shall I liken the kingdom of God?

The kingdom of God is compared to a mustard seed.

1: "The Mustard Seed - A Parable of the Kingdom of God"

2: "The Kingdom of God: A Mustard Seed of Faith"

1: Matthew 17:20 - "He said to them, “Because of your little faith. For truly, I say to you, if you have faith like a grain of mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, ‘Move from here to there,’ and it will move, and nothing will be impossible for you.”

2: Mark 4:30-32 - "And he said, “With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable shall we use for it? It is like a grain of mustard seed, which, when sown on the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth, yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes larger than all the garden plants and puts out large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade.”

Luke 13:21 It is like leaven, which a woman took and hid in three measures of meal, till the whole was leavened.

The parable of the leaven teaches us that the Kingdom of God grows and spreads through small, unseen actions.

1. The Power of Small Actions: How the Kingdom of God is Spread

2. The Small but Mighty Leaven: Understanding the Impact of the Kingdom of God

1. Matthew 13:33 - "He told them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed into about sixty pounds of flour until it worked all through the dough.”

2. 1 Corinthians 5:6-7 - “Your boasting is not good. Don’t you know that a little yeast leavens the whole batch of dough? Get rid of the old yeast, so that you may be a new unleavened batch—as you really are. For Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed.”

Luke 13:22 And he went through the cities and villages, teaching, and journeying toward Jerusalem.

This passage describes Jesus travelling through cities and villages, teaching and journeying towards Jerusalem.

1. The Joy of Following Jesus: Learning to Accept Jesus' Call to Follow Him

2. The Power of Teaching: Learning to Share Jesus' Wisdom with Others

1. Matthew 28:19-20 - “Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.”

2. Philippians 3:12-14 - “Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already been made perfect, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.”

Luke 13:23 Then said one unto him, Lord, are there few that be saved? And he said unto them,

The passage reveals that Jesus taught that salvation is hard to attain, but those who strive for it will be rewarded.

1. "The Difficulty of Salvation: Striving for the Prize"

2. "The Narrow Path of Righteousness: Working for Eternal Reward"

1. Philippians 3:12-14 - Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

2. James 1:12 - Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love him.

Luke 13:24 Strive to enter in at the strait gate: for many, I say unto you, will seek to enter in, and shall not be able.

The passage talks about striving to enter the narrow gate as many will seek but will not be able.

1: Jesus urges us to strive for righteousness, even when it is hard, so that we may enter the strait gate.

2: We must be determined to enter the kingdom of God through the narrow gate, no matter the obstacles we may face.

1: Matthew 7:13-14 - “Enter by the narrow gate. For the gate is wide and the way is easy that leads to destruction, and those who enter by it are many. For the gate is narrow and

the way is hard that leads to life, and those who find it are few.”

2: Joshua 24:15 - “And if it is evil in your eyes to serve the Lord, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your fathers served in the region beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.”

Luke 13:25 When once the master of the house is risen up, and hath shut to the door, and ye begin to stand without, and to knock at the door, saying, Lord, Lord, open unto us; and he shall answer and say unto you, I know you not whence ye are:

The master of the house will rise and close the door, and those outside will knock and ask to be let in, but the master will say he does not know them.

1. The importance of being ready when the time comes

2. The need for a personal relationship with God

1. Matthew 25:1-13 - Parable of the Ten Virgins

2. James 4:8 - Draw near to God and He will draw near to you

Luke 13:26 Then shall ye begin to say, We have eaten and drunk in thy presence, and thou hast taught in our streets.

People will acknowledge that Jesus has taught them in their streets and that they have eaten and drunk in his presence.

1. Jesus is always with us, even in our moments of temptation and sin.

2. Jesus teaches us in our everyday lives, if we look for his lessons.

1. Isaiah 55:1-3 - "Come, all you who are thirsty, come to the waters; and you who have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without cost. Why spend money on what is not bread, and your labor on what does not satisfy? Listen, listen to me, and eat what is good, and your soul will delight in the richest of fare."

2. John 14:15-18 - "If you love me, keep my commands. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever— the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you. I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. Before long, the world will not see me anymore, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live."

Luke 13:27 But he shall say, I tell you, I know you not whence ye are; depart from me, all ye workers of iniquity.

Many people are rejected by God because of their sinful ways and evil deeds.

1. We must turn away from sin in order to be accepted by God.

2. We must strive to be righteous if we want to be welcomed into His kingdom.

1. Romans 3:23 - For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.

2. Philippians 2:12-13 - Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

Luke 13:28 There shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth, when ye shall see Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, and all the prophets, in the kingdom of God, and you yourselves thrust out.

Jesus warns that those who do not repent of their sins will be excluded from the kingdom of God, and will witness Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and the prophets in the kingdom while they themselves are cast out.

1. The Importance of Repentance: Don't Be Left Out of the Kingdom of God

2. The Consequences of Not Repenting: Weeping and Gnashing of Teeth

1. Matthew 5:3, “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven”

2. 2 Corinthians 7:10, “For godly sorrow produces repentance leading to salvation, not to be regretted; but the sorrow of the world produces death.”

Luke 13:29 And they shall come from the east, and from the west, and from the north, and from the south, and shall sit down in the kingdom of God.

This verse speaks of a great gathering of people from all directions, who will join together in the Kingdom of God.

1. "The Inclusivity of the Kingdom: An Invitation for All"

2. "The Unifying Power of the Kingdom: Leaving No One Behind"

1. Psalm 122:3-4 - "For the sake of the house of the Lord our God, I will seek your prosperity. Peace be within your walls, and security within your towers!”

2. Isaiah 2:2-3 - “It shall come to pass in the latter days that the mountain of the house of the Lord shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be lifted up above the hills; and all the nations shall flow to it, and many peoples shall come, and say: “Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob, that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths.”

Luke 13:30 And, behold, there are last which shall be first, and there are first which shall be last.

The last will be first and the first will be last.

1: God's mercy is for all and the order of the world is not of our own making.

2: We must put our trust in the Lord and seek to follow His will, not ours.

1: Matthew 20:16 - So the last will be first, and the first will be last.

2: James 2:5 - Listen, my dear brothers and sisters: Has not God chosen those who are poor in the eyes of the world to be rich in faith and to inherit the kingdom he promised those who love him?

Luke 13:31 The same day there came certain of the Pharisees, saying unto him, Get thee out, and depart hence: for Herod will kill thee.

Some Pharisees warned Jesus to leave the area, as Herod was planning to kill him.

1. The Danger of Unrighteous Authority - How to Respond to Unjust Authority.

2. Preparing for the Worst - Navigating Difficult Situations.

1. Romans 13:1-7 - Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers.

2. Matthew 10:17-22 - Be wise as serpents and harmless as doves.

Luke 13:32 And he said unto them, Go ye, and tell that fox, Behold, I cast out devils, and I do cures to day and to morrow, and the third day I shall be perfected.

This verse emphasizes that Jesus is both powerful and perfect, as he is able to cast out devils and perform cures.

1: Jesus' Power and Perfection - Luke 13:32

2: The Amazing Miracles of Jesus - Luke 13:32

1: Matthew 8:16 - When evening came, many who were demon-possessed were brought to Jesus, and he drove out the spirits with a word and healed all the sick.

2: Mark 5:1-20 - When Jesus got out of the boat, a man with an impure spirit came from the tombs to meet him. This passage gives an account of Jesus healing the man with an impure spirit and the people of the town being amazed by Jesus' power.

Luke 13:33 Nevertheless I must walk to day, and to morrow, and the day following: for it cannot be that a prophet perish out of Jerusalem.

Jesus emphasizes the importance of completing his mission in Jerusalem despite the danger.

1. Jesus teaches us to stay focused on our mission despite the risks.

2. Jesus shows us courage and dedication in completing his mission.

1. Matthew 10:16-19 - Jesus commissions the disciples to go out and spread the good news.

2. Matthew 16:25 - Jesus exhorts his disciples to deny themselves and take up their cross.

Luke 13:34 O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, which killest the prophets, and stonest them that are sent unto thee; how often would I have gathered thy children together, as a hen doth gather her brood under her wings, and ye would not!

Jesus expresses his sorrow over Jerusalem's rejection of him and his message.

1. "The Sorrow of Rejection"

2. "God's Invitation to Jerusalem"

1. Jeremiah 17:13 - "O Lord, the hope of Israel, all that forsake thee shall be ashamed, and they that depart from me shall be written in the earth, because they have forsaken the Lord, the fountain of living waters."

2. Isaiah 53:3 - "He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not."

Luke 13:35 Behold, your house is left unto you desolate: and verily I say unto you, Ye shall not see me, until the time come when ye shall say, Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord.

Jesus tells a group of people that their house will be left desolate and they will not see him again until they acknowledge him as the Messiah.

1. The importance of recognizing Jesus as the Messiah.

2. The promise of restoration and forgiveness through accepting Jesus as the Lord.

1. Isaiah 40:1-3 - Comfort ye, comfort ye my people, saith your God.

2. John 14:6 - Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

Luke 14 includes Jesus' teachings on humility, the cost of discipleship, and the parables of the Great Banquet and the Tower Builder.

1st Paragraph: The chapter begins with Jesus healing a man with dropsy on the Sabbath at a Pharisee's house, challenging their legalistic interpretations of Sabbath observance (Luke 14:1-6). Observing how guests chose places of honor at the meal, He shared a parable advising them to take lower places at feasts so that they might be invited to move higher rather than being asked to give up their seats for more distinguished guests. This teaching underscores humility and reverses worldly values - "For all those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted" (Luke 14:7-11).

2nd Paragraph: Continuing His teaching during this meal, Jesus advised His host not to invite friends, brothers or rich neighbors who can reciprocate but instead invite poor crippled lame blind who cannot repay thus ensuring reward resurrection righteous. He then told Parable Great Banquet where many invited made excuses not attend so master house ordered servants go out roads country lanes compel people come in my house will be full indicating God's inclusive invitation kingdom especially those marginalized society rejection by self-satisfied complacent (Luke 14:12-24).

3rd Paragraph: Large crowds were following Jesus and He turned to them saying that anyone coming Him must hate father mother wife children brothers sisters yes even own life otherwise cannot be disciple whoever does not carry cross follow Him cannot His disciple. This strong language is used to underscore total commitment required discipleship over any other relational familial loyalty. He further illustrated this using two parables – one about builder tower another king going war both emphasize importance counting cost before undertaking such commitment ensure ability complete task handle conflict emphasizing sober consideration self-denial needed follow Him (Luke 14:25-33). The chapter concludes with Jesus’ metaphor salt its preserving quality but if loses saltiness no way make salty again hence good neither soil nor manure thrown out warning disciples maintain distinctive quality influence world else they would become useless ineffective (Luke 14:34-35).

Luke 14:1 And it came to pass, as he went into the house of one of the chief Pharisees to eat bread on the sabbath day, that they watched him.

Jesus went to the house of one of the chief Pharisees to eat bread on the sabbath day, and the Pharisees watched him.

1. The Preeminence of Jesus: How Jesus Challenged the Norms of His Time

2. The Sabbath: An Opportunity to Reflect on Jesus' Presence in Our Lives

1. Matthew 5:17-20 - "Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil. For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled."

2. Colossians 2:16-17 - "Let no man therefore judge you in meat, or in drink, or in respect of an holyday, or of the new moon, or of the sabbath days: Which are a shadow of things to come; but the body is of Christ."

Luke 14:2 And, behold, there was a certain man before him which had the dropsy.

Jesus healed a man with dropsy.

1. The healing power of Jesus revealed through acts of compassion.

2. The importance of faith in times of physical suffering.

1. Matthew 9:35 “And Jesus went throughout all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction.”

2. Luke 18:42 “And Jesus said to him, ‘Receive your sight; your faith has made you well.’”

Luke 14:3 And Jesus answering spake unto the lawyers and Pharisees, saying, Is it lawful to heal on the sabbath day?

Jesus asked the lawyers and Pharisees if it was lawful to heal on the sabbath day.

1. The Power of Healing: Exploring the Life-Giving Nature of Jesus' Miracles

2. Keeping the Sabbath: Examining the Commandment to Rest and Rejoice

1. Mark 3:1-6 - Jesus Heals a Man With a Withered Hand

2. Isaiah 58:13-14 - Keeping the Sabbath as an Act of Worship

Luke 14:4 And they held their peace. And he took him, and healed him, and let him go;

Jesus showed compassion and mercy by taking a man with a withered hand, healing him, and setting him free.

1. God's Compassion and Mercy: How Jesus Transformed a Man's Life

2. Finding Freedom Through Jesus' Healing Power

1. James 5:15 – “And the prayer of faith will save the one who is sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven.”

2. Isaiah 53:4-5 – “Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his stripes we are healed.”

Luke 14:5 And answered them, saying, Which of you shall have an ass or an ox fallen into a pit, and will not straightway pull him out on the sabbath day?

This passage from Luke 14:5 displays Jesus' teaching on the importance of mercy over the observance of the Sabbath.

1. God's Mercy is Greater than Rules: Compassion over Ritual

2. Jesus' Message of Love and Compassion: Setting Our Priorities Right

1. Matthew 12:1-14; Jesus' teaching that love and mercy should supersede law.

2. Psalm 145:8-9; God's love and compassion endures forever.

Luke 14:6 And they could not answer him again to these things.

The people in the crowd were unable to respond to Jesus's words.

1. We should not be afraid to challenge authority and ask questions.

2. We should be humble and not be afraid to admit when we do not have answers.

1. Proverbs 29:20 – “Do you see a man who is hasty in his words? There is more hope for a fool than for him.”

2. James 1:19 – “Know this, my beloved brothers: let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger.”

Luke 14:7 And he put forth a parable to those which were bidden, when he marked how they chose out the chief rooms; saying unto them,

The parable of Jesus to those at a banquet encourages humility and an appreciation for others.

1: "The Power of Humility"

2: "The Blessing of Appreciating Others"

1: Philippians 2:3-5 - "Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others."

2: James 4:10 - "Humble yourselves before the Lord, and He will lift you up."

Luke 14:8 When thou art bidden of any man to a wedding, sit not down in the highest room; lest a more honourable man than thou be bidden of him;

One should not take the seat of highest honor when invited to a wedding or other gathering, as there may be someone more important than oneself present.

1) Pride is a sin: don't let it lead you to take more than you deserve.

2) Honor others before yourself, and take the lower seat.

1) Philippians 2:3-4: "Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others."

2) Proverbs 25:27: "It is not good to eat much honey, nor is it glorious to seek one's own glory."

Luke 14:9 And he that bade thee and him come and say to thee, Give this man place; and thou begin with shame to take the lowest room.

Jesus teaches the importance of humility and taking the lowest place at a gathering.

1. The Priority of Humility: Learning to Take the Lowest Place

2. The Paradox of Pride: Why Humility is the Greatest Gift

1. Philippians 2:3-8 "Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others."

2. James 4:6-10 "God opposes the proud but shows favor to the humble. Humble yourselves, therefore, under God’s mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time."

Luke 14:10 But when thou art bidden, go and sit down in the lowest room; that when he that bade thee cometh, he may say unto thee, Friend, go up higher: then shalt thou have worship in the presence of them that sit at meat with thee.

Jesus encourages those invited to be humble and to be willing to accept an invitation to a higher seat in the presence of others.

1. "Christ's Call to Humility: The Invitation to a Higher Seat"

2. "The Blessing of Humbleness: Reaping the Reward of Humility"

1. James 4:10 - "Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up."

2. Philippians 2:3-4 - "Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves. Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others."

Luke 14:11 For whosoever exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted.

Jesus teaches that those who humble themselves will be exalted while those who exalt themselves will be humbled.

1. The Power of Humility: How to Live a Life of Excellence

2. Pride: The Subtle Destroyer of Relationships

1. James 4:6 - But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble.

2. Philippians 2:3-4 - Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. Everyone should look out not only for their own interests, but also for the interests of others.

Luke 14:12 Then said he also to him that bade him, When thou makest a dinner or a supper, call not thy friends, nor thy brethren, neither thy kinsmen, nor thy rich neighbours; lest they also bid thee again, and a recompence be made thee.

Jesus teaches to be generous to those who are in need instead of those who are already blessed.

1: "The Gift of Generosity"

2: "The Joy of Giving"

1: 1 John 3:17-18 “But if anyone has the world’s goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God’s love abide in him? Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth.”

2: James 2:14-17 “What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him? If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food, and one of you says to them, “Go in peace, be warmed and filled,”

without giving them the things needed for the body, what good is that? So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.”

Luke 14:13 But when thou makest a feast, call the poor, the maimed, the lame, the blind:

Jesus instructs to invite the poor, maimed, lame, and blind to a feast.

1. Inviting the Underprivileged: Reimagining Jesus' Vision for Fellowship

2. Caring for the Less Fortunate: Jesus' Call to Hospitality

1. Isaiah 58:7-10 - Share your bread with the hungry, and bring the homeless poor into your house.

2. James 1:27 - Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to care for orphans and widows in their distress.

Luke 14:14 And thou shalt be blessed; for they cannot recompense thee: for thou shalt be recompensed at the resurrection of the just.

This verse speaks of the reward of those who live a life of faith and righteousness, as they will be blessed at the resurrection of the just.

1. The Reward of Righteousness: Living a Life of Faith and Obedience

2. The Blessing of the Resurrection: Eternal Life with God

1. Matthew 6:19-21 - "Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

2. Romans 8:28 - "And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose."

Luke 14:15 And when one of them that sat at meat with him heard these things, he said unto him, Blessed is he that shall eat bread in the kingdom of God.

Jesus speaks of the joy of eating in the kingdom of God to one of his dinner guests.

1. The Joy of Eating in the Kingdom of God

2. The Blessings of Entering into the Kingdom of God

1. Romans 14:17 - For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost.

2. Matthew 6:33 - But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.

Luke 14:16 Then said he unto him, A certain man made a great supper, and bade many:

A certain man invited many people to a great supper.

1. The Invitation of the Gospel: God's Generous Offer of Salvation

2. The Joys of Fellowship: A Call to Christian Community

1. Romans 10:13-14 - “For everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved. But how can they call on him to save them unless they believe in him? And how can they believe in him if they have never heard about him? And how can they hear about him unless someone tells them?”

2. Hebrews 10:24-25 - “Let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works. And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near.”

Luke 14:17 And sent his servant at supper time to say to them that were bidden, Come; for all things are now ready.

The master had prepared a banquet and was now inviting all the guests to come and partake.

1: Jesus invites us to the banquet of salvation.

2: The Lord's invitation to the feast of grace.

1: Revelation 19:9 - “And he said unto me, Write, Blessed are they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb.”

2: Isaiah 25:6 - “And in this mountain shall the Lord of hosts make unto all people a feast of fat things, a feast of wines on the lees, of fat things full of marrow, of wines on the lees well refined.”

Luke 14:18 And they all with one consent began to make excuse. The first said unto him, I have bought a piece of ground, and I must needs go and see it: I pray thee have me excused.

The people invited to a feast all had an excuse not to attend. The first said he had bought a piece of ground and wanted to go and see it.

1: We must be willing to put God first in our lives, even above our own wants and needs.

2: We must be willing to take up our cross and follow Jesus, even when it may be uncomfortable or inconvenient.

1: Matthew 16:24 - Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any [man] will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.

2: Philippians 2:3-4 - [Let] nothing [be done] through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves. Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others.

Luke 14:19 And another said, I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I go to prove them: I pray thee have me excused.

This parable speaks of someone who has made many commitments and is now looking for a way out.

1: We must be careful not to commit to more than we can handle.

2: We should always be honest with ourselves and others about our abilities.

1: Ecclesiastes 5:4-5 - When thou vowest a vow unto God, defer not to pay it; for he hath no pleasure in fools: pay that which thou hast vowed. Better is it that thou shouldest not vow, than that thou shouldest vow and not pay.

2: James 4:13-17 - Go to now, ye that say, To day or to morrow we will go into such a city, and continue there a year, and buy and sell, and get gain: Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away. For that ye ought to say, If the Lord will, we shall live, and do this, or that. But now ye rejoice in your boastings: all such rejoicing is evil. Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin.

Luke 14:20 And another said, I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come.

This passage highlights the difficulty of prioritizing the Kingdom of God over earthly responsibilities.

1: Accepting God’s Invitation to Join His Kingdom

2: Prioritizing God's Kingdom over Earthly Responsibilities

1: Matthew 6:33 - “But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.”

2: Colossians 3:1-2 - “Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things.”

Luke 14:21 So that servant came, and shewed his lord these things. Then the master of the house being angry said to his servant, Go out quickly into the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in hither the poor, and the maimed, and the halt, and the blind.

The master of the house commands his servant to go out and bring in the poor, maimed, halt and blind.

1. The importance of serving the marginalized in our communities.

2. The power of welcoming the outsider.

1. James 1:27 - Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unstained from the world.

2. Isaiah 58:6-7 - “Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of wickedness, to undo the straps of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? Is it not to share your bread with the hungry and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover him, and not to hide yourself from your own flesh?

Luke 14:22 And the servant said, Lord, it is done as thou hast commanded, and yet there is room.

A servant works to fulfill his master's commands, and discovers that there is still room for more.

1. The Power of Obedience: Fulfilling God's Commands

2. There Is Always Room For More: The Limitless Potential of Faith

1. Ephesians 2:10: "For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them."

2. 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18: "Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you."

Luke 14:23 And the lord said unto the servant, Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel them to come in, that my house may be filled.

The Lord calls His servants to go out and invite people into the Kingdom of God so that His house may be filled.

1. Be Bold and Invite Others to Join God's Kingdom

2. Don't Miss Your Opportunity to Share the Gospel

1. Matthew 28:19-20 - Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you.

2. Isaiah 55:6 - Seek the Lord while he may be found; call upon him while he is near.

Luke 14:24 For I say unto you, That none of those men which were bidden shall taste of my supper.

This passage is about how none of those who were invited to the supper will taste of it.

1. The Value of Commitment: Understanding the Consequences of Rejecting God's Invitation.

2. The Cost of Unbelief: Recognizing the Consequences of Refusing to Accept the Lord's Invitation.

1. Matthew 22:2-14 - Parable of the Wedding Banquet.

2. Romans 11:17-24 - God's Mercy and Wrath.

Luke 14:25 And there went great multitudes with him: and he turned, and said unto them,

Jesus encourages his followers to prioritize their relationship with Him over the comfort and security of their earthly possessions.

1. Putting Jesus First: The Priority of Relationship

2. Abundant Life: The Freedom of Living for Jesus

1. Matthew 6:33 — “But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.”

2. Philippians 3:8 — “Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ.”

Luke 14:26 If any man come to me, and hate not his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be my disciple.

This passage from Luke 14:26 teaches that discipleship requires a level of commitment that is higher than our natural love for our family and ourselves.

1. "The Ultimate Commitment: Discipleship Above Family"

2. "Love God More Than Anything: The Priority of Discipleship"

1. Matthew 16:24-26 - "Then Jesus said to His disciples, “If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it. For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul?”

2. Mark 8:34-37 - "When He had called the people to Himself, with His disciples also, He said to them, “Whoever desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake and the gospel’s will save it. For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul? For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him the Son of Man also will be ashamed when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels.”

Luke 14:27 And whosoever doth not bear his cross, and come after me, cannot be my disciple.

Jesus teaches that in order to be his disciple, one must bear their cross and follow him.

1. Take Up Your Cross and Follow Jesus - A on the importance of discipleship.

2. Bearing Our Cross - A on the responsibility of walking with Christ.

1. Mark 8:34-37 - Jesus instructs his followers to take up their cross and follow him.

2. Galatians 5:24 - We are called to crucify the flesh and live in the Spirit.

Luke 14:28 For which of you, intending to build a tower, sitteth not down first, and counteth the cost, whether he have sufficient to finish it?

This passage emphasizes the importance of preparing beforehand and counting the cost of any endeavor.

1. “The Cost of Building: Preparing for Commitment”

2. “Making Plans: Calculating the Cost Ahead”

1. Matthew 6:19-21 - “Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

2. Proverbs 13:4 - “The soul of the sluggard craves and gets nothing, while the soul of the diligent is richly supplied.”

Luke 14:29 Lest haply, after he hath laid the foundation, and is not able to finish it, all that behold it begin to mock him,

The passage warns against starting something without the capacity to finish it, as onlookers may mock the individual.

1. The danger of taking on more than you can handle

2. The importance of finishing what you start

1. Ephesians 6:13 - "Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand."

2. Proverbs 16:3 - "Commit to the Lord whatever you do, and he will establish your plans."

Luke 14:30 Saying, This man began to build, and was not able to finish.

Jesus teaches a parable about a man who begins a project but is not able to finish it.

1. The importance of finishing what you start

2. Perseverence in the face of difficulty

1. Philippians 3:14 - "I press on to reach the end of the race and receive the heavenly prize for which God, through Christ Jesus, is calling us."

2. Colossians 3:23 - "Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters."

Luke 14:31 Or what king, going to make war against another king, sitteth not down first, and consulteth whether he be able with ten thousand to meet him that cometh against him with twenty thousand?

A king must consider his resources before going to war against another king who has double the resources.

1. God will provide us with the resources we need to overcome any obstacle.

2. We must learn to trust in God and be wise in our decisions.

1. Isaiah 40:31 - "But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint."

2. James 1:5 - "If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him."

Luke 14:32 Or else, while the other is yet a great way off, he sendeth an ambassage, and desireth conditions of peace.

The parable of the lost son emphasizes the need to seek out the lost and extend them the offer of reconciliation.

1. The Power of Forgiveness: How to Extend Grace to the Lost

2. Reconciliation: Accepting and Embracing the Prodigal

1. Matthew 18:12-14 - What do you do when a lost person comes back?

2. Romans 5:8 - The power of God's love in reconciling us to Him

Luke 14:33 So likewise, whosoever he be of you that forsaketh not all that he hath, he cannot be my disciple.

This passage emphasizes the importance of forsaking all possessions to be a disciple of Jesus.

1. True Discipleship: The Cost of Counting the Cost - Luke 14:33

2. Giving Up Everything to Follow Jesus - Luke 14:33

1. Matthew 19:21 - Jesus said to him, “If you would be perfect, go, sell what you possess and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me.”

2. Mark 10:21 - And Jesus, looking at him, loved him, and said to him, “You lack one thing: go, sell all that you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me.”

Luke 14:34 Salt is good: but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be seasoned?

Salt is an important metaphor in Jesus' teaching, illustrating the need for disciples of Christ to be a source of moral and spiritual flavor to the world.

1: Salt of the Earth: Being a Disciple of Christ and Making an Impact in the World

2: Savoring the Salt: How to Live a Life of Divine Flavor

1: Matthew 5:13-14 - “You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled under people's feet.”

2: Colossians 4:6 - “Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person.”

Luke 14:35 It is neither fit for the land, nor yet for the dunghill; but men cast it out. He that hath ears to hear, let him hear.

This passage speaks of the importance of being attentive to God's word and heeding its call.

1. "A Call to Listen: Understanding the Importance of Attentiveness to God's Word"

2. "Casting Out the Unfit: The Cost of Disregarding God's Word"

1. James 1:19-20 - "Know this, my beloved brothers: let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger; for the anger of man does not produce the righteousness of God."

2. Romans 10:17 - "So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ."

Luke 15 features three parables of Jesus that illustrate God's joy over the repentance of sinners: the Lost Sheep, the Lost Coin, and the Prodigal Son.

1st Paragraph: The chapter begins with tax collectors and sinners gathering around to hear Jesus, which caused grumbling among the Pharisees and teachers of law saying "This man welcomes sinners eats with them." In response, Jesus told Parable Lost Sheep where shepherd leaves ninety-nine sheep in open country to search for one lost sheep. When he finds it, he joyfully puts it on his shoulders and goes home. Then he calls his friends neighbors together says 'Rejoice me I have found my lost sheep.' Jesus then explains that there is more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent (Luke 15:1-7).

2nd Paragraph: Following this parable, Jesus told another parable about a woman who had ten silver coins but lost one. She lights a lamp, sweeps her house thoroughly until she finds it. Upon finding it, she calls her friends neighbors together says 'Rejoice me I have found my lost coin.' Again Jesus emphasized that there is rejoicing in presence angels God over one sinner who repents (Luke 15:8-10).

3rd Paragraph: Lastly, He shared the Parable of the Prodigal Son. In this story, a younger son asks for his share of inheritance from his father and then squanders all in wild living far-off country. When severe famine arose he began be need so hired himself out citizen that country sent him fields feed pigs longed fill stomach pods pigs were eating no one gave him anything when came senses said 'How many my father's hired servants have food spare here am starving death!' He decided return home confess sins before father ask treated like hired servant. But while still far off father saw him filled compassion ran threw arms around kissed him son said 'Father sinned against heaven you am no longer worthy called your son.' But father ordered servants bring best robe put ring on finger sandals feet bring fattened calf kill let's have feast celebrate for this son mine was dead alive again was lost found so they began celebrate elder brother became angry refused

go in so father went out pleaded him answered 'Look all these years I've been slaving for you never disobeyed your orders yet you never gave me even young goat so could celebrate with my friends but when this son yours comes back who has devoured your property prostitutes kill fattened calf for him!' Father said 'My son you are always with me everything I have is yours but we had to celebrate be glad because brother yours was dead alive again was lost found' (Luke 15:11-32). This parable underscores gracious loving nature Father towards repentant sinners also challenges self-righteousness lack compassion towards those who have gone astray.

Luke 15:1 Then drew near unto him all the publicans and sinners for to hear him.

This passage mentions Jesus being surrounded by publicans and sinners who came to hear him.

1: Jesus shows us that everyone is welcome in his presence and that no one should be excluded.

2: Jesus' love is unconditional and he is available to everyone who seeks him.

1: Matthew 11:28 - "Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest."

2: Mark 2:17 - "When Jesus heard it, he saith unto them, They that are whole have no need of the physician, but they that are sick: I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance."

Luke 15:2 And the Pharisees and scribes murmured, saying, This man receiveth sinners, and eateth with them.

This passage reveals the criticism and disapproval of the Pharisees and scribes towards Jesus for associating with sinners.

1. Jesus' Unconditional Love and Acceptance of Sinners

2. The Danger of Judging Others

1. Romans 14:13 - "Therefore let us not pass judgment on one another any longer, but rather decide never to put a stumbling block or hindrance in the way of a brother."

2. Matthew 7:1-2 - "Judge not, that you be not judged. For with the judgment you pronounce you will be judged, and with the measure you use it will be measured to you."

Luke 15:3 And he spake this parable unto them, saying,

Parable of the Lost Sheep: Jesus tells a parable of a shepherd who loses one of his sheep and leaves the other 99 to search for the lost one until he finds it.

1. The Shepherd's Heart: How Jesus Cares for the Lost

2. The Lost Sheep: God's Pursuit of the Hurting

1. Ezekiel 34:11-16 - God's promise to save his sheep

2. Psalm 23:1-4 - The Lord is my shepherd

Luke 15:4 What man of you, having an hundred sheep, if he lose one of them, doth not leave the ninety and nine in the wilderness, and go after that which is lost, until he find it?

This passage speaks of God's relentless pursuit of the lost, emphasizing his compassion for sinners.

1. "God's Unfailing Love: A Pursuit of the Lost"

2. "The Shepherd and the Lost Sheep: A Parable of Compassion"

1. Ezekiel 34:11-16 ??God's Promise as the True Shepherd

2. Jeremiah 29:11-14 ??God's Plan for the Lost and Found

Luke 15:5 And when he hath found it, he layeth it on his shoulders, rejoicing.

This passage speaks of the joy of finding something that was lost.

1. Finding joy in the Lord: How rejoicing in the Lord leads to true contentment.

2. The Shepherd?□ Love: How to experience the joy of redemption through God?□ love.

1. Isaiah 40:11 ?□e will tend his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms; he will carry them in his bosom, and gently lead those that are with young.??

2. Psalm 30:5 ?□or his anger is but for a moment, and his favor is for a lifetime. Weeping may tarry for the night, but joy comes with the morning.??

Luke 15:6 And when he cometh home, he calleth together his friends and neighbours, saying unto them, Rejoice with me; for I have found my sheep which was lost.

This passage speaks of a man finding his lost sheep and celebrating with his friends and neighbours.

1. God is a Shepherd who seeks out the lost and rejoices when they are found.

2. The joy of finding the lost is something to be shared with others.

1. Psalm 23:1-4 ???□he Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters. He restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake.??

2. Ezekiel 34:11-16 ???□or thus says the Lord God: Behold, I, I myself will search for my sheep and will seek them out. As a shepherd seeks out his flock when he is among his sheep that have been scattered, so will I seek out my sheep, and I will rescue them from all places where they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. And I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries, and will bring them into their own land. And I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the ravines, and in all the inhabited places of the country. I will feed them with good pasture, and on the mountain heights of Israel shall be their grazing land. There they shall lie down in good grazing land, and on rich pasture they shall feed on the mountains of Israel. I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I myself will make them lie down, declares the Lord God.??

Luke 15:7 I say unto you, that likewise joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that repenteth, more than over ninety and nine just persons, which need no repentance.

Joy in Heaven over a repentant sinner.

1: God rejoices when we repent and turn to Him.

2: Jesus??love for us is beyond measure and He rejoices when we acknowledge our sins and turn to Him.

1: 2 Chronicles 7:14 - ?□f my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land.??

2: Romans 2:4 - ?□r do you show contempt for the riches of his kindness, forbearance and patience, not realizing that God?□ kindness is intended to lead you to repentance???

Luke 15:8 Either what woman having ten pieces of silver, if she lose one piece, doth not light a candle, and sweep the house, and seek diligently till she find it?

This passage speaks of a woman who searches diligently for a lost silver piece.

1. The Diligence of the Lost: How a Search for the Lost Can Lead to a Renewed Faith

2. The Parable of the Silver Piece: How We Should Persevere in Difficult Times

1. Proverbs 24:10 If thou faint in the day of adversity, thy strength is small.

2. Matthew 6:33 But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.

Luke 15:9 And when she hath found it, she calleth her friends and her neighbours together, saying, Rejoice with me; for I have found the piece which I had lost.

A woman who had lost something important to her rejoices when she finds it again and invites her friends and neighbors to celebrate with her.

1. The Joy of Restoration: Celebrating the Return of Lost Things

2. God?□ Love in the Small Things: Finding Joy in the Ordinary

1. Psalm 126:3: ?□he Lord has done great things for us, and we are filled with joy.??

2. Luke 15:7: ?□ tell you that in the same way there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent.??

Luke 15:10 Likewise, I say unto you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repenteth.

The presence of God brings joy when a sinner repents.

1. The Joy of Repentance

2. Rediscovering the Love of God through Repentance

1. Isaiah 1:18 - Come now, and let us reason together, saith the LORD: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool.

2. Jeremiah 31:34 - And they shall teach no more every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the LORD: for they shall all know me, from the least of them unto the greatest of them, saith the LORD: for I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.

Luke 15:11 And he said, A certain man had two sons:

This parable of Jesus tells the story of a father and his two sons, one of whom is lost and searches for his way home.

1: Jesus calls us to come home and be reconnected with God.

2: We must recognize our need for God and seek a relationship with Him.

1: Luke 15:20 - And he arose, and came to his father. But when he was yet a great way off, his father saw him, and had compassion, and ran, and fell on his neck, and kissed him.

2: Ezekiel 16:63 - That thou mayest remember, and be confounded, and never open thy mouth any more because of thy shame, when I am pacified toward thee for all that thou hast done, saith the Lord GOD.

Luke 15:12 And the younger of them said to his father, Father, give me the portion of goods that falleth to me. And he divided unto them his living.

The father of two sons divided his possessions between them, and the younger son asked for his portion.

1. God's Love for His Children: How a Father's Generosity Reflects the Heart of Our Heavenly Father

2. The Power of Request: Learning to Ask Boldly and Receive God's Generous Blessings

1. Ephesians 3:20 - Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us.

2. Philippians 4:6-7 - Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Luke 15:13 And not many days after the younger son gathered all together, and took his journey into a far country, and there wasted his substance with riotous living.

The younger son wasted his substance with riotous living in a far country.

1. The Danger of Wild Living

2. The High Cost of Sin

1. Proverbs 13:15 - "Good understanding wins favor, but the way of the unfaithful is their ruin."

2. Galatians 6:7-8 - "Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap. For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap

corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life."

Luke 15:14 And when he had spent all, there arose a mighty famine in that land; and he began to be in want.

A man spent all of his money and a famine in the land caused him to become destitute.

1. The Danger of Wasting Money

2. The Blessing of Contentment in All Circumstances

1. Proverbs 21:20, "There is precious treasure and oil in the dwelling of the wise, but a foolish man squanders it."

2. 1 Timothy 6:6-10, "But godliness with contentment is great gain, for we brought nothing into the world, and we cannot take anything out of the world. But if we have food and clothing, with these we will be content. But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation, into a snare, into many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evils. It is through this craving that some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pangs."

Luke 15:15 And he went and joined himself to a citizen of that country; and he sent him into his fields to feed swine.

This passage tells of the prodigal son who left home and squandered his money, eventually becoming so desperate that he accepts a job feeding pigs.

1. The Danger of Disobedience: Learning from the Prodigal Son

2. Turning to God in Times of Desperation: The Prodigal Son's Story

1. Proverbs 13:13-15 "Whoever despises the word brings destruction on himself, but he who reveres the commandment will be rewarded. The teaching of the wise is a fountain of life, that one may turn away from the snares of death. Good sense wins favor, but the way of the treacherous is their ruin."

2. Matthew 6:24 "No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both

God and money."

Luke 15:16 And he would fain have filled his belly with the husks that the swine did eat: and no man gave unto him.

The prodigal son was so desperate for food that he was willing to eat what the pigs were eating. No one was willing to help him.

1. The Danger of Desperation: Learning from the Prodigal Son

2. The Compassion of God: How He Cares for the Brokenhearted

1. Isaiah 41:10 - So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.

2. Matthew 6:25 - ?herefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes?

Luke 15:17 And when he came to himself, he said, How many hired servants of my father's have bread enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger!

A man realizes that he is in dire need and reflects on the abundance of resources available to him.

1. The Abundance of God's Provision

2. Recognizing the Depths of Our Need

1. Matthew 6:31-33 - "Therefore do not be anxious, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For the Gentiles seek after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you."

2. 1 John 4:19 - "We love because he first loved us."

Luke 15:18 I will arise and go to my father, and will say unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and before thee,

This passage is about a son who returns to his father and confesses the sins he has committed.

1. A Father's Love: How Our Father Forgives and Welcomes Us Home

2. Confession of Sin: The Necessary Step to True Repentance

1. 1 John 1:9 - "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

2. Matthew 6:14-15 - "For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you, but if you do not forgive others their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.??

Luke 15:19 And am no more worthy to be called thy son: make me as one of thy hired servants.

The prodigal son in Luke 15 expresses his remorse for his past behavior and asks his father to allow him to become one of his hired servants.

1. The Power of Repentance: What it Really Means to Turn from Your Wicked Ways

2. The Mercy of God: How the Father Welcomes His Lost Son

1. Ezekiel 18:21-23 - But if the wicked will turn from all his sins that he hath committed, and keep all my statutes, and do that which is lawful and right, he shall surely live, he shall not die.

2. Romans 5:20 - Moreover the law entered, that the offence might abound. But where sin abounded, grace did much more abound.

Luke 15:20 And he arose, and came to his father. But when he was yet a great way off, his father saw him, and had compassion, and ran, and fell on his neck, and kissed him.

The prodigal son returns to his father and is welcomed with love and compassion.

1. The Unconditional Love of God - How God's love is ever-present and unwavering, no matter the circumstances.

2. The Power of Repentance - How repentance can restore even the most broken of relationships.

1. Romans 5:8 - But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

2. John 8:1-11 - But Jesus went to the Mount of Olives. At dawn he appeared again in the temple courts, where all the people gathered around him, and he sat down to teach them.

Luke 15:21 And the son said unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and in thy sight, and am no more worthy to be called thy son.

The son confesses his sins to his father and humbly admits he is no longer worthy of being called his son.

1. The Power of Confession: Learning to Acknowledge Our Failings

2. The Depth of God's Love: Unconditional Forgiveness for All

1. 1 John 1:9 - If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

2. Ephesians 2:4-5 - But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;)

Luke 15:22 But the father said to his servants, Bring forth the best robe, and put it on him; and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet:

The father in this passage is showing his son unconditional love and acceptance despite his past mistakes.

1: No matter how far we have strayed, God will always love and accept us with open arms.

2: We are all worthy of God's love and grace, no matter what our past may look like.

1: Romans 8:38-39 - For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

2: Isaiah 43:1-3 - Thus says the Lord: ?□ear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you. For I am the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior.

Luke 15:23 And bring hither the fatted calf, and kill it; and let us eat, and be merry:

The Prodigal Son is welcomed home with a feast.

1: Welcome Home: The Joy of Forgiveness and Restoration

2: The Cost of Forgiveness: The Sacrifice of the Fatted Calf

1: Ephesians 1:7 - ?□n him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace.??

2: Romans 5:8 - ?□ut God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.??

Luke 15:24 For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found. And they began to be merry.

This passage speaks of the joy and relief of a son being found after being lost.

1: We can find joy and peace in God's love when we are lost.

2: We can experience the joy of redemption when we turn to God.

1: Romans 5:8 - But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still

sinners, Christ died for us.

2: Psalm 107:13-14 - Then they cried out to the Lord in their trouble, and he saved them from their distress. He brought them out of darkness and the deepest gloom and broke away their chains.

Luke 15:25 Now his elder son was in the field: and as he came and drew nigh to the house, he heard musick and dancing.

The father joyfully welcomed the prodigal son home with music and dancing.

1. God's Unconditional Love - Celebrating the Return of the Prodigal Son

2. Embracing Second Chances - The Redemptive Power of Repentance

1. Romans 5:8 - But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

2. Isaiah 43:25 - I, even I, am he who blots out your transgressions, for my own sake, and remembers your sins no more.

Luke 15:26 And he called one of the servants, and asked what these things meant.

The prodigal son returns and is welcomed back by his father.

1: God's grace is greater than our sins.

2: We are never too far from God's love.

1: Psalm 103:12 - As far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us.

2: Jeremiah 31:3 - The Lord appeared to us in the past, saying: "I have loved you with an everlasting love; I have drawn you with unfailing kindness.

Luke 15:27 And he said unto him, Thy brother is come; and thy father hath killed the

fatted calf, because he hath received him safe and sound.

This passage speaks of a father's joy in welcoming his son home after a long absence. His joy is so great that he sacrifices the fatted calf to celebrate his son's safe return.

1: God rejoices when we come home to Him.

2: The joy of the Lord is our strength.

1: Isaiah 40:31 - But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.

2: Psalm 51:12 - Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; and uphold me with thy free spirit.

Luke 15:28 And he was angry, and would not go in: therefore came his father out, and intreated him.

The prodigal son's father went out to plead with him to come home.

1. The Love and Patience of a Father's Heart

2. The Power of Reconciliation

1. Ephesians 4:32?□e kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.

2. Romans 8:35-39?□ho shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? As it is written: ?□or your sake we face death all day long; we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered.?? No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Luke 15:29 And he answering said to his father, Lo, these many years do I serve thee, neither transgressed I at any time thy commandment: and yet thou never gavest me a kid, that I might make merry with my friends:

The son confesses to his father that he has never broken any of his commands, yet has never been given a kid to celebrate with his friends.

1: A father's love and provision should never be taken for granted.

2: God's grace and mercy are not based on our performance.

1: Ephesians 2:8-9 - For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.

2: Romans 5:8 - But God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Luke 15:30 But as soon as this thy son was come, which hath devoured thy living with harlots, thou hast killed for him the fatted calf.

A father had a son who had squandered his wealth on harlots, but the father still welcomed him home and celebrated by killing the fatted calf for him.

1. The Unconditional Love of Our Father - Celebrating the Return of the Prodigal Son

2. The True Meaning of Repentance - Learning to Receive Forgiveness and Mercy

1. Matthew 18:21-35 - The Parable of the Unforgiving Servant

2. Hosea 14:1-3 - God's Invitation to Repentance and Restoration

Luke 15:31 And he said unto him, Son, thou art ever with me, and all that I have is thine.

A father and son are reconciled, and the father tells the son that he is always with him and that all he has is his.

1. The Prodigal Son: Finding Reconciliation Through Forgiveness

2. The Love of a Father: An Unconditional and Unending Bond

1. Romans 8:38-39 - For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

2. Ephesians 3:14-17 - For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named, that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith? hat you, being rooted and grounded in love, may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

Luke 15:32 It was meet that we should make merry, and be glad: for this thy brother was dead, and is alive again; and was lost, and is found.

This passage teaches us the joy of being reunited with a lost loved one.

1: Rejoicing in the Joy of Reunion

2: Knowing the Value of What We Have

1: Romans 12:15 - Rejoice with them that do rejoice, and weep with them that weep.

2: John 14:27 - Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.

Luke 16 contains Jesus' teachings on stewardship, wealth, and the afterlife, including the Parable of the Shrewd Manager and the Parable of Lazarus and the Rich Man.

1st Paragraph: The chapter begins with Jesus telling His disciples the Parable of the Shrewd Manager. In this parable, a rich man's manager was accused of wasting his possessions. When he learned that he was about to lose his job, he called each of his master's debtors and reduced their debts so that they would welcome him into their homes when he lost his position. The master commended him for acting shrewdly. Jesus used this parable to teach His disciples to use worldly wealth to gain friends for themselves so that when it is gone, they will be welcomed into eternal dwellings (Luke 16:1-9). He further emphasized that whoever can be trusted with little can also be trusted with much, but whoever is dishonest with little will also be dishonest with much (Luke 16:10-12).

2nd Paragraph: Continuing His teaching on wealth and stewardship, Jesus said "No servant can serve two masters. Either you will hate one love other or you will be devoted one despise other cannot serve both God money." Pharisees who loved money heard all this were sneering at Him but He told them what highly valued among people detestable in God's sight (Luke 16:13-15). Then He pointed out law prophets were proclaimed until John since then good news kingdom God being preached everyone forcing way into it easier heaven earth disappear than least stroke letter law drop out indicating enduring nature God's word moral standards (Luke 16:16-18).

3rd Paragraph: Lastly in this chapter, Jesus told Parable Lazarus Rich Man illustrating consequences choices related wealth compassion afterlife poor man named Lazarus covered sores laid at gate rich man hoping eat what fell from rich man’s table even dogs came licked his sores time came Lazarus died angels carried him Abraham’s side rich man also died buried hell where suffering looked up saw Abraham far off Lazarus by side called 'Father Abraham have pity me send Lazarus dip tip finger water cool my tongue because I am agony fire.' But Abraham replied 'Son remember lifetime received good things while Lazarus received bad things now comforted here you are agony besides all between us you great chasm has been set place those want go from here cannot nor anyone cross over us.' Then rich man asked father send Lazarus warn five brothers so they not come place torment but Abraham said 'They have Moses Prophets let them listen them.' 'No father Abraham,' he said 'but if someone from dead goes them they will repent.' But replied 'If do not listen Moses Prophets neither will they convinced if someone rises from dead' (Luke 16:19-31). This story starkly contrasts eternal destinies based earthly attitudes behaviors particularly towards material possessions treatment less fortunate also underscores importance responding God's revelation scriptures rather seeking spectacular signs miracles.

Luke 16:1 And he said also unto his disciples, There was a certain rich man, which had a steward; and the same was accused unto him that he had wasted his goods.

Jesus told a parable to His disciples about a rich man and his steward who was accused of wasting the man's goods.

1. The Dangers of Wastefulness

2. The Steward's Responsibility

1. Proverbs 21:20 - "There is treasure to be desired and oil in the dwelling of the wise; but a foolish man spendeth it up."

2. 2 Corinthians 8:7 - "Therefore, as ye abound in every thing, in faith, and utterance, and knowledge, and in all diligence, and in your love to us, see that ye abound in this grace also."

Luke 16:2 And he called him, and said unto him, How is it that I hear this of thee? give an account of thy stewardship; for thou mayest be no longer steward.

A steward is called to account by his master for his management of the master's possessions.

1. The Accountability of Stewardship

2. The Master's Trust in His Servant

1. Matthew 25:14-30, the parable of the talents

2. Proverbs 3:4-5, Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding.

Luke 16:3 Then the steward said within himself, What shall I do? for my lord taketh away from me the stewardship: I cannot dig; to beg I am ashamed.

The steward needs to figure out what to do now that his master has removed him from his position. He is incapable of manual labor and ashamed to beg.

1. God will provide a way out of our most difficult situations.

2. Trusting God when faced with shame and humiliation.

1. Isaiah 41:10 - "Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness."

2. Psalm 50:15 - "And call upon me in the day of trouble: I will deliver thee, and thou shalt glorify me."

Luke 16:4 I am resolved what to do, that, when I am put out of the stewardship, they may receive me into their houses.

The steward in Luke 16:4 decides what to do in anticipation of being removed from his

role, so that his friends will welcome him into their homes.

1. The importance of planning ahead

2. The power of relationships in times of difficulty

1. Matthew 6:33 - “But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.”

2. Proverbs 6:6-8 - “Go to the ant, O sluggard; consider her ways, and be wise. Without having any chief, officer, or ruler, she prepares her bread in summer and gathers her food in harvest.”

Luke 16:5 So he called every one of his lord's debtors unto him, and said unto the first, How much owest thou unto my lord?

The parable of the unjust steward emphasizes the importance of using our resources wisely.

1. Making the most of what we have been given

2. The stewardship of resources

1. Matthew 25:14-30 - The Parable of the Talents

2. 1 Corinthians 4:1-2 - Entrusted with the mysteries of God

Luke 16:6 And he said, An hundred measures of oil. And he said unto him, Take thy bill, and sit down quickly, and write fifty.

A rich man asked his steward to settle his accounts, and the steward proposed reducing the amount owed by the debtor by half.

1. We should be generous and show mercy to those who owe us.

2. We should trust in God, not our own finances, for provision.

1. Psalm 37:25 – I have been young, and now am old; yet I have not seen the righteous forsaken, or his children begging bread.

2. Matthew 6:33 – But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.

Luke 16:7 Then said he to another, And how much owest thou? And he said, An hundred measures of wheat. And he said unto him, Take thy bill, and write fourscore.

The rich man asked the second servant how much he owed, and the servant replied that he owed one hundred measures of wheat. The rich man told him to reduce his debt to eighty measures.

1. God is a God of mercy and forgiveness, and expects us to extend the same grace to others.

2. We should strive to be wise stewards of the resources we have been given.

1. Luke 16:7-8

2. Ephesians 4:7-8 "But to each one of us grace has been given as Christ apportioned it. This is why it says: “When he ascended on high, he took many captives and gave gifts to his people.”

Luke 16:8 And the lord commended the unjust steward, because he had done wisely: for the children of this world are in their generation wiser than the children of light.

The Lord commended the unjust steward for being wise in his actions. He showed that worldly people can be more astute than those of faith.

1. The Danger of Worldly Wisdom: Using Our Resources with Discernment

2. The Value of Faithful Stewardship: Making the Most of Our Time and Talents

Cross Refrences:

1. Ephesians 5:15-17 - Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil.

2. Proverbs 11:30 - The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life, and the one who is wise saves lives.

Luke 16:9 And I say unto you, Make to yourselves friends of the mammon of unrighteousness; that, when ye fail, they may receive you into everlasting habitations.

Jesus encourages his followers to use the resources they have to build relationships with others, so that they may have lasting connections even when their own resources fail.

1. "Making Friends with Mammon: How to Build Connections That Last"

2. "Using Our Resources Wisely: How to Foster Lasting Relationships"

1. Ecclesiastes 4:9-12 - "Two are better than one; because they have a good reward for their labour. For if they fall, the one will lift up his fellow: but woe to him that is alone when he falleth; for he hath not another to help him up. Again, if two lie together, then they have heat: but how can one be warm alone? And if one prevail against him, two shall withstand him; and a threefold cord is not quickly broken".

2. Matthew 6:24 - "No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon".

Luke 16:10 He that is faithful in that which is least is faithful also in much: and he that is unjust in the least is unjust also in much.

The passage emphasizes that those who are faithful in small matters will also be faithful in more significant matters and that those who are unjust in small matters will also be unjust in more significant matters.

1. The Value of Faithfulness in the Small Things of Life

2. Making Right Choices in the Little Things

1. Proverbs 21:3 - To do justice and judgment is more acceptable to the LORD than sacrifice.

2. 1 Corinthians 4:2 - Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful.

Luke 16:11 If therefore ye have not been faithful in the unrighteous mammon, who will commit to your trust the true riches?

Jesus is emphasizing the importance of being faithful even with unrighteous things, as this demonstrates our trustworthiness for being given true riches.

1. "Living Faithfully in an Unrighteous World"

2. "The Value of Being Faithful with Unrighteous Mammon"

1. 1 Corinthians 4:2 - "Now it is required that those who have been given a trust must prove faithful."

2. Titus 2:7-8 - "In everything set them an example by doing what is good. In your teaching show integrity, seriousness and soundness of speech that cannot be condemned, so that those who oppose you may be ashamed because they have nothing bad to say about us."

Luke 16:12 And if ye have not been faithful in that which is another man's, who shall give you that which is your own?

Jesus teaches that it is important to be faithful with what has been entrusted to us, as God will reward us for our faithfulness.

1. The Power of Faithfulness - How Our Faithfulness Can Lead to God's Blessing

2. The Blessing of Being Faithful - How Being Faithful Brings Rewards From God

1. Proverbs 3:9-10 - Honor the Lord with your wealth and with the firstfruits of all your produce; then your barns will be filled with plenty, and your vats will be bursting with wine.

2. Matthew 25:23 - His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.

Luke 16:13 No servant can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.

The passage emphasizes that one cannot serve two masters, as it will result in conflict of interests and disloyalty.

1: We must choose to serve the Lord with all our heart, mind and soul, and not be distracted by the allure of the world.

2: We must be careful to not be lured into greed and materialism by the world, but instead remain focused on serving God.

1: Matt 6:24 No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other.

2: James 4:4 You adulterous people! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.

Luke 16:14 And the Pharisees also, who were covetous, heard all these things: and they derided him.

The Pharisees mocked Jesus for teaching about money and possessions.

1: Our possessions should not define us.

2: The pursuit of material wealth is not a path to lasting joy or satisfaction.

1: Matthew 6:19-21 "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

2: 1 Timothy 6:6-10 "But godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it. But if we have food and clothing, we will be content with that. Those who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs."

Luke 16:15 And he said unto them, Ye are they which justify yourselves before men; but God knoweth your hearts: for that which is highly esteemed among men is abomination in the sight of God.

Jesus warns his disciples that people may view their actions as justifiable, but God looks at the condition of the heart and what is highly esteemed by people is an abomination to God.

1. The dangers of seeking approval from men rather than God.

2. We must look to God for our standards of righteousness.

1. Proverbs 16:2 - “All the ways of a man are pure in his own eyes, but the Lord weighs the spirit.”

2. 1 Samuel 16:7 - “But the Lord said to Samuel, ‘Do not consider his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him. The Lord does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.’”

Luke 16:16 The law and the prophets were until John: since that time the kingdom of God is preached, and every man presseth into it.

The law and the prophets were in effect until John the Baptist, after which the kingdom of God was preached and accepted by many.

1. The Kingdom of God: Accepting and Entering into the Promised Land

2. The Times of John the Baptist: Transitioning from the Old Covenant to the New

1. Matthew 3:2 - "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near”

2. Matthew 4:17 - “From that time on Jesus began to preach, ‘Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near.’”

Luke 16:17 And it is easier for heaven and earth to pass, than one tittle of the law to fail.

Jesus emphasizes that not even the smallest part of God's law can be disregarded.

1. The Power of the Word: Understanding and Applying the Law of God

2. Obedience to the Law: The Key to a Blessed Life

1. Psalm 19:7-8 – “The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul; the testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple; the precepts of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes.”

2. James 1:22-25 – “But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks intently at his natural face in a mirror. For he looks at himself and goes away and at once forgets what he was like. But the one who looks into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and perseveres, being no hearer who forgets but a doer who acts, he will be blessed in his doing.”

Luke 16:18 Whosoever putteth away his wife, and marrieth another, committeth adultery: and whosoever marrieth her that is put away from her husband committeth adultery.

Jesus teaches that divorce and remarriage are both adulterous acts.

1. The Impact of Adultery on Relationships

2. The Consequences of Divorce

1. Malachi 2:13-16 - God's warning about the dangers of divorce

2. Matthew 19:4-9 - Jesus' teaching on marriage and divorce

Luke 16:19 There was a certain rich man, which was clothed in purple and fine linen, and fared sumptuously every day:

This passage speaks about a rich man who was clothed in luxurious garments and ate rich foods each day.

1: It is important to be mindful of the blessings we have, and to use our resources responsibly.

2: We should remember to be thankful for the blessings we have been given in life, and to use them to serve others.

1: James 1:17 - Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.

2: 1 Timothy 6:17-19 - Charge them that are rich in this world, that they be not highminded, nor trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy; That they do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to distribute, willing to communicate; Laying up in store for themselves a good foundation against the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life.

Luke 16:20 And there was a certain beggar named Lazarus, which was laid at his gate, full of sores,

Lazarus, a beggar, was laid at the gate of a wealthy man, suffering from sores.

1. The Power of Compassion: How to Respond to Those in Need

2. Righteous Living: The Importance of Generosity

1. Matthew 25:35-40 - For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me.

2. Deuteronomy 15:7-11 - If among you, one of your brothers should become poor, in any of your towns within your land that the Lord your God is giving you, you shall not harden your heart or shut your hand against your poor brother.

Luke 16:21 And desiring to be fed with the crumbs which fell from the rich man's table: moreover the dogs came and licked his sores.

The poor man was desperate for the crumbs that fell from the rich man's table, and even the dogs came to lick his sores.

1. The Power of Faith in Desperate Times

2. The Compassion of Jesus for the Poor and Suffering

1. Hebrews 11:6 - "And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him."

2. Matthew 15:22-28 - "And behold, a Canaanite woman from that region came out and was crying, “Have mercy on me, O Lord, Son of David; my daughter is severely oppressed by a demon.” But he did not answer her a word. And his disciples came and begged him, saying, “Send her away, for she is crying out after us.” He answered, “I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.” But she came and knelt before him, saying, “Lord, help me.” And he answered, “It is not right to take the children's bread and throw it to the dogs.” She said, “Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table.” Then Jesus answered her, “O woman, great is your faith! Be it done for you as you desire.” And her daughter was healed instantly."

Luke 16:22 And it came to pass, that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels into Abraham's bosom: the rich man also died, and was buried;

This passage recounts an event where a beggar died and was carried to Abraham's bosom while the rich man died and was buried.

1. "Living a Life of Generosity: Lessons from Abraham's Bosom"

2. "The Reality of Death and the Hope of Heaven"

1. Romans 8:18-25 - For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us.

2. James 2:14-17 - What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him?

Luke 16:23 And in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom.

In Hell, a man in torment saw Abraham and Lazarus in Heaven.

1: We should strive to live according to God's will so we can join Abraham and Lazarus in Heaven.

2: Our life here on Earth is short, and we will all face judgement after death.

1: Matthew 25:31-46 - The parable of the sheep and the goats.

2: Ecclesiastes 9:10 - Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with all your might.

Luke 16:24 And he cried and said, Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water, and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame.

The rich man in hell begs Father Abraham to send Lazarus to give him relief from his suffering.

1. The Importance of Compassion: A Study of Luke 16:24

2. The Consequence of Greed: A Study of Luke 16:24

1. James 2:13-17 - Faith without works is dead

2. Matthew 25:31-46 - The Parable of the Sheep and the Goats

Luke 16:25 But Abraham said, Son, remember that thou in thy lifetime receivedst thy good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things: but now he is comforted, and thou art tormented.

Abraham speaks to the rich man in the afterlife, telling him that he had good things in life while Lazarus had evil things, but now Lazarus is comforted and the rich man is tormented.

1. God's justice is seen in the afterlife - Luke 16:25

2. Remember to be generous and compassionate to those less fortunate than you - Luke 16:25

1. Hebrews 9:27 - And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment

2. James 2:13-17 - For judgment is without mercy to one who has shown no mercy. Mercy

triumphs over judgment.

Luke 16:26 And beside all this, between us and you there is a great gulf fixed: so that they which would pass from hence to you cannot; neither can they pass to us, that would come from thence.

Great gulf fixed between the saved and the unsaved, preventing them from crossing.

1: We must use our time on earth to invest in our eternal souls, as once we die, there is no second chance of redemption.

2: One must strive to be saved before death, as once the great gulf is fixed, there is no chance of passing from one side to the other.

1: John 3:16 - “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.”

2: Acts 16:31 - “And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house.”

Luke 16:27 Then he said, I pray thee therefore, father, that thou wouldest send him to my father's house:

The rich man asked God to send a messenger to his father's house.

1. All things are possible with God, no matter how difficult the situation may seem.

2. God is a loving Father who hears our prayers and answers them.

1. Matthew 7:7-8 - "Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you: For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened."

2. Philippians 4:6-7 - "Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus."

Luke 16:28 For I have five brethren; that he may testify unto them, lest they also come into this place of torment.

Jesus speaks of his five brothers and warns them to avoid the place of torment.

1. The Power of a Warning: Heeding the Words of Jesus

2. The Value of Family: Uniting Through Love and Faith

1. Proverbs 22:3 - A wise man’s heart guides his mouth, and his lips promote instruction.

2. Galatians 6:1-2 - Brothers and sisters, if someone is caught in a sin, you who live by the Spirit should restore that person gently. But watch yourselves, or you also may be tempted. Carry each other’s burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.

Luke 16:29 Abraham saith unto him, They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them.

Abraham tells the rich man in the parable that they have Moses and the prophets to listen to.

1. Learning to Listen: The Wisdom of Moses and the Prophets

2. Reaching Out to Others: The Power of Hearing God's Word

1. Psalm 119:105: “Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.”

2. Joshua 1:8: “This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success.”

Luke 16:30 And he said, Nay, father Abraham: but if one went unto them from the dead, they will repent.

The rich man hopes that the people of his hometown will repent if someone from the dead visits them.

1. The Power of Resurrection: How God's Love Overcomes All

2. The Urgency of Repentance: Seeking Forgiveness Before It's Too Late

1. Ezekiel 18:30-32 - “Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, every one according to his ways, saith the Lord GOD. Repent, and turn yourselves from all your transgressions; so iniquity shall not be your ruin. Cast away from you all your transgressions, whereby ye have transgressed; and make you a new heart and a new spirit: for why will ye die, O house of Israel? For I have no pleasure in the death of him that dieth, saith the Lord GOD: wherefore turn yourselves, and live ye.”

2. Acts 2:36-38 - “Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made that same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ. Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do? Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.”

Luke 16:31 And he said unto him, If they hear not Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded, though one rose from the dead.

Jesus tells a parable to illustrate how people will not turn to God unless they listen to the teachings of Moses and the prophets.

1. The Necessity of Obedience to God's Word

2. The Power of Persuasion in Following God's Will

1. Isaiah 55:3 - "Incline your ear, and come unto me: hear, and your soul shall live; and I will make an everlasting covenant with you, even the sure mercies of David."

2. Romans 10:17 - "So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God."

Luke 17 includes Jesus' teachings on forgiveness, faith, service, and the coming of the Kingdom of God. It also contains the account of Jesus healing ten lepers.

1st Paragraph: The chapter begins with Jesus warning His disciples about causing others to sin. He advised them that it would be better to have a millstone hung around their

neck and be thrown into the sea than to cause a little one to stumble (Luke 17:1-2). He also instructed them on the importance of rebuking a brother or sister who sins and forgiving them when they repent, even if it happens seven times in a day (Luke 17:3-4). When His disciples asked Him to increase their faith, He told them that if they had faith as small as a mustard seed, they could command a mulberry tree to be uprooted and planted in the sea and it would obey (Luke 17:5-6).

2nd Paragraph: Continuing His teaching with His disciples, Jesus talked about duty using an analogy of servants who have worked all day in field or tending sheep are then expected prepare supper for their master before eating resting themselves. The master does not thank his servants for doing what was expected. Similarly, when we've done everything we were commanded do should say 'We are unworthy servants; we have only done our duty' emphasizing humility obedience without expectation reward recognition (Luke 17:7-10).

3rd Paragraph: As he was going Jerusalem he passed along border between Samaria Galilee met ten lepers stood at distance called out 'Jesus Master have pity us!' When saw them he said 'Go show yourselves priests.' As went they were cleansed but only one returned give thanks God Samaritan threw himself at Jesus' feet thanked him which led Jesus ask 'Were not all ten cleansed? Where other nine? Has no one returned give praise God except this foreigner?' Then he said him 'Rise go your way your faith has made you well' showing gratitude integral part wholeness healing regardless ethnic religious backgrounds (Luke 17:11-19). In response Pharisees’ question about when kingdom God would come replied kingdom God not something observed nor people say ‘Here it is’ ‘There it is’ because kingdom God within among you indicating spiritual nature Kingdom rather than physical geographical realm (Luke 17:20-21). Finally gave discourse coming Son Man compared days Noah Lot where people were eating drinking marrying being given marriage buying selling planting building until sudden destruction came warned disciples against longing for worldly possessions turning back once they’ve set hand plow concluded whoever tries keep life will lose whoever loses will preserve it pointing paradoxical nature true life found losing oneself sake Kingdom Son Man comes again will like lightning flashing across sky visible everyone just like days Noah Lot sudden unexpected challenging complacency unpreparedness Luke 17:22-37).

Luke 17:1 Then said he unto the disciples, It is impossible but that offences will come: but woe unto him, through whom they come!

Offences will come, and woe to those that cause them.

1. The Danger of Offenses: How to Avoid Being a Source of Trouble

2. The Importance of Humility: Keeping Our Egos in Check

1. James 3:1-12 - The Power of the Tongue

2. Proverbs 16:18 - Pride Goes Before Destruction

Luke 17:2 It were better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and he cast into the sea, than that he should offend one of these little ones.

Offense of the innocent should not be taken lightly, but severe consequences should be expected if done.

1: God takes seriously the protection of the innocent; we must do the same.

2: We must never take offense of the innocent lightly, for it will bring severe consequences.

1: Matthew 18:6-7 “But whoso shall offend one of these little ones which believe in me, it were better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and that he were drowned in the depth of the sea.”

2: Proverbs 17:15 “He that justifieth the wicked, and he that condemneth the just, even they both are abomination to the Lord.”

Luke 17:3 Take heed to yourselves: If thy brother trespass against thee, rebuke him; and if he repent, forgive him.

This passage is teaching us to forgive those who wrong us and to rebuke them if they are in the wrong.

1. The Power of Forgiveness - How to Find Strength to Forgive and Heal

2. Rebuke with Love - How to Stand Up and Speak Out with Kindness

1. Matthew 18:21-22 - Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, “Lord, how often should I forgive someone who sins against me? Seven times?” Jesus answered, “No, not seven times, but seventy-seven times!

2. Romans 12:17-19 - Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everyone. If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. Do not take revenge, my dear friends, but leave room for God’s wrath, for it is

written: “It is mine to avenge; I will repay,” says the Lord.

Luke 17:4 And if he trespass against thee seven times in a day, and seven times in a day turn again to thee, saying, I repent; thou shalt forgive him.

Jesus teaches us to forgive those who sin against us, even if it happens multiple times in a day.

1. "The Power of Forgiveness"

2. "How Forgiveness Sets Us Free"

1. Ephesians 4:32 - "And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you."

2. Colossians 3:13 - "bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do."

Luke 17:5 And the apostles said unto the Lord, Increase our faith.

The apostles asked Jesus to increase their faith.

1. Faith is a gift from God that allows us to trust and believe in Him.

2. We should be humble in our requests to God, and ask Him to help guide us in faith.

1. Ephesians 2:8-9 - For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.

2. James 1:5-6 - If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him. But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea that is driven and tossed by the wind.

Luke 17:6 And the Lord said, If ye had faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye might say unto this sycamine tree, Be thou plucked up by the root, and be thou planted in the sea; and it should obey you.

Jesus encourages believers to have faith in God's power, telling them that if they have faith as small as a mustard seed, they can speak to a sycamine tree and it will obey them.

1. Faith as Small as a Mustard Seed: God's Power to Move Mountains

2. The Power of Faith: Believe and You Will See Miracles

1. Matthew 17:20 – “He replied, “Because you have so little faith. Truly I tell you, if you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, ‘Move from here to there,’ and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you.”

2. Romans 4:17– “As it is written: “I have made you a father of many nations.” He is our father in the sight of God, in whom he believed—the God who gives life to the dead and calls into being things that were not.”

Luke 17:7 But which of you, having a servant plowing or feeding cattle, will say unto him by and by, when he is come from the field, Go and sit down to meat?

Jesus asks his followers to consider the example of a master who requires his servant to work in the field, and not expect the servant to come inside right away and sit down to eat.

1. Living a Life of Service: What We Can Learn from Jesus' Example

2. Remembering Our Place and Being Grateful for the Blessings We Receive

1. Galatians 6:9-10 - "And let us not be weary in well doing; for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not. As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith."

2. Colossians 3:23-24 - "And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men; Knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ."

Luke 17:8 And will not rather say unto him, Make ready wherewith I may sup, and gird thyself, and serve me, till I have eaten and drunken; and afterward thou shalt eat and drink?

A master instructs his servant to prepare a meal for them and to serve them until they have finished eating and drinking.

1. The Power of Servanthood: Learning to put others before ourselves.

2. The Benefits of Obedience: Understanding the rewards of faithfulness.

1. Matthew 25:23, “His lord said unto him, Well done, good and faithful servant; thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord.”

2. Matthew 20:26-28, “But it shall not be so among you: but whosoever will be great among you, let him be your minister; And whosoever will be chief among you, let him be your servant: Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many.”

Luke 17:9 Doth he thank that servant because he did the things that were commanded him? I trow not.

Jesus tells a parable about a servant who does what his master asks and does not receive thanks for it.

1. Appreciate Others' Efforts - Luke 17:9

2. Serving with Humility - Luke 17:9

1. Philippians 2:3-4 - "Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves. Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others."

2. Colossians 3:23-24 - "And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men; Knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ."

Luke 17:10 So likewise ye, when ye shall have done all those things which are commanded you, say, We are unprofitable servants: we have done that which was our duty to do.

We should acknowledge that all we do is our duty and we are unprofitable servants.

1: Recognizing Our Duty to God in All We Do

2: Acknowledging Our Unprofitability to God

1: Ecclesiastes 12:13-14 - Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man. For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil.

2: Matthew 25:14-30 - For the kingdom of heaven is as a man travelling into a far country, who called his own servants, and delivered unto them his goods. And unto one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one; to every man according to his several ability; and straightway took his journey.

Luke 17:11 And it came to pass, as he went to Jerusalem, that he passed through the midst of Samaria and Galilee.

Jesus traveled through Samaria and Galilee on his way to Jerusalem.

1. Jesus's Journey of Faith and Obedience

2. Connecting with Others on Our Spiritual Journey

1. Matthew 8:1-4 - Jesus Heals a Paralytic

2. Mark 6:30-34 - Jesus Feeds the Five Thousand

Luke 17:12 And as he entered into a certain village, there met him ten men that were lepers, which stood afar off:

Jesus encountered ten lepers as he entered a village.

1. The Power of Jesus: Knowing that Jesus has the power to heal our physical, emotional, and spiritual leprosy.

2. The Power of Community: Understanding how we can come together to help each other in times of need.

1. Matthew 14:14 - "When Jesus landed and saw a large crowd, he had compassion on them and healed their sick."

2. Romans 12:15 - "Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn."

Luke 17:13 And they lifted up their voices, and said, Jesus, Master, have mercy on us.

A group of lepers cried out to Jesus for mercy.

1. The Power of Faith: Learning from the lepers in Luke 17:13

2. Cry Out to Jesus: Learning from the lepers in Luke 17:13

1. Matthew 9:27-28 - Two blind men crying out to Jesus for mercy

2. Matthew 15:22-28 - A Canaanite woman crying out to Jesus for mercy

Luke 17:14 And when he saw them, he said unto them, Go shew yourselves unto the priests. And it came to pass, that, as they went, they were cleansed.

The lepers were healed when they followed Jesus's instructions to go and show themselves to the priests.

1: Faith in Jesus leads to healing.

2: Obeying Jesus brings blessings.

1: Isaiah 53:5 “But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed.”

2: James 5:14-15 “Is anyone among you sick? Let them call the elders of the church to pray over them and anoint them with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise them up. If they have sinned, they will be forgiven.”

Luke 17:15 And one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, and with a loud voice glorified God,

The man glorified God for the miracle of his healing.

1: We too should glorify God for all the miracles He has done for us.

2: When we receive healing, we should take the time to thank and praise God.

1: Psalm 150:6 - Let everything that has breath praise the Lord.

2: Psalm 107:1 - Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; His love endures forever.

Luke 17:16 And fell down on his face at his feet, giving him thanks: and he was a Samaritan.

A Samaritan man fell down at Jesus' feet and thanked Him.

1. Grateful Hearts: The Samaritan's Example of Gratitude

2. The Power of Praise: Honoring Jesus with Our Worship

1. James 1:17 - Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights.

2. Ephesians 5:20 - Giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Luke 17:17 And Jesus answering said, Were there not ten cleansed? but where are the nine?

The passage talks about how Jesus asked where the nine lepers were who were cleansed from the disease.

1. "The Power of Gratitude" - How the nine lepers' lack of gratitude shows the importance

of showing gratitude for blessings.

2. "The Power of Faith" - How faith brings healing to our lives, as evidenced by the healing of the lepers.

1. Psalm 103:2-3 - Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits: Who forgiveth all thine iniquities; who healeth all thy diseases.

2. Colossians 3:15 - And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful.

Luke 17:18 There are not found that returned to give glory to God, save this stranger.

This passage highlights the importance of giving glory to God, and how it is a rare occurrence.

1. "The Forgotten Art of Giving Glory to God"

2. "The Value of Gratitude to God"

1. Colossians 3:17 - "And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him."

2. Isaiah 12:4 - "And you will say in that day: “Give thanks to the Lord, call upon his name, make known his deeds among the peoples, proclaim that his name is exalted."

Luke 17:19 And he said unto him, Arise, go thy way: thy faith hath made thee whole.

This verse shows that Jesus heals the man and tells him that his faith has made him whole.

1: We must remember that it is our faith in Jesus that will heal us and make us whole.

2: Jesus can bring healing and wholeness to us if we trust in Him and have faith.

1: Jeremiah 17:14 - Heal me, O Lord, and I shall be healed; save me, and I shall be saved:

for thou art my praise.

2: James 5:15 - And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him.

Luke 17:20 And when he was demanded of the Pharisees, when the kingdom of God should come, he answered them and said, The kingdom of God cometh not with observation:

Jesus responds to the Pharisees' question about when the kingdom of God would come, saying it would not come with observation.

1. "The Kingdom of God is Near"

2. "The Invisibility of God's Kingdom"

1. Romans 14:17 - For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking but of righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.

2. Colossians 1:13 - He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son.

Luke 17:21 Neither shall they say, Lo here! or, lo there! for, behold, the kingdom of God is within you.

The Kingdom of God is not a physical place, it is within us all.

1. “The Kingdom of God is Within You: A Message of Hope and Comfort”

2. “How to Access the Kingdom of God: Practical Steps to Enhance Your Faith”

1. Matthew 18:20 “For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them.”

2. Colossians 1:27 “To them God chose to make known how great among the Gentiles are the riches of the glory of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.”

Luke 17:22 And he said unto the disciples, The days will come, when ye shall desire to see one of the days of the Son of man, and ye shall not see it.

The days of Jesus will come when the disciples will long to see them, but they will not be able to.

1. The Power of Longing: How to Find Contentment in Unfulfilled Desires

2. The Kingdom of God: A Kingdom of Unseen Wonders

1. Romans 8:18-19 - “For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God.”

2. Hebrews 11:1 - “Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.”

Luke 17:23 And they shall say to you, See here; or, see there: go not after them, nor follow them.

Jesus advises against following false teachers who will try to lead people away from his teachings.

1. The Importance of Following Jesus: Learning to Discern False Teachers

2. Staying the Course: Remaining True to Jesus' Teachings

1. Acts 17:11 - These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so.

2. John 14:6 - Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

Luke 17:24 For as the lightning, that lighteneth out of the one part under heaven, shineth unto the other part under heaven; so shall also the Son of man be in his day.

The passage speaks of the coming of the Son of man and how His presence will be like

lightning.

1. The Coming of the Son of Man - Preparing for His Return

2. The Light of the Lord - Rejoicing in His Majesty

1. Isaiah 60:1 - Arise, shine; for thy light is come, and the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee.

2. 2 Corinthians 4:6 - For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

Luke 17:25 But first must he suffer many things, and be rejected of this generation.

This passage speaks of the suffering and rejection Jesus faced before his ultimate glory.

1. The Suffering of Jesus: A Model for Christian Living

2. Rejection: When the World Says 'No'

1. Isaiah 53:3-5 - He was despised and rejected by mankind, a man of suffering, and familiar with pain. Like one from whom people hide their faces he was despised, and we held him in low esteem.

2. Hebrews 12:2 - Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Luke 17:26 And as it was in the days of Noe, so shall it be also in the days of the Son of man.

The days of Noah will be similar to the days of Jesus.

1. The Flood: A Lesson on Preparing for God's Return

2. God's Promise of Redemption in the Days of Noah

1. Isaiah 43:18-19 - Remember ye not the former things, neither consider the things of old. Behold, I will do a new thing; now it shall spring forth; shall ye not know it?

2. 2 Peter 3:3-4 - Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts, And saying, Where is the promise of his coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation.

Luke 17:27 They did eat, they drank, they married wives, they were given in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark, and the flood came, and destroyed them all.

This passage highlights the consequences of ignoring God's warnings of judgment. 1: We must heed God's warnings and turn away from sin before it is too late. 2: We should be thankful for God's mercy and grace and live a life that is pleasing to Him. 1: Romans 6:23 - "For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord." 2: Matthew 7:13-14 - "Enter by the narrow gate. For the gate is wide and the way is easy that leads to destruction, and those who enter by it are many. For the gate is narrow and the way is hard that leads to life, and those who find it are few."

Luke 17:28 Likewise also as it was in the days of Lot; they did eat, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they builded;

In the days of Lot, people were going about their daily lives and activities as usual.

1. The Dangers of Complacency: A Study of Luke 17:28

2. Living in the Moment: The Example of Lot in Luke 17:28

1. Genesis 19:14-17 - Lot and his family flee from Sodom and Gomorrah.

2. Amos 6:1-7 - Warning against complacency and ignoring the plight of the poor.

Luke 17:29 But the same day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven, and destroyed them all.

Lot left Sodom on the same day that fire and brimstone rained down from heaven, destroying the city and everyone in it.

1. Living with an Eternal Perspective

2. Fleeing Temptation

1. Hebrews 13:14 - For here we have no lasting city, but we seek the city that is to come.

2. 2 Timothy 2:22 - So flee youthful passions and pursue righteousness, faith, love, and peace, along with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart.

Luke 17:30 Even thus shall it be in the day when the Son of man is revealed.

Jesus teaches his disciples that the day of his return will be like the days of Noah and Lot.

1. The Day of the Lord: Preparing Our Hearts for His Return

2. Living Righteously in a World of Unbelievers

1. Romans 13:11-14: “Besides this you know the time, that the hour has come for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed. The night is far gone; the day is at hand. So then let us cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light. Let us walk properly as in the daytime, not in orgies and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and sensuality, not in quarreling and jealousy.”

2. 1 Thessalonians 5:1-5: “Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers, you have no need to have anything written to you. For you yourselves are fully aware that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. While people are saying, ‘There is peace and security,’ then sudden destruction will come upon them as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and they will not escape. But you are not in darkness, brothers, for that day to surprise you like a thief. For you are all children of light, children of the day. We are not of the night or of the darkness. So then let us not sleep, as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober.”

Luke 17:31 In that day, he which shall be upon the housetop, and his stuff in the house, let him not come down to take it away: and he that is in the field, let him likewise not return back.

On that day, Jesus warns us to remain in the place we are in, no matter the circumstances.

1. Remain Firm in Faith: Jesus' words in Luke 17:31 remind us to stay rooted in faith and trust in the Lord, despite the trials we face.

2. Be Steadfast in Uncertainty: Jesus' words in Luke 17:31 urge us to stay put and remain faithful even when life seems uncertain.

1. Hebrews 10:35-36 - So do not throw away your confidence; it will be richly rewarded. You need to persevere so that when you have done the will of God, you will receive what he has promised.

2. Romans 8:38-39 - For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Luke 17:32 Remember Lot's wife.

This passage is a warning from Jesus about the dangers of looking back. He the story of Lot's wife who looked back and was turned into a pillar of salt.

1. "The Dangers of Looking Back"

2. "The Power of Obedience: The Story of Lot's Wife"

1. Hebrews 12:1-2 "Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God."

2. Romans 8:13-14 "For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God."

Luke 17:33 Whosoever shall seek to save his life shall lose it; and whosoever shall lose his life shall preserve it.

Whoever is focused on self-preservation will ultimately be destroyed, while those who

sacrifice themselves will be saved.

1. The Paradox of Self-Sacrifice: Learning to Love Yourself by Letting Go

2. The Power of Giving Up: How to Find True Life through Surrender

1. Mark 8:34-38 - Jesus' call to deny one's self and take up his cross.

2. Matthew 16:24-27 - Jesus' warning about what it means to follow him.

Luke 17:34 I tell you, in that night there shall be two men in one bed; the one shall be taken, and the other shall be left.

Two will be divided in a single bed: one will be taken and the other left.

1. The Dichotomy of Judgement: How God Sees Past Appearances

2. The Parable of the Faithful and Unfaithful: Walking in Obedience to God

1. Matthew 24:40-41 - “Then two men will be in the field; one will be taken and one left. Therefore be alert, for you do not know which day your Lord is coming.”

2. Matthew 25:31-34 - “When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then He will sit on the throne of His glory. All the nations will be gathered before Him, and He will separate them one from another, as a shepherd divides his sheep from the goats. And He will set the sheep on His right hand, but the goats on the left. Then the King will say to those on His right hand, ‘Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.’"

Luke 17:35 Two women shall be grinding together; the one shall be taken, and the other left.

Two people will be taken in judgement, one to be saved and one to be left behind.

1: We should always be prepared for our judgement day and stay close to God.

2: No matter our situation, God has a plan for everyone and will judge us accordingly.

1: Matthew 24:40-41 “Then two men will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. Two women will be grinding at the mill; one will be taken and one will be left.”

2: 2 Corinthians 5:10 “For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil.”

Luke 17:36 Two men shall be in the field; the one shall be taken, and the other left.

Two men will have contrasting experiences, with one taken away and the other left behind.

1. The importance of being prepared for the unexpected.

2. The power of God's will to manifest in our lives.

1. Matthew 25:1-13 - Parable of the Ten Virgins.

2. James 4:13-15 - Planning for the future with wisdom and humility.

Luke 17:37 And they answered and said unto him, Where, Lord? And he said unto them, Wheresoever the body is, thither will the eagles be gathered together.

Jesus tells his followers that wherever there is a body, eagles will come.

1. God's Call: Responding to Our Lord's Invitation

2. The Power of Gathering: Why We Need Each Other

1. John 15:5 - “I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.”

2. Hebrews 10:25 - “And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works.”

Luke 18 contains Jesus' teachings on prayer, humility, and the cost of following Him. It includes the Parables of the Persistent Widow and the Pharisee and Tax Collector, as well as Jesus' interaction with a rich ruler and His prediction of His death.

1st Paragraph: The chapter begins with Jesus telling His disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up. In this parable, a persistent widow keeps coming to an unjust judge demanding justice against her adversary. Though initially reluctant, the judge eventually grants her justice so she will not wear him out by her persistence. Jesus uses this story to encourage persistent prayer and faith in God's ultimate justice (Luke 18:1-8). He then tells another parable about two men who went up to the temple to pray - one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee proudly thanked God he was not like other people—robbers, evildoers, adulterers—or even like this tax collector while tax collector stood at distance would not even look up heaven but beat his breast said 'God have mercy me sinner.' Jesus commended humility tax collector over self-righteousness Pharisee stating everyone exalts himself will be humbled whoever humbles himself will be exalted (Luke 18:9-14).

2nd Paragraph: People were also bringing babies to Jesus for Him to touch them but when disciples saw it they rebuked them but Jesus called children come him said 'Let little children come me do not hinder them kingdom God belongs such these Truly I tell you anyone who will not receive kingdom God like little child never enter it' emphasizing need childlike faith humility enter Kingdom (Luke 18:15-17). A certain ruler then asked Him what he must do inherit eternal life which led discussion commandments ruler claimed kept since youth however when told sell everything had give poor have treasure heaven follow Him became very sad because was very wealthy illustrating challenge riches pose true discipleship commitment Kingdom (Luke 18:18-25). When disciples questioned who can saved response difficulty rich entering kingdom God replied what impossible humans possible God indicating salvation ultimately divine act grace beyond human effort achievement (Luke 18:26-27).

3rd Paragraph: Peter then pointed out that they had left all they had to follow Him. To which Jesus responded saying truly there is no one who has left home or wife or brothers or parents or children for sake kingdom God who will fail receive many times as much in this age in age come eternal life reaffirming rewards sacrifices made for sake Kingdom both present future life (Luke 18:28-30). As journeyed towards Jerusalem He took Twelve aside told them everything written Prophets about Son Man would be fulfilled including being handed over Gentiles mocked insulted spit on flogged killed third day rise again yet despite explicit prediction they failed understand meaning these things because was hidden from them did not know what He talking about indicating their limited understanding unfolding messianic mission at time(Luke 18:31-34). Lastly chapter ends with healing blind beggar near Jericho cried out 'Jesus Son David have mercy me!' Despite people rebuking him keep quiet shouted all more 'Son David have mercy me!' Jesus stopped ordered man be brought him asked him what he wanted. He said 'Lord I want see.' Jesus said to him 'Receive your sight your faith has healed you.' Immediately he received his sight followed Jesus praising God all people saw it gave praise God signifying divine messianic authority over physical afflictions power faith bring about healing (Luke 18:35-43).

Luke 18:1 And he spake a parable unto them to this end, that men ought always to pray, and not to faint;

Parable of the Persistent Widow encourages us to always pray and not give up.

1. "The Power of Persistence in Prayer"

2. "Don't Give Up: The Blessings of Praying without Fainting"

1. James 5:16 - "The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working."

2. Romans 12:12 - "Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer."

Luke 18:2 Saying, There was in a city a judge, which feared not God, neither regarded man:

Jesus told a parable about a judge who did not believe in God nor care about people.

1. God Calls Us to Have Faith and Show Compassion

2. Do Not Let Fear or Doubt Stand in the Way of Doing What is Right

1. James 2:14-18 - What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save them?

2. Proverbs 3:5-6 - Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.

Luke 18:3 And there was a widow in that city; and she came unto him, saying, Avenge me of mine adversary.

This passage tells of a widow who asked Jesus to avenge her of her adversary.

1. "The Power of Faith: A Widow's Plea to Jesus"

2. "The Strength of Perseverance: A Widow's Petition to the Lord"

1. Matthew 5:5 - “Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth.”

2. Proverbs 21:31 - “The horse is prepared against the day of battle: but safety is of the Lord.”

Luke 18:4 And he would not for a while: but afterward he said within himself, Though I fear not God, nor regard man;

The parable of the persistent widow illustrates the importance of persistence in prayer.

1: The power of perseverance in prayer can move mountains and open the doors of heaven.

2: We can use the example of the persistent widow to demonstrate the importance of steadfastness in prayer.

1: James 5:16 - “The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working.”

2: Luke 11:5-8 - “And he said to them, ‘Which of you who has a friend will go to him at midnight and say to him, ‘Friend, lend me three loaves, for a friend of mine has arrived on a journey, and I have nothing to set before him’?’”

Luke 18:5 Yet because this widow troubleth me, I will avenge her, lest by her continual coming she weary me.

Jesus tells a parable about a persistent widow who sought justice from an unjust judge. He teaches that God will answer the prayers of those who persistently seek Him.

1. Perseverance in Prayer: How the Widow's Faith Can Inspire Us

2. The Power of Persistence: How the Widow's Tenacity Transforms Us

1. James 5:16-18 - "Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is

working. Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed fervently that it might not rain, and for three years and six months it did not rain on the earth. Then he prayed again, and heaven gave rain, and the earth bore its fruit."

2. 1 Thessalonians 5:17 - "Pray without ceasing."

Luke 18:6 And the Lord said, Hear what the unjust judge saith.

The unjust judge demonstrates how God answers prayers.

1. God is always listening to our prayers and will answer in His own time.

2. We should never give up hope or faith in God, no matter the circumstances.

1. 1 Peter 5:7 - "casting all your anxieties on Him, because He cares for you."

2. James 5:16 - "Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed."

Luke 18:7 And shall not God avenge his own elect, which cry day and night unto him, though he bear long with them?

The passage speaks about God's faithfulness in answering the prayers of His people, even if it takes a long time.

1. God's Timing: Patience in the Face of Prayer

2. God's Faithfulness: Reassurance in the Face of Uncertainty

1. 1 Thessalonians 5:17 - Pray without ceasing.

2. Habakkuk 2:3 - For the vision is yet for an appointed time, but at the end it shall speak, and not lie: though it tarry, wait for it; because it will surely come, it will not tarry.

Luke 18:8 I tell you that he will avenge them speedily. Nevertheless when the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth?

Jesus warns his disciples that God will avenge the righteous quickly, but he wonders if there will still be faith on the earth when he returns.

1. The Need for Perseverance in Faith

2. The Certainty of God's Vengeance

1. Hebrews 10:36-39 - “For you have need of endurance, so that when you have done the will of God you may receive what is promised. For, “Yet a little while, and the coming one will come and will not delay; but my righteous one shall live by faith, and if he shrinks back, my soul has no pleasure in him.” But we are not of those who shrink back and are destroyed, but of those who have faith and keep their souls.

2. Romans 12:19-21 - “Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, “Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord.” To the contrary, “if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink; for by so doing you will heap burning coals on his head.” Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

Luke 18:9 And he spake this parable unto certain which trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and despised others:

This parable teaches that it is wrong to look down on others and think more highly of yourself.

1: Pride is the enemy of humility.

2: Humility is the foundation of true righteousness.

1: Philippians 2:3-4 - “Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.”

2: James 4:6 - “God opposes the proud but shows favor to the humble.”

Luke 18:10 Two men went up into the temple to pray; the one a Pharisee, and the other a publican.

The parable of the Pharisee and the Publican highlights the importance of humility when approaching God.

1. The Power of Humility: Learning from the Parable of the Pharisee and the Publican

2. Pride vs. Humility: What We Can Learn from the Pharisee and the Publican

1. James 4:6 “But he gives more grace. Therefore it says, “God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble.”

2. Proverbs 16:18-19 “Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall. It is better to be of a lowly spirit with the poor than to divide the spoil with the proud.”

Luke 18:11 The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, God, I thank thee, that I am not as other men are, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this publican.

The Pharisee thanked God for his superiority over others.

1: We should recognize the blessings God has given us, but be humble and not compare ourselves to others.

2: We should strive to live a life of righteousness and be thankful for God's grace.

1: James 4:10 - Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you.

2: Colossians 3:12 - Therefore, as God’s chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.

Luke 18:12 I fast twice in the week, I give tithes of all that I possess.

This passage from Luke 18:12 speaks of a person who is devoted to fasting regularly and giving to the church out of all that they possess.

1: We should be devoted to fasting regularly and giving to the church out of all that we possess.

2: God has entrusted us with our possessions and we should be faithful in using them to serve Him.

1: 1 Corinthians 4:2 - "Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful."

2: Proverbs 3:9-10 - "Honor the Lord with your possessions, and with the firstfruits of all your increase; So your barns will be filled with plenty, and your vats will overflow with new wine."

Luke 18:13 And the publican, standing afar off, would not lift up so much as his eyes unto heaven, but smote upon his breast, saying, God be merciful to me a sinner.

A publican, standing far away from the crowd, prayed to God for mercy, unable to look up to heaven.

1. A Call to Confession - acknowledging our sins and shortcomings before God and seeking His mercy.

2. A Heartfelt Prayer - seeking God's mercy with humility and a contrite heart.

1. Psalm 51:17 - The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit, a broken and contrite heart, O God, You will not despise.

2. James 4:6-7 - But He gives more grace. Therefore He says: “God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble.” Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.

Luke 18:14 I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other: for every one that exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted.

This passage speaks of the importance of humility, emphasizing that those who humble themselves will be exalted.

1. "The Power of Humility: Learning From the Parable of the Pharisee and Tax Collector"

2. "The Exaltation of Humility: The Blessings of Humbling Oneself"

1. James 4:10 - "Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up."

2. Proverbs 16:18 - "Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall."

Luke 18:15 And they brought unto him also infants, that he would touch them: but when his disciples saw it, they rebuked them.

New Line: Jesus' disciples rebuked those who brought infants to Him for a blessing.

1. The importance of humility and reverence in approaching Jesus.

2. Jesus' love and acceptance of children.

1. Mark 10:13-16, “And they were bringing children to him that he might touch them, and the disciples rebuked them. But when Jesus saw it, he was indignant and said to them, ‘Let the children come to me; do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of God. Truly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child shall not enter it.’ And he took them in his arms and blessed them, laying his hands on them.”

2. Matthew 19:13-15, “Then children were brought to him that he might lay his hands on them and pray. The disciples rebuked the people, but Jesus said, ‘Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven.’ And he laid his hands on them and went away.”

Luke 18:16 But Jesus called them unto him, and said, Suffer little children to come unto me, and forbid them not: for of such is the kingdom of God.

Jesus encourages us to be like children and accept the Kingdom of God.

1: We must become like children to enter the Kingdom of God.

2: We must accept the Kingdom of God as children do.

1: Matthew 18:3 - And said, Verily I say unto you, Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven.

2: Mark 10:14 - But when Jesus saw it, he was much displeased, and said unto them, Suffer the little children to come unto me, and forbid them not: for of such is the kingdom

of God.

Luke 18:17 Verily I say unto you, Whosoever shall not receive the kingdom of God as a little child shall in no wise enter therein.

The Kingdom of God should be accepted with childlike faith.

1: We must enter the Kingdom of God with the same faith and innocence of a child, trusting in God's love and provision.

2: If we want to enter the Kingdom of God, we must surrender our pride and accept it with simple faith.

1: Matthew 18:3 – “Truly, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.”

2: Galatians 5:22-23 – “But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.”

Luke 18:18 And a certain ruler asked him, saying, Good Master, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?

This passage describes a ruler's question to Jesus about how to inherit eternal life.

1. Understand the priceless value of eternal life and how to receive it through Jesus Christ.

2. Be willing to come to Jesus with honest questions and a genuine commitment to follow Him.

1. John 14:6 - Jesus said to him, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.

2. Romans 10:9-10 - That if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

Luke 18:19 And Jesus said unto him, Why callest thou me good? none is good, save one,

that is, God.

This passage shows that Jesus emphasizes that only God is good and that no one should be called good.

1. The greatness of God - How we should always give glory to God alone as there is none good but Him.

2. The humility of Jesus - How Jesus humbly acknowledges that only God is truly good.

1. Psalm 116:5 - Gracious is the LORD, and righteous; yea, our God is merciful.

2. Matthew 19:17 - And he said unto him, Why callest thou me good? there is none good but one, that is, God.

Luke 18:20 Thou knowest the commandments, Do not commit adultery, Do not kill, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Honour thy father and thy mother.

The passage emphasizes the importance of following the Ten Commandments, specifically refering to do not commit adultery, do not kill, do not steal, do not bear false witness, and honour thy father and thy mother.

1. "Living a Life of Obedience: The Ten Commandments"

2. "The Power of the Commandment: Honouring your Father and Mother"

1. Exodus 20:1-17

2. Ephesians 6:1-3

Luke 18:21 And he said, All these have I kept from my youth up.

Jesus was impressed by the rich young ruler's commitment to following the law from a young age.

1: We should strive to seek God's will as early in our lives as possible.

2: We should be faithful and consistent in our love and obedience to God.

1: Proverbs 22:6 - “Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it.”

2: Romans 12:2 - “Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect.”

Luke 18:22 Now when Jesus heard these things, he said unto him, Yet lackest thou one thing: sell all that thou hast, and distribute unto the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come, follow me.

This passage reveals Jesus' call to radical discipleship: to give up all possessions and follow Him.

1. "The Cost of Discipleship"

2. "Radical Faith: Selling All and Following Jesus"

1. Matthew 19:27-30 - "Then Peter said in reply, “See, we have left everything and followed you. What then will we have?” Jesus said to them, “Truly, I say to you, in the new world, when the Son of Man will sit on his glorious throne, you who have followed me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or lands, for my name's sake, will receive a hundredfold and will inherit eternal life."

2. Mark 10:17-31 - "And as he was setting out on his journey, a man ran up and knelt before him and asked him, “Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?” ...And Jesus, looking at him, loved him, and said to him, “You lack one thing: go, sell all that you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me.” Disheartened by the saying, he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions."

Luke 18:23 And when he heard this, he was very sorrowful: for he was very rich.

A rich man was deeply saddened when Jesus told him that it is difficult for the rich to enter the Kingdom of Heaven.

1. Adopting a Kingdom Mindset: Learning to Serve and Sacrifice in God's Kingdom

2. The Blessing and Burden of Riches: Embracing the Challenge of Stewardship

1. Matthew 19:21-24 - Jesus tells the rich young ruler to sell all his possessions and follow Him.

2. James 5:1-5 - A warning to the rich to repent of their injustice and return to the Lord.

Luke 18:24 And when Jesus saw that he was very sorrowful, he said, How hardly shall they that have riches enter into the kingdom of God!

Jesus taught about the difficulty of those who are wealthy entering the kingdom of God.

1. Riches and the Kingdom of God: The Challenges of Wealthy Believers

2. Building Faith Not Fortune: The Path to the Kingdom of God

1. Matthew 6:19-21 “Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves do not break in or steal; for where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

2. James 2:1-7 My brethren, do not hold the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory, with partiality. For if there should come into your assembly a man with gold rings, in fine apparel, and there should also come in a poor man in filthy clothes, and you pay attention to the one wearing the fine clothes and say to him, “You sit here in a good place,” and say to the poor man, “You stand there,” or, “Sit here at my footstool,” have you not shown partiality among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts?

Luke 18:25 For it is easier for a camel to go through a needle's eye, than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God.

It is difficult for someone who is wealthy to enter the Kingdom of God.

1: "The Rich and the Kingdom of God" - The Bible warns us that it is difficult for someone who is wealthy to enter the Kingdom of God.

2: "The Power of Wealth" - We should be wary of the power of wealth and its ability to keep us from the Kingdom of God.

1: James 1:11 - For the sun rises with its scorching heat and withers the grass; its flower falls, and its beauty perishes. So also will the rich man fade away in the midst of his pursuits.

2: Proverbs 28:20 - A faithful man will abound with blessings, but whoever hastens to be rich will not go unpunished.

Luke 18:26 And they that heard it said, Who then can be saved?

Passage People heard Jesus' teaching and asked who then can be saved.

1. The Call To Salvation: How to Accept Jesus' Offer of Eternal Life

2. Avoiding the Unforgivable Sin: The Importance of Responding to Jesus' Invitation

1. Ephesians 2:8-9 - For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.

2. Romans 10:9-10 - If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved.

Luke 18:27 And he said, The things which are impossible with men are possible with God.

Jesus teaches a lesson on the power of prayer and faith, emphasizing that with God, all things are possible.

1. "Living a Life of Faith: The Power of Prayer"

2. "The Impossible with Men, Possible with God"

1. Romans 4:17-21 - Abraham's faith was credited to him as righteousness

2. James 2:14-26 - Faith without works is dead

Luke 18:28 Then Peter said, Lo, we have left all, and followed thee.

The disciples left everything behind to follow Jesus.

1. The Power of Discipleship: What it means to Follow Jesus

2. The Cost of Following Jesus: What are We Willing to Leave Behind?

1. Mark 10:28-31 - Jesus' call for the rich young man to leave everything behind and follow Him

2. Hebrews 11:8 - Abraham's willingness to leave his homeland and follow God's call

Luke 18:29 And he said unto them, Verily I say unto you, There is no man that hath left house, or parents, or brethren, or wife, or children, for the kingdom of God's sake,

No man should be willing to sacrifice his family for the sake of the kingdom of God.

1. God is more important than earthly relationships.

2. Consider the cost of following God.

1. Matthew 10:37-38 - “Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me, and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. And whoever does not take his cross and follow me is not worthy of me.”

2. Deuteronomy 6:5 - “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.”

Luke 18:30 Who shall not receive manifold more in this present time, and in the world to come life everlasting.

The passage speaks to the promise of eternal life and manifold blessings in the present and future.

1. The Promise of Eternal Life: A Look at Luke 18:30

2. Reaping Manifold Blessings: An Examination of Luke 18:30

1. John 3:16-17 - For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

2. Matthew 19:29 - And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or fields for my sake will receive a hundred times as much and will inherit eternal life.

Luke 18:31 Then he took unto him the twelve, and said unto them, Behold, we go up to Jerusalem, and all things that are written by the prophets concerning the Son of man shall be accomplished.

Jesus was preparing the twelve disciples for the events that were to come when they went to Jerusalem.

1: God's plan is perfect and infallible, His will will be done.

2: Jesus was faithful to the mission that God gave Him, and we should strive to do the same.

1: Philippians 2:8 - And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death— even death on a cross!

2: Isaiah 53:12 - Therefore I will divide him a portion with the many, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong, because he poured out his soul to death and was numbered with the transgressors; yet he bore the sin of many, and makes intercession for the transgressors.

Luke 18:32 For he shall be delivered unto the Gentiles, and shall be mocked, and spitefully entreated, and spitted on:

Jesus will be delivered to the Gentiles and suffer humiliation and torture.

1. Taking Up Our Cross: The Importance of Self-Sacrifice

2. The Power of Forgiveness: Jesus' Example of Unconditional Love

1. Isaiah 53:3-5 - He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not.

2. 1 Peter 2:21-25 - For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps: Who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth.

Luke 18:33 And they shall scourge him, and put him to death: and the third day he shall rise again.

This passage speaks of Jesus being scourged and put to death on the third day, and then rising again.

1. "Overcoming Death: The Resurrection of Jesus"

2. "The Power of Redemption Through Jesus' Sacrifice"

1. 1 Corinthians 15:55-57 (“Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?”)

2. Isaiah 53:5 (“But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed.”)

Luke 18:34 And they understood none of these things: and this saying was hid from them, neither knew they the things which were spoken.

The disciples of Jesus did not understand the things Jesus said to them.

1. The Power of Faith: Learning to Trust God in Unfamiliar Situations

2. The Benefits of Being a Life-Long Learner

1. Ephesians 4:20-21 - But that ye may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work.

2. Proverbs 2:2-5 - So that thou incline thine ear unto wisdom, and apply thine heart to understanding; Yea, if thou criest after knowledge, and liftest up thy voice for understanding; If thou seekest her as silver, and searchest for her as for hid treasures; Then shalt thou understand the fear of the LORD, and find the knowledge of God.

Luke 18:35 And it came to pass, that as he was come nigh unto Jericho, a certain blind man sat by the way side begging:

The passage tells of a blind man who was begging near Jericho.

1: Jesus Heals the Blind - Luke 18:35

2: The Power of Faith - Luke 18:35

1: Isaiah 35:5-6 - "Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped. Then shall the lame man leap as an hart, and the tongue of the dumb sing: for in the wilderness shall waters break out, and streams in the desert."

2: Matthew 9:27-28 - "And when Jesus departed thence, two blind men followed him, crying, and saying, Thou Son of David, have mercy on us. And when he was come into the house, the blind men came to him: and Jesus saith unto them, Believe ye that I am able to do this?"

Luke 18:36 And hearing the multitude pass by, he asked what it meant.

The passage describes Jesus asking what the passing multitude was about.

1. The Power of Curiosity: How Asking Questions Can Lead Us to God

2. The Power of Listening: How Paying Attention to the World Around Us Can Bring Us Closer to Jesus

1. Jeremiah 33:3 – “Call to me and I will answer you, and will tell you great and hidden things that you have not known.”

2. Deuteronomy 4:29 – “But from there you will seek the Lord your God and you will find Him, if you search after Him with all your heart and with all your soul.”

Luke 18:37 And they told him, that Jesus of Nazareth passeth by.

The people told a man that Jesus of Nazareth was passing by.

1. Jesus' presence brings life - Luke 18:37

2. The value of recognizing Jesus - Luke 18:37

1. John 11:25 - "Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live,"

2. Mark 10:45 - "For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

Luke 18:38 And he cried, saying, Jesus, thou son of David, have mercy on me.

This passage describes a man calling out for Jesus to have mercy on him.

1. We should always turn to Jesus in our moments of need.

2. All who call out to Jesus with faith will be answered.

1. Matthew 7:7-8 - "Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you: For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened."

2. Isaiah 55:6 - "Seek ye the LORD while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near:"

Luke 18:39 And they which went before rebuked him, that he should hold his peace: but he cried so much the more, Thou son of David, have mercy on me.

The blind man persistently sought healing from Jesus, despite the rebukes of those around him.

1. The Power of Persistence: Never Give Up on God

2. Keep the Faith: Rely on Jesus for Healing

1. Hebrews 11:6 - Without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.

2. James 5:16-18 - Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.

Luke 18:40 And Jesus stood, and commanded him to be brought unto him: and when he was come near, he asked him,

Jesus heals a blind man and teaches a lesson about faith.

1. Faith in Action: Learning from Jesus's Example

2. Relying on God's Strength: Overcoming Physical and Spiritual Blindness

1. Hebrews 11:1 - “Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.”

2. Romans 15:13 - “May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.”

Luke 18:41 Saying, What wilt thou that I shall do unto thee? And he said, Lord, that I may receive my sight.

Jesus healing the blind man: Jesus showed mercy and compassion towards the blind man by asking him what he desired.

1. The Power of Compassion: Seeing Past the Immediate Needs of Others

2. The Strength of Faith: Believing in a Higher Power's Ability to Heal

1. Matthew 9:27-30 - Jesus heals two blind men

2. James 5:14-16 - Prayer for healing and the power of faith

Luke 18:42 And Jesus said unto him, Receive thy sight: thy faith hath saved thee.

This verse from the Gospel of Luke proclaims that faith in Jesus is what saves us.

1. "The Power of Faith: The Healing of Blind Bartimaeus"

2. "The Salvation of Faith: Jesus and Bartimaeus"

1. Mark 10:46-52 - Jesus healing the blind man at Jericho

2. Romans 10:9 - "That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved."

Luke 18:43 And immediately he received his sight, and followed him, glorifying God: and all the people, when they saw it, gave praise unto God.

This passage is about a man who was healed of his blindness and followed Jesus, giving praise to God.

1. The Power of Jesus: How Jesus Can Heal Us Spiritually and Physically

2. Gaining Sight and Finding Faith: How We Can Find Our Way to Jesus

1. Matthew 9:27-30 - "And when Jesus departed thence, two blind men followed him, crying, and saying, Thou Son of David, have mercy on us. And when he was come into the house, the blind men came to him: and Jesus saith unto them, Believe ye that I am able to do this? They said unto him, Yea, Lord. Then touched he their eyes, saying, According to your faith be it unto you. And their eyes were opened; and Jesus straitly charged them, saying, See that no man know it."

2. Isaiah 35:5-6 - "Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped. Then shall the lame man leap as an hart, and the tongue of the dumb sing: for in the wilderness shall waters break out, and streams in the desert."

Luke 19 includes the story of Zacchaeus, the parable of the Ten Minas, Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem, and His lament over Jerusalem.

1st Paragraph: The chapter begins with Jesus entering Jericho where He encountered Zacchaeus, a wealthy tax collector who climbed a sycamore tree to see Jesus. Jesus called him down and announced that He would stay at his house. This caused grumbling among people who saw this because they considered Zacchaeus a sinner. However, Zacchaeus pledged to give half his possessions to the poor and repay four times anyone he had cheated. Jesus declared that salvation had come to his house because he too was a son of Abraham and emphasized His mission: "For Son Man came seek save lost" (Luke 19:1-10).

2nd Paragraph: As they were listening to this, He went on to tell a parable because He was near Jerusalem and people thought kingdom God was going appear at once so told Parable Ten Minas about man noble birth went distant country have himself appointed king then return before leaving he called ten servants gave them each mina told them 'Put this money work until I come back.' But subjects hated him sent delegation after him say 'We don’t want this man be our king.' On return king ordered servants whom given money be called him order find out what they had gained with it some multiplied their minas but one hid his mina cloth fear king took from him gave one who had ten minas saying 'I tell you everyone who has will be given more but whoever does not have even what they have will be taken away from them.' Then dealt with citizens who rejected him (Luke 19:11-27). This parable highlights responsibility faithful stewardship resources opportunities God entrusts us as well as consequences rejecting Christ's lordship.

3rd Paragraph: After telling this parable, Jesus went on ahead up Jerusalem nearing Bethphage Bethany Mount Olives sent two disciples fetch colt never been ridden asked why doing it should say 'The Lord needs it.' They brought colt put their cloaks on it for Him sit crowd spread their cloaks road others cut branches trees spread them road whole multitude disciples began joyfully praise God loud voice all miracles seen saying ‘Blessed is king comes name Lord! Peace heaven glory highest!’ Some Pharisees crowd said Him ‘Teacher rebuke your disciples!’ But answered ‘I tell you if they keep quiet stones will cry out’ indicating divine nature His kingship inevitable praise due creation (Luke 19:28-40). As approached city wept over it predicting coming destruction because did not recognize time visitation peace lamenting blindness unbelief despite presence Messiah midst (Luke 19:41-44). Chapter concludes with Him entering temple driving out those selling things there declaring 'My house will be house prayer but you have made den robbers' returning daily teach temple while chief priests teachers law leading people were trying find way kill Him yet could not find any way do so because all people hung on words signifying growing tension between Him religious authorities anticipation imminent passion events unfold next chapters (Luke 19:45-48).

Luke 19:1 And Jesus entered and passed through Jericho.

Jesus passed through Jericho.

1. The Power of Jesus' Presence

2. The Impact of Jesus' Passing Through

1. Luke 5:17-26 – Jesus healing the paralyzed man

2. Mark 10:46-52 – Jesus' healing of blind Bartimaeus

Luke 19:2 And, behold, there was a man named Zacchaeus, which was the chief among the publicans, and he was rich.

Zacchaeus was a wealthy tax collector who was also highly influential in his town.

1. God has a plan for everyone, regardless of their station in life.

2. God's grace and mercy are available to all, regardless of their wealth or status.

1. Ephesians 2:8-9 - For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God.

2. Matthew 19:26 - But Jesus looked at them and said, "With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible."

Luke 19:3 And he sought to see Jesus who he was; and could not for the press, because he was little of stature.

Zacchaeus, a small man, was unable to see Jesus because of the large crowd.

1. God calls us all regardless of size or stature.

2. Jesus shows us that everyone is valuable to God.

1. Isaiah 64:6 - All of us have become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous acts are like filthy rags; we all shrivel up like a leaf, and like the wind our sins sweep us away.

2. 1 Corinthians 12:12-27 - For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ.

Luke 19:4 And he ran before, and climbed up into a sycomore tree to see him: for he was to pass that way.

Zacchaeus ran ahead and climbed up a sycomore tree in order to get a better view of Jesus as He passed by.

1. The Importance of Humility - Zacchaeus teaches us the importance of humility as he was willing to go to extraordinary lengths simply to get a better view of Jesus.

2. Moving Out of Comfort to Follow Jesus - Zacchaeus's actions demonstrate that we should be willing to move out of our comfort in order to follow Jesus.

1. Matthew 5:3-4 - "Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted."

2. Philippians 2:3-4 - "Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves. Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others."

Luke 19:5 And when Jesus came to the place, he looked up, and saw him, and said unto him, Zacchaeus, make haste, and come down; for to day I must abide at thy house.

Zacchaeus was a man of great wealth who was despised by society, yet Jesus saw him for who he really was and offered him grace and acceptance.

1. God's Love is Unconditional and For Everyone

2. Embracing the Unloved and Unwanted

1. Romans 5:8 - But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

2. Matthew 25:40 - And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me.

Luke 19:6 And he made haste, and came down, and received him joyfully.

This passage describes Jesus coming down to meet the people joyfully.

1. The Joy of Jesus: Learning to Receive Joy from the Lord

2. The Power of Haste: Responding Quickly to God's Call

1. Psalm 100:2: Serve the Lord with gladness; come into his presence with singing!

2. Philippians 4:4: Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice!

Luke 19:7 And when they saw it, they all murmured, saying, That he was gone to be guest with a man that is a sinner.

This passage tells of the people's reaction when they saw Jesus going to be a guest with a man who was a sinner.

1. Jesus Loves Everyone: Looking at Luke 19:7 to Show God's Unconditional Love

2. Being a Light in the Darkness: Examining How Jesus' Actions Can Guide Us

1. Romans 5:8 - But God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

2. Matthew 5:14-16 - “You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.

Luke 19:8 And Zacchaeus stood, and said unto the Lord; Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor; and if I have taken any thing from any man by false accusation,

I restore him fourfold.

Zacchaeus demonstrated true repentance when he offered to give away half of his possessions and return fourfold what he had taken unjustly.

1. The Power of Repentance

2. God's Grace in Forgiveness

1. Ephesians 4:32 - "And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you."

2. Romans 6:23 - "For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."

Luke 19:9 And Jesus said unto him, This day is salvation come to this house, forsomuch as he also is a son of Abraham.

Salvation has come to those who believe in Jesus and are children of Abraham.

1. We are all Children of Abraham, and the Lord brings us Salvation.

2. Believe in Jesus and receive the Salvation of the Lord.

1. Romans 4:11-12 - And he received the sign of circumcision, a seal of the righteousness that he had by faith while he was still uncircumcised. So then, he is the father of all who believe but have not been circumcised, in order that righteousness might be credited to them.

2. Galatians 3:6-7 - Just as Abraham “believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness,” so understand that those who believe are the children of Abraham. The Scripture foresaw that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, and announced the gospel in advance to Abraham: “All nations will be blessed through you.”

Luke 19:10 For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.

Jesus came to seek and save those who are lost.

1. The Lost Sheep: The Power of Jesus' Love and Compassion

2. A New Path: Jesus as the Guide to Salvation

1. John 3:17 - For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.

2. Matthew 18:11 - For the Son of Man came to save the lost.

Luke 19:11 And as they heard these things, he added and spake a parable, because he was nigh to Jerusalem, and because they thought that the kingdom of God should immediately appear.

Jesus was near Jerusalem and the people were expecting the Kingdom of God to appear soon, so Jesus spoke a parable to them.

1. "Waiting on the Kingdom of God"

2. "The Power of Parables"

1. Isaiah 40:31 - "But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint."

2. Matthew 13:34 - "All these things spake Jesus unto the multitude in parables; and without a parable spake he not unto them:"

Luke 19:12 He said therefore, A certain nobleman went into a far country to receive for himself a kingdom, and to return.

Jesus tells a parable of a nobleman who goes to a far country to receive a kingdom and then returns.

1: God entrusts us with important tasks and we must be faithful to Him in order to receive His blessings.

2: The life of Jesus was an example of how to faithfully serve God through obedience and perseverance.

1: Matthew 25:14-30 - The parable of the talents.

2: Joshua 1:8 - Be strong and courageous, for the Lord will be with you wherever you go.

Luke 19:13 And he called his ten servants, and delivered them ten pounds, and said unto them, Occupy till I come.

Jesus gives ten servants ten pounds, and tells them to use it until He returns.

1. The Responsibility of a Steward - Learning to Manage What We Have Been Given

2. Faithful Until Christ's Return - Cultivating a Life of Perseverance

1. Matthew 25:14-30 - Parable of the Talents

2. 1 Cor. 4:1-2 - Trustworthy Stewards of God's Grace

Luke 19:14 But his citizens hated him, and sent a message after him, saying, We will not have this man to reign over us.

The citizens of Jerusalem rejected Jesus as their king.

1. The Righteous Reign of Jesus - How Jesus is the Righteous Ruler We Should Follow

2. Rejection of Jesus - How We Must Not Reject the Authority of Jesus

1. Isaiah 9:6-7 - For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

2. Philippians 2:9-11 - Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is

Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Luke 19:15 And it came to pass, that when he was returned, having received the kingdom, then he commanded these servants to be called unto him, to whom he had given the money, that he might know how much every man had gained by trading.

Jesus returns and commands his servants to report to him how much money they had gained through trading.

1. The Reward for Diligent Service: Jesus rewards the faithful servants for their diligence.

2. The Joy of Generosity: Jesus celebrates the generosity of his servants.

1. 1 Corinthians 4:2 (“Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful.”)

2. 2 Corinthians 9:6-7 (“But this I say, He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully. Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver.”)

Luke 19:16 Then came the first, saying, Lord, thy pound hath gained ten pounds.

Jesus encourages his followers to invest their talents and be wise stewards of the resources God has given them.

1. The Faithful Steward: Living a Life of Fulfilled Purpose.

2. Reaping What You Sow: The Blessings of Faithful Investment.

1. Matthew 25:14-30 - Parable of the Talents.

2. Proverbs 13:11 - Wealth gained hastily will dwindle, but whoever gathers little by little will increase it.

Luke 19:17 And he said unto him, Well, thou good servant: because thou hast been faithful in a very little, have thou authority over ten cities.

The faithful servant was rewarded with authority over ten cities.

1. Faithful Service Leads to Great Rewards

2. The Blessing of Faithfulness

1. Matthew 25:21 - His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much.

2. Proverbs 12:24 - The hand of the diligent will rule, while the slothful will be put to forced labor.

Luke 19:18 And the second came, saying, Lord, thy pound hath gained five pounds.

Jesus praised the man for making wise investments with the talents given to him.

1: God has given us all different talents and abilities. We must use those gifts wisely to bring glory to Him.

2: We must strive to be faithful stewards of the blessings God has given us.

1: Matthew 25:14-30 - Parable of the Talents.

2: 1 Peter 4:10 - Each of us should use whatever gift we have received to serve others, faithfully administering God’s grace.

Luke 19:19 And he said likewise to him, Be thou also over five cities.

Jesus instructed one of his disciples to be in charge of five cities.

1. The Power of Jesus' Words: How Jesus' instructions can lead to great things.

2. The Greatness of Service: How serving others can bring blessings.

1. Matthew 20:25-28 - Jesus teaches about greatness being found in serving others.

2. 1 Peter 5:6-7 - Humble yourselves before the Lord, and He will lift you up.

Luke 19:20 And another came, saying, Lord, behold, here is thy pound, which I have kept laid up in a napkin:

Jesus taught a powerful lesson on the importance of investing the resources God has given us.

1: Investing the Resources God Gives Us

2: Being Faithful with What We Have

1: Matthew 25:14-30 - Parable of the Talents

2: Proverbs 3:9-10 - Honor the Lord with Your Possessions

Luke 19:21 For I feared thee, because thou art an austere man: thou takest up that thou layedst not down, and reapest that thou didst not sow.

Jesus warns us of the consequences of living a life without accountability.

1: We must be accountable for our own actions and responsible for our own decisions.

2: God holds us accountable for the things we do, so let us strive to live with integrity and humility.

1: 1 Corinthians 10:12 - Therefore let anyone who thinks that he stands take heed lest he fall.

2: Ecclesiastes 11:9 - Rejoice, O young man, in your youth, and let your heart cheer you in the days of your youth. Walk in the ways of your heart and the sight of your eyes.

Luke 19:22 And he saith unto him, Out of thine own mouth will I judge thee, thou wicked servant. Thou knewest that I was an austere man, taking up that I laid not down, and reaping that I did not sow:

Jesus warns us to be faithful stewards of His gifts.

1. God calls us to be faithful stewards of what He has blessed us with.

2. We must use our resources to glorify God and to further His kingdom.

1. Matthew 25:14-30 - The Parable of the Talents.

2. 1 Corinthians 4:2 - Therefore, it is required of stewards that one be found faithful.

Luke 19:23 Wherefore then gavest not thou my money into the bank, that at my coming I might have required mine own with usury?

This verse is about Jesus questioning why the servant did not use the money given to him to gain interest.

1. The Power of Investing: How Investing Wisely Can Lead to Greater Rewards

2. The Parable of the Talents: Why We Should Use Our Gifts and Talents to Serve God

1. Matthew 25:14-30 - Parable of the Talents

2. Proverbs 22:7 - The Rich Rule Over the Poor, and the Borrower is Slave to the Lender

Luke 19:24 And he said unto them that stood by, Take from him the pound, and give it to him that hath ten pounds.

This passage speaks of Jesus instructing bystanders to take from the one who had one pound and give it to the one who had ten pounds.

1. The Power of Generosity: The story of Jesus' instruction to those standing by speaks to the power of generosity and how it can be used to bless others.

2. The Abundance of God: Jesus' instruction to those standing by speaks to the abundance of God's supply and how it can be used to meet the needs of others.

1. 2 Corinthians 9:7-8 - "Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work."

2. Galatians 6:9-10 - "Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers."

Luke 19:25 (And they said unto him, Lord, he hath ten pounds.)

This passage from Luke 19:25 tells of how some of Jesus' followers asked him what should be done with a man who had ten pounds.

1. The Power of Possessing: How to use God's Blessings to Make a Difference in the World

2. The Virtue of Generosity: How to Live a Life of Sacrifice and Stewardship

1. Matthew 25:14-30 - The Parable of the Talents

2. 2 Corinthians 8:1-15 - Generosity of the Macedonian Churches

Luke 19:26 For I say unto you, That unto every one which hath shall be given; and from him that hath not, even that he hath shall be taken away from him.

Everyone will be rewarded or punished based on their actions.

1: Our actions have consequences, and we should strive to live lives that are pleasing to God.

2: We must be mindful of our actions and how they affect ourselves and others, for they will have an impact on our future.

1: James 4:17 - Therefore, to him who knows to do good and does not do it, to him it is sin.

2: Proverbs 11:18 - The wicked man earns deceptive wages, but he who sows righteousness reaps a sure reward.

Luke 19:27 But those mine enemies, which would not that I should reign over them, bring hither, and slay them before me.

Jesus commands his followers to bring his enemies before him and slay them.

1. The Power of Unconditional Love: Learning to Love Your Enemies

2. Forgiveness in the Face of Persecution: Turning the Other Cheek

1. Matthew 5:43-44 "You have heard that it was said, 'Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' 44 But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you."

2. Romans 12:17-21 "Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everyone. 18 If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. 19 Do not take revenge, my dear friends, but leave room for God’s wrath, for it is written: “It is mine to avenge; I will repay,” says the Lord. 20 On the contrary: “If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head.” 21 Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good."

Luke 19:28 And when he had thus spoken, he went before, ascending up to Jerusalem.

Jesus spoke to the people and then went on a journey to Jerusalem.

1. Jesus demonstrates the power of faith through his journey to Jerusalem.

2. Jesus' journey to Jerusalem is an example of how we can overcome obstacles in our own lives.

1. Hebrews 11:1-3 - "Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. For by it the people of old received their commendation. By faith we understand that the universe was created by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things that are visible."

2. Philippians 3:13-14 - "Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on

toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus."

Luke 19:29 And it came to pass, when he was come nigh to Bethphage and Bethany, at the mount called the mount of Olives, he sent two of his disciples,

Passage Jesus sent two of his disciples to the village of Bethphage and Bethany, which was located on the Mount of Olives.

1. The Power of Two: How Jesus Empowers His Disciples

2. The Significance of the Mount of Olives: Its Role in Jesus' Ministry

1. Luke 10:1-2 - And after these things the Lord appointed other seventy also, and sent them two and two before his face into every city and place, whither he himself would come. Therefore said he unto them, The harvest truly is great, but the labourers are few: pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he would send forth labourers into his harvest.

2. Matthew 28:18-20 - And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.

Luke 19:30 Saying, Go ye into the village over against you; in the which at your entering ye shall find a colt tied, whereon yet never man sat: loose him, and bring him hither.

This verse describes Jesus' instructions to his disciples to find a colt, unridden by any other, and bring it to him.

1. Jesus calls us to be obedient to His commands, no matter how strange they may seem.

2. We can trust Jesus to provide for our every need.

1. Matthew 17:27 - "But that we may not offend them, go to the sea, and cast a hook, and take up the fish that first cometh up; and when thou hast opened his mouth, thou shalt find a piece of money: that take, and give unto them for me and thee."

2. Isaiah 40:11 - "He shall feed his flock like a shepherd: he shall gather the lambs with

his arm, and carry them in his bosom, and shall gently lead those that are with young."

Luke 19:31 And if any man ask you, Why do ye loose him? thus shall ye say unto him, Because the Lord hath need of him.

Jesus instructs his disciples to respond to any questioning as to why they are freeing the donkey, by claiming that the Lord has need of him.

1. Our lives should be dedicated to serving God's purpose.

2. We must be willing to sacrifice our own needs for God's.

1. Philippians 2:3-5 “Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others. In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus.”

2. Mark 10:45 “For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

Luke 19:32 And they that were sent went their way, and found even as he had said unto them.

This passage tells of the disciples finding what Jesus had told them to look for.

1: God is always faithful to His promises.

2: God's word can be trusted.

1: Joshua 23:14 - "And, behold, this day I am going the way of all the earth: and ye know in all your hearts and in all your souls, that not one thing hath failed of all the good things which the LORD your God spake concerning you; all are come to pass unto you, and not one thing hath failed thereof."

2: Isaiah 55:11 - "So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it."

Luke 19:33 And as they were loosing the colt, the owners thereof said unto them, Why loose ye the colt?

The owners of the colt asked why it was being untied.

1: God is in the small details of our lives. He notices our every move and cares about our actions, both big and small.

2: Jesus is worthy of our trust and obedience. He asked His disciples to untie the colt, and they did so in faith.

1: Matthew 10:28-31 - And be not afraid of them that kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.

2: Proverbs 3:5-6 - Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.

Luke 19:34 And they said, The Lord hath need of him.

The people declared that Jesus had need of a donkey.

1: Jesus had need of a donkey to demonstrate that He is the Son of God.

2: We too can show our faith in Jesus by offering up what we have.

1: Philippians 2:8 - And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death— even death on a cross!

2: Matthew 11:29 - Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.

Luke 19:35 And they brought him to Jesus: and they cast their garments upon the colt, and they set Jesus thereon.

The people brought Jesus a young donkey and placed him on it. They covered it with their garments.

1. "The Power of Faith: Jesus' Faithful Followers"

2. "The Power of Service: Putting Others Before Yourself"

1. Matthew 21:1-11 - The Triumphal Entry of Jesus

2. Philippians 2:3-7 - Jesus' Example of Humility and Service

Luke 19:36 And as he went, they spread their clothes in the way.

As Jesus traveled, his followers spread their clothes in the way as a sign of respect.

1. Our Response to Jesus: Reverence and Respect

2. Honoring Jesus Through Our Actions

1. Philippians 2:5-11 - Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men.

2. Mark 6:34-44 - When he went ashore he saw a great crowd, and he had compassion on them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd; and he began to teach them many things.

Luke 19:37 And when he was come nigh, even now at the descent of the mount of Olives, the whole multitude of the disciples began to rejoice and praise God with a loud voice for all the mighty works that they had seen;

The disciples of Jesus rejoiced and praised God loudly for the mighty works they had seen when Jesus approached the descent of the Mount of Olives.

1. The Power of Praise: Learning to Rejoice and Thank God for His Mighty Works

2. The Mount of Olives: The Meaning of Jesus' Descent in Luke 19:37

1. Psalm 145:3-4 - Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised; and his greatness is unsearchable. One generation shall praise thy works to another, and shall declare thy mighty acts.

2. Hebrews 13:15 - By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name.

Luke 19:38 Saying, Blessed be the King that cometh in the name of the Lord: peace in heaven, and glory in the highest.

The people of Jerusalem welcomed Jesus with shouts of joy and blessing.

1: We should welcome Jesus with joy and blessings as the people of Jerusalem did.

2: We should proclaim Jesus as our King and give Him the glory He deserves.

1: Ephesians 2:14 For he is our peace, who hath made both one.

2: Colossians 3:17 And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him.

Luke 19:39 And some of the Pharisees from among the multitude said unto him, Master, rebuke thy disciples.

The Pharisees asked Jesus to rebuke His disciples.

1: Jesus teaches us that it is important to be tolerant and to respect the beliefs of others.

2: Jesus teaches us that it is not our place to judge and criticize others for their faith.

1: Romans 12:9-10 – “Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good. Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor.”

2: Mark 12:31 – “The second is this: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no other commandment greater than these.”

Luke 19:40 And he answered and said unto them, I tell you that, if these should hold their peace, the stones would immediately cry out.

The people were so moved by Jesus' words that if they did not speak out, the stones would.

1: Let us be inspired by Jesus' words to speak out and share the gospel.

2: Let us not be like the stones, but instead let us be like the people moved by Jesus' words to share the message of hope.

1: Philippians 2:15-16 “That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world; Holding forth the word of life.”

2: Isaiah 43:10 “Ye are my witnesses, saith the Lord, and my servant whom I have chosen: that ye may know and believe me, and understand that I am he: before me there was no God formed, neither shall there be after me.”

Luke 19:41 And when he was come near, he beheld the city, and wept over it,

Jesus wept over the city of Jerusalem as He approached.

1: Jesus’ Compassion: Seeing Beyond the Present

2: Grieving for the Lost: Jesus’ Example of Love

1: Matthew 23:37-38 - “O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often would I have gathered your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing!”

2: Hebrews 4:15-16 - “For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.”

Luke 19:42 Saying, If thou hadst known, even thou, at least in this thy day, the things which belong unto thy peace! but now they are hid from thine eyes.

Jesus laments the lack of understanding in Jerusalem.

1. Put your trust in God and open your eyes to the truth.

2. Don't miss out on the things that could bring you peace.

1. Matthew 6:25-34 - Do not worry, trust in God.

2. Proverbs 3:5-6 - Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding.

Luke 19:43 For the days shall come upon thee, that thine enemies shall cast a trench about thee, and compass thee round, and keep thee in on every side,

The days are coming when enemies will surround and trap us.

1: God will be our strength and refuge when we are surrounded.

2: We can rely on God to protect us even in the midst of our enemies.

1: Isaiah 43:2 "When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you."

2: Psalm 18:2 "The Lord is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer, my God, my rock, in whom I take refuge, my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold."

Luke 19:44 And shall lay thee even with the ground, and thy children within thee; and they shall not leave in thee one stone upon another; because thou knewest not the time of thy visitation.

The people of Jerusalem will be destroyed and their children with them, as they did not recognize that Jesus was their Messiah.

1. Recognizing God's Visitation in Our Lives

2. The Consequences of Unbelief

1. Isaiah 48:17-19 - Therefore thus says the Lord, your Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel: "I am the Lord your God, Who teaches you to profit, Who leads you by the way you should go.

2. Romans 1:18-20 - For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown it to them.

Luke 19:45 And he went into the temple, and began to cast out them that sold therein, and them that bought;

Jesus cleansed the temple and showed his anger at corrupt people taking advantage of the vulnerable.

1: God's judgment is swift and sure.

2: We must always remember to be stewards of our faith.

1: Proverbs 21:3 - To do righteousness and justice is more acceptable to the Lord than sacrifice.

2: Micah 6:8 - He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

Luke 19:46 Saying unto them, It is written, My house is the house of prayer: but ye have made it a den of thieves.

Jesus teaches us that God's house should be a house of prayer, not a place of dishonorable actions.

1. Our Houses of Worship Should Reflect the Holiness of God

2. The Power of Righteousness vs. the Destructiveness of Sin

1. Psalm 24:3-4 - Who shall ascend into the hill of the LORD? or who shall stand in his holy place? He that hath clean hands, and a pure heart; who hath not lifted up his soul unto vanity, nor sworn deceitfully.

2. Isaiah 56:7 - Even them will I bring to my holy mountain, and make them joyful in my house of prayer: their burnt offerings and their sacrifices shall be accepted upon mine altar; for mine house shall be called an house of prayer for all people.

Luke 19:47 And he taught daily in the temple. But the chief priests and the scribes and the chief of the people sought to destroy him,

Jesus resisted his persecutors and continued to preach in the Temple daily.

1: We should follow Jesus' example and remain steadfast in our beliefs even when faced with opposition.

2: We should trust in God's protection and courageously carry out His will in all circumstances.

1: Acts 5:29 - "We must obey God rather than human beings!"

2: Psalm 27:1 - "The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?"

Luke 19:48 And could not find what they might do: for all the people were very attentive to hear him.

Jesus was speaking to the people and they were paying close attention.

1. The Power of Listening: How to Draw Closer to Jesus

2. The Art of Attentive Hearing: Learning from Jesus

1. James 1:19 - So then, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath.

2. Proverbs 10:19 - In the multitude of words there wanteth not sin: but he that refraineth his lips is wise.

Luke 20 presents a series of encounters between Jesus and the religious leaders in Jerusalem. It includes His parable of the Tenants, teachings on paying taxes to Caesar, discussion about resurrection, and warning against the teachers of the law.

1st Paragraph: The chapter begins with Jesus teaching in the temple and preaching the gospel when chief priests scribes elders came up him questioned authority which he was doing these things. In response, He asked them a question about John's baptism - whether it was from heaven or from men. When they couldn't answer for fear of people's reaction either way, Jesus also refused to tell them by what authority He did these things (Luke 20:1-8). He then told Parable Wicked Tenants vineyard owner who leased his vineyard tenants went away long time when time came collect fruit sent servant tenants but they beat him sent him away empty-handed. This happened twice more then finally sent his beloved son thinking they would respect him but instead tenants killed son take inheritance. Jesus indicated that owner would come destroy those tenants give vineyard others which provoked religious leaders' ire as they realized parable was against them indicative their rejection God's messengers ultimately His Son (Luke 20:9-19).

2nd Paragraph: Later spies were sent by religious leaders try trap Him words so could hand Him over power governor asking Him whether right pay taxes Caesar not. Recognizing their craftiness, He asked for a denarius coin and asked whose image inscription it bore. When they answered 'Caesar’s,' He said to them 'Then give back to Caesar what is Caesar’s and to God what is God’s' thereby avoiding their trap affirming obligation both civic duties spiritual responsibilities without conflict (Luke 20:20-26). Then Sadducees who say there no resurrection came Him question about woman who had seven husbands according Mosaic levirate marriage law whose wife she would be resurrection since all had married her. In response Jesus clarified that those worthy attain resurrection neither marry given marriage cannot die anymore because like angels are children God being children resurrection added even Moses showed dead raised referring passage burning bush where calls Lord 'God Abraham Isaac Jacob.' Therefore not God dead living indicating that all live Him thus affirming reality resurrection afterlife (Luke 20:27-38).

3rd Paragraph: Then turning tables on questioning leaders asked them how can Christ be David's son when David himself declares in book Psalms 'The Lord said my Lord Sit at my right hand until I make your enemies footstool.' Thus David calls him ‘Lord.’ How then can he be his son? No one could answer this question nor did anyone dare ask Him any more questions showing supremacy His wisdom silencing critics establishing divine Sonship Messiah beyond mere physical lineage (Luke 20:41-44). Lastly while all people were listening warned disciples beware teachers law who like walk around long robes love respectful greetings marketplaces best seats synagogues places honor banquets devour widows’ houses for show make lengthy prayers These will receive greater condemnation illustrating hypocrisy ostentatious religiosity contrast genuine piety humility justice (Luke 20:45-47).

Luke 20:1 And it came to pass, that on one of those days, as he taught the people in the temple, and preached the gospel, the chief priests and the scribes came upon him with

the elders,

Passage Jesus taught the people in the temple and preached the gospel, when the chief priests, scribes, and elders came upon him.

1. The Power of Preaching: How Jesus Preached the Gospel in the Temple

2. Reaching Out to the Unbelievers: The Chief Priests, Scribes, and Elders Challenge Jesus

1. Acts 4:11-12 - “This Jesus is the stone that was rejected by you, the builders, which has become the cornerstone. And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.”

2. John 8:31-32 - “If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.”

Luke 20:2 And spake unto him, saying, Tell us, by what authority doest thou these things? or who is he that gave thee this authority?

The people asked Jesus by what authority did he act and who granted him the authority to do so.

1. Jesus: The Authoritative Voice of Truth

2. Drawing Authority from God's Word

1. John 8:31-32 - "So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, “If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”

2. Matthew 7:29 - "For he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes."

Luke 20:3 And he answered and said unto them, I will also ask you one thing; and answer me:

The religious leaders were asked a question by Jesus.

1. We should always be prepared to answer questions posed to us by Jesus.

2. We should be humble and willing to answer questions when Jesus asks.

1. Matthew 22:37-40 - "Jesus replied: “‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.”

2. James 1:19 - My dear brothers and sisters, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry.

Luke 20:4 The baptism of John, was it from heaven, or of men?

Jesus was questioned by the chief priests and elders about the source of John the Baptist's baptism.

1. The Power of Questioning Our Faith

2. How to Discern God's Will in Our Lives

1. Matthew 3:16-17 - And when Jesus was baptized, immediately he went up from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened to him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming to rest on him; and behold, a voice from heaven said, “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.”

2. 1 John 4:1-3 - Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world. By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you heard was coming and now is in the world already.

Luke 20:5 And they reasoned with themselves, saying, If we shall say, From heaven; he will say, Why then believed ye him not?

The chief priests and scribes were trying to trap Jesus with a difficult question.

1: Even when we are faced with difficult questions, Jesus is still able to help us and guide us to the right answer.

2: We must have faith in God even when we are faced with difficult questions and situations.

1: Isaiah 41:10 - Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness.

2: Philippians 4:6-7 - Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

Luke 20:6 But and if we say, Of men; all the people will stone us: for they be persuaded that John was a prophet.

The people were convinced that John was a prophet, and would stone anyone who said otherwise.

1: We should always be open to the possibility that God can work through us in unexpected ways.

2: We should strive to live out our faith with integrity, even in the face of opposition.

1: Galatians 5:22-23 "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law."

2: Hebrews 13:20-21 "Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, equip you with everything good that you may do his will, working in us that which is pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen."

Luke 20:7 And they answered, that they could not tell whence it was.

The people could not tell where the authority of the chief priests and scribes came from.

1: We have a responsibility to seek out the truth, to know our source of authority, and to hold ourselves to it.

2: We should always strive to know the origin of our authority, and be prepared to defend it when challenged.

1: Matthew 22:21 - "Render therefore unto Caesar the things which are Caesar's; and unto God the things that are God's."

2: Proverbs 2:2 - "So that thou incline thine ear unto wisdom, and apply thine heart to understanding."

Luke 20:8 And Jesus said unto them, Neither tell I you by what authority I do these things.

Jesus refused to tell the religious leaders where his authority came from for his actions.

1. God's Authority: Learning to Respect and Obey God's Authority

2. Doing the Right Thing: Living a Life of Commitment to God's Will

1. 1 Peter 2:13-15 - Submission to the governing authorities

2. Ephesians 6:5-7 - Obeying and honoring our masters

Luke 20:9 Then began he to speak to the people this parable; A certain man planted a vineyard, and let it forth to husbandmen, and went into a far country for a long time.

Summarized: A man plants a vineyard and leases it out to tenants before leaving on a long journey.

1. The Parable of the Tenants: How We Should Steward God's Resources

2. The Responsibility of Faithful Stewardship

1. Matthew 21:33-44 - Jesus' parable of the tenants in the vineyard

2. 1 Corinthians 4:2 - Faithful stewards of God's grace

Luke 20:10 And at the season he sent a servant to the husbandmen, that they should give him of the fruit of the vineyard: but the husbandmen beat him, and sent him away empty.

A landowner sent a servant to his vineyard to collect the fruit, but the husbandmen beat the servant and sent him away with nothing.

1. We should not take advantage of those who are powerless.

2. We should show kindness and generosity to those in need.

1. Ephesians 4:32 - "Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you."

2. Luke 6:38 - "Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you."

Luke 20:11 And again he sent another servant: and they beat him also, and entreated him shamefully, and sent him away empty.

This passage reveals the mistreatment of servants by their masters.

1. The Danger of Selfish Ambition

2. The Power of Forgiveness

1. James 4:1-10

2. Luke 23:32-34

Luke 20:12 And again he sent a third: and they wounded him also, and cast him out.

This passage describes the rejection of a messenger sent by God, with the messenger being wounded and cast out.

1: No matter how hard we try, we will face rejection. We must remain faithful to God even when we are rejected by the world.

2: God's messengers are often rejected, but this should not stop us from spreading His word and doing His work.

1: Isaiah 55:11 "So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it."

2: John 15:18-19 "If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you. If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you."

Luke 20:13 Then said the lord of the vineyard, What shall I do? I will send my beloved son: it may be they will reverence him when they see him.

The lord of the vineyard asked what he should do to bring forth reverence from his people, and decided to send his beloved son.

1. The Reality of God's Love: Understanding God's Love through His Actions

2. Making the Most of God's Grace: Recognizing and Appreciating God's Mercy

1. Romans 5:8 “But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”

2. Romans 3:23-24 “For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.”

Luke 20:14 But when the husbandmen saw him, they reasoned among themselves, saying, This is the heir: come, let us kill him, that the inheritance may be ours.

This passage is about the parable of the husbandmen, in which the husbandmen kill the heir to gain control of the inheritance.

1. The dangers of greed and the consequences of selfishness

2. The importance of recognizing true authority

1. Proverbs 28:25 He that is of a proud heart stirreth up strife: but he that putteth his trust in the Lord shall be made fat.

2. James 4:1-3 From whence come wars and fightings among you? come they not hence, even of your lusts that war in your members? Ye lust, and have not: ye kill, and desire to have, and cannot obtain: ye fight and war, yet ye have not, because ye ask not. Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts.

Luke 20:15 So they cast him out of the vineyard, and killed him. What therefore shall the lord of the vineyard do unto them?

The Lord of the Vineyard asked what He should do to those who cast out the servant and killed him.

1. The Consequences of Greed: A Reflection on Luke 20:15

2. The Need for Justice: Lessons from Luke 20:15

1. Ecclesiastes 8:11-12 - When the sentence for a crime is not quickly carried out, people's hearts are filled with schemes to do wrong.

2. Romans 12:19 - Do not take revenge, my dear friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: “It is mine to avenge; I will repay,” says the Lord.

Luke 20:16 He shall come and destroy these husbandmen, and shall give the vineyard to others. And when they heard it, they said, God forbid.

The people listened to Jesus' parable of the Vineyard and were shocked by the ending when the owner of the vineyard destroyed the husbandmen and gave the vineyard to others.

1. The Parable of the Vineyard: Finding God's Justice in Unfamiliar Places

2. The Parable of the Vineyard: The Sovereignty of God

1. Matthew 21:33-46 - The parable of the tenants in the vineyard

2. Isaiah 5:1-7 - The parable of the vineyard of the LORD of hosts

Luke 20:17 And he beheld them, and said, What is this then that is written, The stone which the builders rejected, the same is become the head of the corner?

Jesus noticed the teachers of the law and asked them a question about a verse from the Bible.

1. How the Rejected Stone Became the Cornerstone of the Church

2. The Power of God's Redemption Through His Word

1. Acts 4:11-12 - This is the stone which was set at nought of you builders, which is become the head of the corner.

12 Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.

2. Isaiah 28:16 - Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD, Behold, I lay in Zion for a foundation a stone, a tried stone, a precious corner stone, a sure foundation: he that believeth shall not make haste.

Luke 20:18 Whosoever shall fall upon that stone shall be broken; but on whomsoever it shall fall, it will grind him to powder.

The stone can bring destruction either to those who fall upon it or those upon whom it falls.

1: The Power of Christ to Judge and Save

2: The Danger of Rejecting Christ

1: Isaiah 8:14-15 - And he shall be for a sanctuary; but for a stone of stumbling and for a rock of offence to both the houses of Israel, for a gin and for a snare to the inhabitants of Jerusalem.

2: Romans 9:30-32 - What shall we say then? That the Gentiles, which followed not after righteousness, have attained to righteousness, even the righteousness which is of faith. But Israel, which followed after the law of righteousness, hath not attained to the law of righteousness. Wherefore? Because they sought it not by faith, but as it were by the works of the law.

Luke 20:19 And the chief priests and the scribes the same hour sought to lay hands on him; and they feared the people: for they perceived that he had spoken this parable against them.

The chief priests and scribes sought to arrest Jesus because they perceived he spoke a parable against them.

1: We must be careful to be aware of our actions and their consequences.

2: We must remain humble and not take offence when others challenge us.

1: Proverbs 16:18-19 “Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall. It is better to be of a lowly spirit with the poor than to divide the spoil with the proud.”

2: Philippians 2:3-4 “Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.”

Luke 20:20 And they watched him, and sent forth spies, which should feign themselves just men, that they might take hold of his words, that so they might deliver him unto the power and authority of the governor.

The religious leaders plotted against Jesus by sending spies to try to find a way to accuse him and have him arrested by the Roman governor.

1. The Danger of Deceit: Examining the Religious Leaders' Attempt to Entrap Jesus

2. The Power of Truth: How Jesus Confronted Deception With Faithfulness

1. Matthew 22:15-22 - Jesus Confronts the Pharisees With a Parable

2. Psalm 34:13 - “Keep your tongue from evil and your lips from speaking deceit.”

Luke 20:21 And they asked him, saying, Master, we know that thou sayest and teachest rightly, neither acceptest thou the person of any, but teachest the way of God truly:

Jesus taught truthfully without bias or p for any person.

1. We must practice what we preach and be consistent in our words and actions.

2. Jesus showed us how to live a life of integrity and honesty.

1. Proverbs 12:17 - He that speaketh truth sheweth forth righteousness: but a false witness deceit.

2. Matthew 22:37-40 - Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.

Luke 20:22 Is it lawful for us to give tribute unto Caesar, or no?

Passage The religious leaders asked Jesus if it was lawful for them to pay tribute to Caesar.

1. Jesus' Teachings on Obeying Government Laws

2. The Power of Jesus' Words in Difficult Situations

1. Romans 13:1-7 - Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God.

2. Matthew 22:15-22 - Render therefore unto Caesar the things which are Caesar's; and unto God the things that are God's.

Luke 20:23 But he perceived their craftiness, and said unto them, Why tempt ye me?

The passage shows that Jesus was aware of the crafty intentions of the religious authorities and called on them to stop trying to trick him.

1. “God Sees Our Crafty Intentions”: A lesson on how Jesus saw through the crafty intentions of the religious authorities and challenged them to stop trying to trick him.

2. “God Knows Our Hearts”: A about how God knows all our thoughts and intentions, and how this knowledge should lead us to repentance.

1. Matthew 22:15-22: The parable of the wedding feast, which shows how Jesus was aware of the crafty intentions of the religious authorities and how he challenged them.

2. Romans 2:17-24: Paul's teaching about God's knowledge of our thoughts and how it should lead us to repentance.

Luke 20:24 Shew me a penny. Whose image and superscription hath it? They answered and said, Caesar's.

The people were asked whose image and inscription was on a penny and they responded that it was Caesar's.

1. “Render unto Caesar the Things that are Caesar’s”

2. “The Power and Authority of Government Authorities”

1. Matthew 22:21 - “Render therefore unto Caesar the things which are Caesar's; and unto God the things that are God's.”

2. Romans 13:1 - “Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God.”

Luke 20:25 And he said unto them, Render therefore unto Caesar the things which be Caesar's, and unto God the things which be God's.

Render unto God what is God's: The importance of recognizing our spiritual duties.

1:

Be devoted to the Lord: Living a life dedicated to His will.

2:

Giving back to God: Understanding our responsibility as believers.

1:

Romans 12:1-2 - Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

2:

Matthew 22:37-40 - Jesus replied: “‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.”

Luke 20:26 And they could not take hold of his words before the people: and they marvelled at his answer, and held their peace.

The people were amazed by Jesus' answer and could not argue against it.

1: Remember to trust and rely on God in all matters, for He is our source of wisdom and strength.

2: We should be prepared to answer tough questions with grace and wisdom from the Lord.

1: James 1:5 - "If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him."

2: Proverbs 2:6-7 - "For the LORD giveth wisdom: out of his mouth cometh knowledge and understanding. He layeth up sound wisdom for the righteous: he is a buckler to them that walk uprightly."

Luke 20:27 Then came to him certain of the Sadducees, which deny that there is any resurrection; and they asked him,

The Sadducees questioned Jesus about the possibility of resurrection.

1. We must trust in the power of the resurrection and never lose faith.

2. We must have faith in God's promises, especially in the resurrection.

1. 1 Corinthians 15:12-26 - Paul's teaching on the resurrection of the dead.

2. Isaiah 26:19 - God's promise of resurrection for his people.

Luke 20:28 Saying, Master, Moses wrote unto us, If any man's brother die, having a wife, and he die without children, that his brother should take his wife, and raise up seed unto his brother.

The passage speaks of a requirement written by Moses that if a man dies without children, his brother should take his wife to raise up children in his brother's name.

1. The Importance of Family: Why We Need to Take Care of Our Loved Ones

2. The Value of Legacy: Leaving a Positive Impact on Future Generations

1. Genesis 2:24, “Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.”

2. 1 John 3:17, “But whoever has the world’s goods, and sees his brother in need and closes his heart against him, how does the love of God abide in him?”

Luke 20:29 There were therefore seven brethren: and the first took a wife, and died without children.

The passage relates the story of seven brothers, in which the first brother took a wife and died without children.

1. The importance of cherishing loved ones in life; 2. A lesson on the fragility of life.

1. Ecclesiastes 3:2 - "A time to be born, and a time to die"; 2. 1 Peter 1:24-25 - "For all flesh is as grass, and all the glory of man as the flower of grass. The grass withereth, and the flower thereof falleth away."

Luke 20:30 And the second took her to wife, and he died childless.

This passage tells of two men who married the same woman. The first man died without having any children while the second man did not.

1: God's Plan Is Always Best - Romans 8:28

2: The Importance of Faith - Hebrews 11:6

1: Ecclesiastes 9:11 - The race is not to the swift, nor the battle to the strong, nor bread to the wise, nor riches to the intelligent, nor favor to those with knowledge, but time and chance happen to them all.

2: Proverbs 16:9 - The heart of man plans his way, but the Lord establishes his steps.

Luke 20:31 And the third took her; and in like manner the seven also: and they left no children, and died.

Seven brothers each took their turn to marry a widow, but none of them had children and they all died.

1: God has a plan for all of us, even if it doesn't lead to having children.

2: God's will is sometimes hard to understand, but it is always for our benefit.

1: Romans 8:28 - "And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose."

2: Ecclesiastes 3:1-8 - "There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens: a time to be born and a time to die, a time to plant and a time to uproot, a time to kill and a time to heal, a time to tear down and a time to build, a time to weep and a time to laugh, a time to mourn and a time to dance, a time to scatter stones

and a time to gather them, a time to embrace and a time to refrain from embracing, a time to search and a time to give up, a time to keep and a time to throw away, a time to tear and a time to mend, a time to be silent and a time to speak, a time to love and a time to hate, a time for war and a time for peace."

Luke 20:32 Last of all the woman died also.

The passage describes the death of a woman.

1: We must remember to cherish our time on earth, as our mortality is a reminder of our fragility.

2: We must live our lives with purpose and meaning, knowing that we will all one day succumb to death.

1: Ecclesiastes 7:2 - “It is better to go to a house of mourning than to go to a house of feasting, for death is the destiny of everyone; the living should take this to heart.”

2: Hebrews 9:27 - “Just as people are destined to die once, and after that to face judgment.”

Luke 20:33 Therefore in the resurrection whose wife of them is she? for seven had her to wife.

In the passage, Jesus poses a question about a woman who had seven husbands in succession in her lifetime. He wonders what will happen to her in the resurrection, since all seven husbands will also be resurrected.

1. God's Unfathomable Wisdom: Exploring the Mystery of Life After Death

2. The Eternal Bond of Marriage: Reaffirming Our Commitment to Love and Faithfulness

1. 1 Corinthians 15:35-45; Exploring the mysteries of life after death

2. Ephesians 5:21-33; The eternal bond of marriage and its spiritual significance

Luke 20:34 And Jesus answering said unto them, The children of this world marry, and are given in marriage:

Jesus explains how people in the world marry and are given in marriage.

1. Marriage is not a simple decision to be taken lightly.

2. The sanctity of marriage should be respected.

1. Ephesians 5:22-33 - Wives should submit to their husbands in reverence for Christ.

2. Hebrews 13:4 - Marriage is to be held in honor by all.

Luke 20:35 But they which shall be accounted worthy to obtain that world, and the resurrection from the dead, neither marry, nor are given in marriage:

The passage speaks of being worthy to obtain the world and the resurrection from the dead, which comes with the condition of not entering into marriage.

#1: To obtain the world and the resurrection from the dead, Christians must forgo marriage and focus on God.

#2: Marriage is a God-given gift, but it is not the most important thing in life; rather, we should strive for everlasting life and resurrection.

#1: Matthew 19:12 - "For there are some eunuchs, which were so born from their mother's womb: and there are some eunuchs, which were made eunuchs of men: and there be eunuchs, which have made themselves eunuchs for the kingdom of heaven's sake. He that is able to receive it, let him receive it."

#2: 1 Corinthians 7:32-34 - "But I would have you without carefulness. He that is unmarried careth for the things that belong to the Lord, how he may please the Lord: But he that is married careth for the things that are of the world, how he may please his wife. There is difference also between a wife and a virgin. The unmarried woman careth for the things of the Lord, that she may be holy both in body and in spirit: but she that is married careth for the things of the world, how she may please her husband."

Luke 20:36 Neither can they die any more: for they are equal unto the angels; and are the children of God, being the children of the resurrection.

The children of God are equal to the angels and will live forever due to being the children of the resurrection.

1. Eternal Life: God's Promise of Immortality

2. The Children of God: Redeemed by His Love

1. Matthew 22:30 - "For in the resurrection they neither marry, nor are given in marriage, but are as the angels of God in heaven."

2. Romans 8:17 - "And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together."

Luke 20:37 Now that the dead are raised, even Moses shewed at the bush, when he calleth the Lord the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.

The dead are raised, and Moses showed this at the burning bush, when he called the Lord the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

1. The Power of God in Resurrection

2. The Faithfulness of God in Covenant

1. Romans 4:16-17 - So the promise is received by faith. It is given as a free gift. And we are all certain to receive it, whether or not we live according to the law of Moses. For the promise is given through faith in Jesus Christ.

2. Hebrews 11:17-19 - By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises was offering up his only begotten son; it was he to whom it was said, “In Isaac your descendants shall be called.” He considered that God is able to raise people even from the dead, from which he also received him back as a type.

Luke 20:38 For he is not a God of the dead, but of the living: for all live unto him.

This passage teaches that God is the God of the living, not the dead, and all people live unto Him.

1. Living for the Lord: The Message of Luke 20:38

2. Embracing Eternal Life in Christ: The Blessing of Luke 20:38

1. Romans 14:8-9 - For whether we live, we live unto the Lord; and whether we die, we die unto the Lord: whether we live therefore, or die, we are the Lord's.

2. John 11:25-26 - Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die.

Luke 20:39 Then certain of the scribes answering said, Master, thou hast well said.

Jesus' wise words were praised by the scribes.

1: Wisdom is found in knowing the truth of God's word and living it out.

2: Jesus spoke with authority and we should heed His words as truth.

1: Proverbs 1:7 - The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge: but fools despise wisdom and instruction.

2: John 8:32 - And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.

Luke 20:40 And after that they durst not ask him any question at all.

The people did not dare to ask Jesus any more questions after He answered one of their questions.

1. We can learn from Jesus' example to be sure of our answers and to not be afraid to speak truthfully.

2. Even though it can be intimidating to be asked difficult questions, we should trust in God's guidance and have faith in our answers.

1. Psalm 46:10: "Be still, and know that I am God."

2. Matthew 11:28-29: "Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls."

Luke 20:41 And he said unto them, How say they that Christ is David's son?

Jesus questions the religious leaders of his time on the details of their faith.

1: Christ's identity is a major aspect of our faith, and we must be sure we understand it correctly.

2: Jesus challenges us to question our beliefs and to make sure we are living out what we say we believe.

1: Romans 10:14-15 - How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach, except they be sent?

2: Matthew 7:21-23 - Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.

Luke 20:42 And David himself saith in the book of Psalms, The LORD said unto my Lord, Sit thou on my right hand,

The Lord commands David's Lord to sit at His right hand.

1: We should always be willing to follow the Lord's commands.

2: The Lord exalts those who are obedient to Him.

1: Isaiah 42:1 - "Behold my servant, whom I uphold; mine elect, in whom my soul delighteth; I have put my spirit upon him: he shall bring forth judgment to the Gentiles."

2: John 15:14 - "Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you."

Luke 20:43 Till I make thine enemies thy footstool.

This passage speaks of Jesus' promise to make his enemies a footstool until he returns.

1. Living in Expectant Hope: Waiting for Jesus' Return

2. Standing Firm in Faith: Jesus is Our Champion

1. Psalm 110:1 - "The Lord says to my Lord: “Sit at my right hand until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet.”

2. Hebrews 10:12-13 - “But when this priest had offered for all time one sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God, and since that time he waits for his enemies to be made his footstool.”

Luke 20:44 David therefore calleth him Lord, how is he then his son?

The Pharisees questioned Jesus about the relationship between David and the Messiah, asking how David could call the Messiah "Lord" if they were father and son.

1: Jesus' relationship with God is unique, and we must recognize the power of Jesus' deity.

2: We must be humble and accept Jesus as our Lord and Savior.

1: Psalm 110:1 - "The Lord said to my Lord, 'Sit at my right hand, until I make your enemies your footstool.'"

2: Colossians 2:9 - "For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily."

Luke 20:45 Then in the audience of all the people he said unto his disciples,

Jesus instructs his disciples to be careful with how they spend their money and to give it to God instead of themselves.

1. The Power of Selflessness: How Giving to God Brings Blessing

2. The Need for Contentment: Finding Joy in What We Already Have

1. 2 Corinthians 9:7 - "Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver."

2. 1 Timothy 6:6-8 - "But godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it. But if we have food and clothing, we will be content with that."

Luke 20:46 Beware of the scribes, which desire to walk in long robes, and love greetings in the markets, and the highest seats in the synagogues, and the chief rooms at feasts;

Beware of those who seek power and status.

1. Rejecting the temptations of pride and power.

2. Striving for humility rather than status.

1. John 13:12-17 - Jesus washing the feet of his disciples.

2. Proverbs 16:18 - Pride goes before destruction.

Luke 20:47 Which devour widows' houses, and for a shew make long prayers: the same shall receive greater damnation.

The passage is warning against those who use long prayers to exploit widows for their own gain.

1. God's justice will be served to those who take advantage of the vulnerable.

2. Pray with sincerity, not for show.

1. 1 John 3:17-18 - "But if anyone has the world’s goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God’s love abide in him? Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth."

2. Proverbs 22:22-23 - "Do not rob the poor, because he is poor, or crush the afflicted at the gate, for the Lord will plead their cause and rob of life those who rob them."

Luke 21 features Jesus' teachings on the widow's offering, signs of the end times, and the destruction of Jerusalem.

1st Paragraph: The chapter begins with Jesus observing rich people putting their gifts into temple treasury also poor widow put in two very small copper coins. He said 'Truly I tell you this poor widow has put in more than all others. All these people gave their gifts out of their wealth; but she out of her poverty put in all she had to live on' highlighting her sacrificial giving as an example of true generosity (Luke 21:1-4).

2nd Paragraph: As some were speaking about the temple adorned with beautiful stones and gifts dedicated to God, Jesus predicted its destruction saying not one stone would be left upon another that will not be thrown down which led disciples ask when these things would happen what would sign they about take place. In response He warned them not be deceived many come His name claiming time near but should not follow them also talked wars revolutions nation rising against nation kingdom against kingdom earthquakes famines pestilences fearful events great signs from heaven before these things occur (Luke 21:5-11). He further predicted persecution believers before all this but reassured them it would result opportunity bear witness promised wisdom speak adversaries unable resist contradict also warned betrayal even death hatred all nations because His name yet encouraged them stand firm endurance gain life (Luke 21:12-19).

3rd Paragraph: Continuing His prophecy, He foretold desolation Jerusalem surrounded by armies warning those Judea flee mountains those city leave those country not enter city for these days vengeance fulfillment what written great distress land wrath its people fall by sword led captive nations Jerusalem trampled Gentiles until times Gentiles fulfilled (Luke 21:20-24). Then spoke cosmic disturbances signs sun moon stars earth distress nations perplexity roaring tossing sea people fainting terror apprehensive what coming world heavenly bodies shaken then they will see Son Man coming cloud with power great glory when these things begin take place stand up lift heads because redemption drawing near encouraging disciples read signs times like fig tree budding know kingdom God near cautioning them careful hearts not weighed down carousing drunkenness anxieties life day close unexpectedly trap praying strength escape all about happen stand before Son Man (Luke 21:25-36). Chapter concludes with Him teaching daily temple while spending nights Mount Olives and early morning people came Him hear Him temple indicating growing influence amidst escalating tension leading final passion events next chapters (Luke 21:37-38).

Luke 21:1 And he looked up, and saw the rich men casting their gifts into the treasury.

Jesus observed the rich people giving generously to the temple treasury.

1: Generosity is more than just money - Romans 12:8

2: Our giving should be sacrificial - 2 Corinthians 8:1-2

1: Proverbs 3:9-10 - Honor the Lord with your possessions, and with the firstfruits of all your increase.

2: Malachi 3:10 - Bring all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be food in My house.

Luke 21:2 And he saw also a certain poor widow casting in thither two mites.

The passage is about Jesus observing a poor widow giving two mites to the temple.

1. The Power of Small Sacrifices: How We Can Make a Difference with a Little

2. The Widow's Heart: God Sees and Values Our Service

1. Mark 12:41-44 - Jesus commends the widow's offering

2. 2 Corinthians 8:1-5 - Paul encourages the Corinthians to give generously according to their means

Luke 21:3 And he said, Of a truth I say unto you, that this poor widow hath cast in more than they all:

This poor widow has generously donated more than anyone else.

1. The Power of Generosity

2. The Importance of Sacrifice

1. Mark 12:41-44 - Jesus commends the widow for her generosity.

2. 2 Corinthians 8:1-5 - Paul encourages the Corinthians to give sacrificially.

Luke 21:4 For all these have of their abundance cast in unto the offerings of God: but she of her penury hath cast in all the living that she had.

This passage highlights the extreme sacrifice and faithfulness of a widow who gave all she had to the offerings of God.

1. The Power of Generosity: Learning to Sacrifice with Faith

2. The Widow's Mite: Trusting in God's Providence

1. Mark 12:41-44 - Jesus commends the widow for her faith and sacrifice.

2. Deuteronomy 15:7-11 - God's command to be generous and openhanded to those in need.

Luke 21:5 And as some spake of the temple, how it was adorned with goodly stones and gifts, he said,

The temple was adorned with goodly stones and gifts.

1: God desires us to adorn ourselves with goodly gifts and use them for His glory.

2: The beauty of the temple is a reflection of God's glory.

1: 1 Peter 3:3-4 ?□o not let your adorning be external?□he braiding of hair and the putting on of gold jewelry, or the clothing you wear??but let your adorning be the hidden person of the heart with the imperishable beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which in God's sight is very precious.??

2: Psalm 45:13-14 ?□he king is enthralled by your beauty; honor him, for he is your lord. All glorious is the princess in her chamber, with robes interwoven with gold.??

Luke 21:6 As for these things which ye behold, the days will come, in the which there shall not be left one stone upon another, that shall not be thrown down.

The days will come when the Temple will be destroyed and not a single stone will be left

standing.

1. The importance of living in the present moment and trusting in the Lord's plan.

2. The transience of physical structures and the permanence of God's word.

1. Psalm 146:3-4 - "Put not your trust in princes, in a son of man, in whom there is no salvation. When his breath departs, he returns to the earth; on that very day his plans perish."

2. Hebrews 13:8 - "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever."

Luke 21:7 And they asked him, saying, Master, but when shall these things be? and what sign will there be when these things shall come to pass?

The people asked Jesus when the destruction of the temple and the signs associated with it would happen.

1: Knowing the Signs of the Times: Jesus' Teachings on the End Times

2: How To Prepare for the End: Lessons from Jesus on the Coming Destruction

1: Matthew 24:3-14 ??Jesus??teachings on the signs of the end times

2: Matthew 24:36-44 ??Jesus??teachings on preparedness for the end times.

Luke 21:8 And he said, Take heed that ye be not deceived: for many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and the time draweth near: go ye not therefore after them.

This passage emphasizes the importance of being wary of false prophets who come in Jesus' name and claim to be the Messiah.

1. Preparing for the Coming of the Lord: Staying Alert to False Prophets

2. Don't Be Deceived: Discerning False Prophets in Today's World

1. Jeremiah 29:8-9 "For thus saith the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel; Let not your prophets and your diviners, that be in the midst of you, deceive you, neither hearken to your dreams which ye cause to be dreamed. For they prophesy falsely unto you in my name: I have not sent them, saith the Lord."

2. 2 Peter 2:1,3 "But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction... And through covetousness shall they with feigned words make merchandise of you."

Luke 21:9 But when ye shall hear of wars and commotions, be not terrified: for these things must first come to pass; but the end is not by and by.

Jesus warns that there will be wars and commotions but not to be afraid because the end is not yet near.

1. A lesson from Jesus on handling fear and anxiety.

2. Learning to trust God in times of trouble.

1. Psalm 46:1-3 "God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea, though its waters roar and foam and the mountains quake with their surging."

2. Romans 8:28-29 "And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters."

Luke 21:10 Then said he unto them, Nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom:

This verse speaks of a future time when nations will be in conflict with one another.

1. The Coming Conflict: How to Prepare for the Turmoil Ahead

2. Finding Peace in the Midst of Chaos: How to Rely on God in Troubled Times

1. Matthew 24:6-7 - "And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not troubled; for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet. For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom."

2. Psalm 46:1-2 - "God is our refuge and strength, A very present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, though the earth be removed, and though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea."

Luke 21:11 And great earthquakes shall be in divers places, and famines, and pestilences; and fearful sights and great signs shall there be from heaven.

The Bible predicts natural disasters, famines, pestilences and fearful sights and great signs from heaven.

1: God is in control of all natural disasters, even when we don?□ understand it.

2: We should trust God and have faith even when facing natural disasters.

1: Romans 8:28 - And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.

2: Isaiah 41:10 - Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness.

Luke 21:12 But before all these, they shall lay their hands on you, and persecute you, delivering you up to the synagogues, and into prisons, being brought before kings and rulers for my name's sake.

Christians will be persecuted, arrested, and even brought before rulers for their faith in Jesus.

1. Don't be afraid to stand strong in your faith no matter the cost.

2. Let us not forget that Jesus himself was persecuted for preaching the gospel message.

1. Acts 5:41 - The apostles rejoiced that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for His Name.

2. 1 Peter 4:12-16 - Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you.

Luke 21:13 And it shall turn to you for a testimony.

This passage states that all experiences in life will be a testimony of God's work in our lives.

1. "The Testimony of God's Work in our Lives"

2. "Living a Life of Testimony"

1. Romans 8:28 - "And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are called according to his purpose."

2. James 1:2-4 - "My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing."

Luke 21:14 Settle it therefore in your hearts, not to meditate before what ye shall answer:

Jesus instructs us to trust in God's guidance and not worry about how we will respond to difficult situations.

1: ?□ut Your Faith in God and Believe in His Guidance??

2: ?□o Not Worry About Your Responses, Have Faith in God??

1: Matthew 6:25-34 ??Do Not Worry

2: Proverbs 3:5-6 ??Trust in the Lord with All Your Heart

Luke 21:15 For I will give you a mouth and wisdom, which all your adversaries shall not be able to gainsay nor resist.

Jesus promises his disciples that he will give them a mouth and wisdom that their adversaries will not be able to resist or argue against.

1. Jesus is our Advocate: Relying on God's Wisdom in Times of Adversity

2. Taking Courage in the Face of Opposition: Trusting in the Lord's Promises

Cross-

1. John 14:26 - ?□ut the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you.??

2. 1 Corinthians 1:25-27 - ?□or the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men. For consider your calling, brothers: not many of you were wise according to worldly standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong.??

Luke 21:16 And ye shall be betrayed both by parents, and brethren, and kinsfolks, and friends; and some of you shall they cause to be put to death.

Jesus warns that some of his disciples will experience betrayal and death at the hands of family, friends, and others.

1. Finding Strength in Times of Betrayal

2. The Power of Perseverance in the Face of Adversity

1. Romans 8:35-39 - Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?

2. Hebrews 12:1-2 - Let us run with endurance the race that is set before us.

Luke 21:17 And ye shall be hated of all men for my name's sake.

Believers in Jesus will be persecuted by those who do not share their faith.

1. The Cost of Discipleship: Standing Firm Despite Persecution

2. The Blessings of Persecution: How to Persevere Through Hardship

1. James 1:2-4 - Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance.

2. 1 Peter 4:12-13 - Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you.

Luke 21:18 But there shall not an hair of your head perish.

The passage states that not a single strand of hair on our head will perish.

1: God is in control of our lives, so trust in His protection and you will never be harmed.

2: God will always keep us safe and provide for us, no matter what challenges we face.

1: Psalm 91:4 - ?He will cover you with his feathers, and under his wings you will find refuge; his faithfulness will be your shield and rampart.??

2: Isaiah 41:10 - ?Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.??

Luke 21:19 In your patience possess ye your souls.

This verse encourages patience and perseverance in the face of difficulty, trusting God to sustain us.

1. God's Strength in Times of Adversity

2. Holding On to Hope in Difficult Times

1. Isaiah 40:28-31 - "Have you not known? Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary;

his understanding is unsearchable. He gives power to the faint, and to him who has no might he increases strength."

2. Romans 5:3-5 - "Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us."

Luke 21:20 And when ye shall see Jerusalem compassed with armies, then know that the desolation thereof is nigh.

Jesus warned the people of Jerusalem that they would be surrounded by armies, which would signal the city's destruction.

1. God uses difficult times to bring about His ultimate plans.

2. God's plans are always bigger than our own.

1. Jeremiah 29:11 - ?□or I know the plans I have for you,??declares the Lord, ?□lans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.??

2. Romans 8:28 - And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.

Luke 21:21 Then let them which are in Judaea flee to the mountains; and let them which are in the midst of it depart out; and let not them that are in the countries enter thereinto.

Jesus warns that those living in Judea should flee to the mountains and not enter the cities, while those in the cities should leave them.

1. The importance of preparation for uncertain times.

2. How to respond to God's warnings in the Bible.

1. Matthew 24:16-18 - "Then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains. Let the one who is on the housetop not go down to take what is in his house, and let the one who is in the field not turn back to take his cloak. And behold, I am sending you out as sheep in the midst of wolves, so be wise as serpents and innocent as doves.??

2. Isaiah 26:20-21 - ?□o, my people, enter your chambers, and shut your doors behind you; hide yourselves for a little while until the fury has passed by. For behold, the Lord is coming out from his place to punish the inhabitants of the earth for their iniquity, and the earth will disclose the blood shed on it, and will no more cover its slain.??

Luke 21:22 For these be the days of vengeance, that all things which are written may be fulfilled.

The days of vengeance are here to fulfill all that has been written.

1. God's Plan for Redemption: What the Days of Vengeance Mean for Us

2. The Power of Fulfillment: Understanding the Significance of Luke 21:22

1. Romans 12:19 - "Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, ?□engeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord.??

2. Isaiah 35:4 - "Say to those who have an anxious heart, ?□e strong; fear not! Behold, your God will come with vengeance, with the recompense of God. He will come and save you.??

Luke 21:23 But woe unto them that are with child, and to them that give suck, in those days! for there shall be great distress in the land, and wrath upon this people.

Great distress and wrath will come upon those who are pregnant or nursing in the days to come.

1. Relying on God in Times of Distress

2. Showing Compassion During Difficult Times

1. Isaiah 40:31 - "But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint."

2. James 1:2-4 - "My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. But let patience have her

perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing."

Luke 21:24 And they shall fall by the edge of the sword, and shall be led away captive into all nations: and Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled.

The time of the Gentiles will come to an end when God's will is fulfilled.

1: God's plan is always the best plan.

2: Put your trust in God and His will for the future.

1: Jeremiah 29:11-13 - "For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope. Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will hear you. You will seek me and find me, when you seek me with all your heart."

2: Proverbs 16:3 - "Commit your work to the Lord, and your plans will be established."

Luke 21:25 And there shall be signs in the sun, and in the moon, and in the stars; and upon the earth distress of nations, with perplexity; the sea and the waves roaring;

The world is in distress and chaos, evidenced by signs in the sky and roaring seas.

1. God is in control even when the world around us feels out of control.

2. We can find peace in trusting God in the midst of chaos.

1. Isaiah 26:3-4 - "You keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on you, because he trusts in you. Trust in the Lord forever, for the Lord God is an everlasting rock."

2. Psalm 46:10-11 - "Be still, and know that I am God. I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth!"

Luke 21:26 Men's hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth: for the powers of heaven shall be shaken.

The world is full of uncertainty and fear, and God's power will ultimately prevail.

1: "Fear Not: God Is In Control"

2: "God's Power Overpowers Fear"

1: Isaiah 41:10 - "So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand."

2: 2 Timothy 1:7 - "For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind."

Luke 21:27 And then shall they see the Son of man coming in a cloud with power and great glory.

Jesus Christ will come in a cloud with great power and glory.

1. The Return of Jesus: What We Can Expect

2. The Power and Glory of Jesus??Return

1. Daniel 7:13-14 ?I saw in the night visions, and, behold, one like the Son of man came with the clouds of heaven, and came to the Ancient of days, and they brought him near before him. And there was given him dominion, and glory, and a kingdom, that all people, nations, and languages, should serve him: his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom that which shall not be destroyed.??

2. Revelation 19:11-16 ?And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war. His eyes were as a flame of fire, and on his head were many crowns; and he had a name written, that no man knew, but he himself. And he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called The Word of God. And the armies which were in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean. And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. And he hath on his vesture and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS.??

Luke 21:28 And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your

heads; for your redemption draweth nigh.

Jesus tells his followers to look up and be hopeful because their redemption is near.

1. Hope in the Lord: A Look Ahead to Redemption

2. Looking Up: Remembering That Redemption Is Near

1. Isaiah 25:9 - And it shall be said in that day, Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, and he will save us: this is the Lord; we have waited for him, we will be glad and rejoice in his salvation.

2. Romans 13:11 - And that, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed.

Luke 21:29 And he spake to them a parable; Behold the fig tree, and all the trees;

Jesus teaches that God will provide all that we need.

1: We can trust in God to provide for us in all aspects of our lives.

2: We must have faith in God and His promises, knowing that He will provide for us.

1: Matthew 6:25-34 - Jesus teaches us to trust in God to provide for us in the on the Mount.

2: Philippians 4:19 - God supplies all of our needs according to His riches in glory.

Luke 21:30 When they now shoot forth, ye see and know of your own selves that summer is now nigh at hand.

Summer is near.

1: We must prepare for the coming summer season and not take it for granted.

2: Embrace the joy of the summer season and take the time to enjoy it.

1: Ecclesiastes 3:1-8 - There is a time for everything, a season for every activity under the heavens.

2: Psalm 65:9-13 - You care for the land and water it; You enrich it abundantly. You crown the year with your bounty, and your carts overflow with abundance.

Luke 21:31 So likewise ye, when ye see these things come to pass, know ye that the kingdom of God is nigh at hand.

The kingdom of God is near.

1: God is near, so reach out and invite Him into your heart.

2: With God near, we should strive for righteousness and holiness.

1: Matthew 6:33 - Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness.

2: Psalm 34:18 - The Lord is near to all who call on Him, to all who call on Him in truth.

Luke 21:32 Verily I say unto you, This generation shall not pass away, till all be fulfilled.

This passage reveals that the events foretold by Jesus will come to pass before the current generation passes away.

1. We must remain faithful in the face of an uncertain future, trusting in the Lord and His promises.

2. Jesus' prophecies are certain and will come to pass; we must be prepared for His coming.

1. Matthew 24:34 - "Truly I tell you, this generation will certainly not pass away until all these things have happened."

2. Romans 8:38-39 - "For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor

demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord."

Luke 21:33 Heaven and earth shall pass away: but my words shall not pass away.

This verse emphasizes the permanence of God's words.

1: God's Word Endures Forever

2: The Permanence of God's Word

1: 1 Peter 1:25 - "But the word of the Lord endureth for ever. And this is the word which by the gospel is preached unto you."

2: Isaiah 40:8 - "The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: but the word of our God shall stand for ever."

Luke 21:34 And take heed to yourselves, lest at any time your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting, and drunkenness, and cares of this life, and so that day come upon you unawares.

Summarized: Be aware of the dangers of over-indulgence and being preoccupied with life, to prevent being taken by surprise by the coming day.

1. The Dangers of Overindulgence - Luke 21:34

2. Putting Life in Perspective - Luke 21:34

1. Proverbs 23:20-21 - Be not among drunkards or gluttonous eaters of meat; For the drunkard and the glutton will come to poverty, And drowsiness will clothe a man with rags.

2. Philippians 4:11-13 - Not that I speak in regard to need, for I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content: I know how to be abased, and I know how to abound. Everywhere and in all things I have learned both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.

Luke 21:35 For as a snare shall it come on all them that dwell on the face of the whole earth.

The whole earth will be caught in a trap.

1: God sets a trap for all people to remind them to stay faithful to Him.

2: We should always be aware of the traps of the world and stay strong in our faith.

1: Hebrews 10:36 - For you have need of endurance, so that when you have done the will of God you may receive the promise.

2: 1 Corinthians 10:13 - No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.

Luke 21:36 Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man.

This passage from Luke encourages readers to remain vigilant and to pray always, so that they will be found worthy of standing before Jesus.

1. Preparing to Stand Before Jesus: The Power of Vigilance and Prayer

2. The Calling to Remain Worthy: An Invitation to Abide in the Presence of Christ

1. Matthew 24:42-44; ?□herefore be alert, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. But understand this: If the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. So you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.??

2. 1 Thessalonians 5:17; ?□ray without ceasing.??

Luke 21:37 And in the day time he was teaching in the temple; and at night he went out, and abode in the mount that is called the mount of Olives.

Jesus taught during the day and spent the night on the Mount of Olives.

1. The importance of Jesus' example to follow.

2. Believing in Jesus as our teacher and Lord.

1. Matthew 5:16 - "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven."

2. John 14:6 - "Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me."

Luke 21:38 And all the people came early in the morning to him in the temple, for to hear him.

People came to the temple early in the morning to listen to Jesus.

1. God's Word Should Be Our Priority: Learning from the example of those in Luke 21:38.

2. Make Time for Jesus: The importance of prioritizing time to hear from Him.

1. Psalm 119:105 - "Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path."

2. Colossians 3:16 - "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord."

Luke 22 covers the plot against Jesus, the Last Supper, Jesus' prayer and arrest at the Mount of Olives, Peter's denial of Jesus, and Jesus' trial before the Sanhedrin.

1st Paragraph: The chapter begins with religious leaders plotting to kill Jesus without causing a public uproar. Judas Iscariot, one of His disciples, agreed to betray Him for money (Luke 22:1-6). As Passover approached, Jesus instructed Peter and John to prepare a room in Jerusalem for them to eat the Passover meal. During this Last Supper with His disciples, He broke bread and shared wine as symbols of His body and blood which would be given up for them. He also predicted that one among them would betray Him (Luke 22:7-23).

2nd Paragraph: A dispute arose among disciples about who would be considered greatest

but Jesus taught them that greatest should be like youngest one who rules like one who serves emphasizing servant leadership contrast worldly concepts power authority (Luke 22:24-27). He then made a covenant with them that they will eat drink at His table in His kingdom sit on thrones judging twelve tribes Israel acknowledging their continued companionship trials however also foretold Simon Peter's denial despite his assertion he ready go prison even death Him assuring him once he turned back after falling should strengthen brothers (Luke 22:28-34). Further instructions included carrying purse bag sandals also buying sword indicating changing circumstances ahead where they face opposition hostility unlike previous missions (Luke 22:35-38).

3rd Paragraph: Following this, they went to Mount Olives where He prayed fervently to God about upcoming suffering yet submitted Himself to God's will while an angel appeared from heaven strengthening Him sweat became like drops blood falling ground showing intensity His agony anticipation cross (Luke 22:39-44). After prayer when returned disciples found sleeping sorrow warned them pray not fall into temptation at same moment crowd arrived Judas leading them betrayed Him kiss leading arrest despite brief resistance by disciple who struck servant high priest cutting off his right ear which healed saying 'No more this!' indicating refusal violent resistance path suffering was chosen divine plan unfold(Luke 22:45-53). The remainder chapter records Peter's threefold denial knowing Jesus fulfillment earlier prediction crowing rooster reminding him words leading bitter weeping repentance also account mockery physical abuse faced guards blasphemous questioning before Sanhedrin whether Christ Son God affirmed truth saying 'You say I am' further declared 'But from now on Son Man will be seated right hand power God.' When asked directly if he was Son God replied ‘You say that I am’ upon which they concluded no further testimony needed since heard blasphemy themselves setting stage formal condemnation death next day(Luke 22:54-71).

Luke 22:1 Now the feast of unleavened bread drew nigh, which is called the Passover.

The Feast of Unleavened Bread, also known as the Passover, was approaching.

1. The Significance of the Passover in the Life of Jesus

2. The Meaning of Unleavened Bread in the Bible

1. Exodus 12:14-20; context: The instructions for keeping the Passover

2. 1 Corinthians 5:7-8; context: The significance of unleavened bread in the Christian life

Luke 22:2 And the chief priests and scribes sought how they might kill him; for they feared the people.

This passage describes the fear of the chief priests and scribes towards Jesus and their desire to kill him.

1. Fear of the Lord: Understanding the Fear that Jesus Inspired

2. The Danger of Unjust Leadership: Examining the Fear of the Chief Priests and Scribes

1. Proverbs 1:7 - “The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge; Fools despise wisdom and instruction.”

2. Matthew 7:24-27 - “Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock: and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock. But everyone who hears these sayings of Mine, and does not do them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand: and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it fell. And great was its fall.”

Luke 22:3 Then entered Satan into Judas surnamed Iscariot, being of the number of the twelve.

Satan entered Judas Iscariot, one of the twelve disciples.

1. The Danger of Allowing Sin in Our Lives

2. The Power of the Enemy in Our Lives

1. James 4:7 “Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.”

2. Ephesians 6:10-12 “Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.”

Luke 22:4 And he went his way, and communed with the chief priests and captains, how he might betray him unto them.

Jesus' betrayal of Jesus by Judas is foretold.

1: Betrayal is never easy to deal with - even Jesus was betrayed.

2: Jesus' ultimate sacrifice was due to the betrayal of Judas.

1: John 15:13- "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends."

2: Psalm 55:12-14 - "For it was not an enemy that reproached me; then I could have borne it: neither was it he that hated me that did magnify himself against me; then I would have hid myself from him: But it was thou, a man mine equal, my guide, and mine acquaintance. We took sweet counsel together, and walked unto the house of God in company."

Luke 22:5 And they were glad, and covenanted to give him money.

The disciples were pleased to give Jesus money.

1. The Power of Generosity: How Giving Can Lead to Joy

2. The Value of Gratitude: How Appreciation Can Strengthen Relationships

1. 2 Corinthians 9:7 - Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

2. Philippians 4:6 - Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.

Luke 22:6 And he promised, and sought opportunity to betray him unto them in the absence of the multitude.

Jesus was betrayed by Judas, even though he had promised not to do so.

1. The Betrayal of Jesus: Understanding Its Purpose and Lessons

2. Keeping Faith in the Face of Betrayal

1. Isaiah 53:3-5

2. John 13:18-30

Luke 22:7 Then came the day of unleavened bread, when the passover must be killed.

On the day of Unleavened Bread, the Passover lamb was to be sacrificed.

1. The Sacrifice of the Passover Lamb: Understanding the Meaning of the Atonement

2. The Power of Symbolism: Exploring the Significance of Unleavened Bread in the Bible

1. Exodus 12:1-14 (God's instructions to the Israelites to sacrifice a Passover lamb)

2. John 1:29 (Jesus as the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world)

Luke 22:8 And he sent Peter and John, saying, Go and prepare us the passover, that we may eat.

Jesus sends Peter and John to prepare the Passover meal.

1. "The Power of Service: How Peter and John Followed Jesus' Command"

2. "The Meaning of the Passover: Jesus' Sacrifice and Our Redemption"

1. Matthew 26:17-30 - Jesus institutes the Lord's Supper

2. Exodus 12:1-14 - The first Passover described

Luke 22:9 And they said unto him, Where wilt thou that we prepare?

Jesus instructed His disciples to prepare the Passover meal.

1: The importance of following Jesus' instructions in our lives.

2: Preparation for a life of service to God.

1: Matthew 6:33 - Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.

2: James 4:7 - Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

Luke 22:10 And he said unto them, Behold, when ye are entered into the city, there shall a man meet you, bearing a pitcher of water; follow him into the house where he entereth in.

Jesus instructs his disciples to follow a man bearing a pitcher of water when they enter a city, and go to the house where the man enters.

1. The Power of Obedience - Jesus teaches us that following God's instructions with obedience is the key to unlocking our destiny.

2. The Importance of an Open Heart - Jesus shows us that being open to God's direction can lead us to unexpected places of blessing.

1. Deuteronomy 28:2 - "And all these blessings shall come on thee, and overtake thee, if thou shalt hearken unto the voice of the LORD thy God."

2. Matthew 7:7 - "Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you:"

Luke 22:11 And ye shall say unto the goodman of the house, The Master saith unto thee, Where is the guestchamber, where I shall eat the passover with my disciples?

Jesus asks where he can eat the Passover meal with his disciples.

1. The Power of Invitation: How Jesus Invited His Disciples to the Passover Meal

2. The Meaning of the Passover Meal: Understanding Its Significance for Jesus and His Disciples

1. John 13:1-2, “Now before the Feast of the Passover, when Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart out of this world to the Father, having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end. And during supper, the devil having already put it into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon’s son, to betray him.”

2. Matthew 26:17-20, “Now on the first day of Unleavened Bread the disciples came to Jesus, saying, ‘Where will you have us prepare for you to eat the Passover?’ He said, ‘Go into the city to a certain man and say to him, “The Teacher says, My time is at hand. I will keep the Passover at your house with my disciples.”’ And the disciples did as Jesus had directed them, and they prepared the Passover.”

Luke 22:12 And he shall shew you a large upper room furnished: there make ready.

Jesus tells the disciples to prepare a large upper room for the Passover.

1. Jesus' Faith in His Disciples: How Jesus Trusts and Empowers Us to Do Great Things.

2. Preparing for the Passover: A Look at How Jesus Prepared His Disciples for the Last Supper.

1. Matthew 26:20-25 - Jesus tells the disciples how to observe the Passover.

2. John 13:1-17 - Jesus washes the disciples' feet during the Passover meal.

Luke 22:13 And they went, and found as he had said unto them: and they made ready the passover.

Jesus told His disciples to go and prepare the Passover.

1. The Power of Jesus' Words: How Jesus' instructions demonstrate His authority.

2. The Importance of Obeying Jesus: Why we should heed Jesus' commands.

1. 1 John 5:3 - "For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous."

2. Philippians 2:12-13 - "Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling. For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure."

Luke 22:14 And when the hour was come, he sat down, and the twelve apostles with him.

Jesus and the twelve apostles gathered together to share the Last Supper.

1. The Power of Community: Lessons from the Last Supper

2. Learning to Follow: Jesus' Example of Obedience

1. Hebrews 13:15-16 - Through Jesus, let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise—the fruit of lips that openly profess his name. And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased.

2. 1 Corinthians 11:23-26 - For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you: The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, “This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me.” In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me.” For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes.

Luke 22:15 And he said unto them, With desire I have desired to eat this passover with you before I suffer:

Jesus expressed his desire to eat the Passover with his disciples before his death.

1. Jesus' Last Request: A Model for Serving One Another

2. Jesus' Sacrifice: His Love for Us

1. John 15:13 - Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.

2. Romans 5:8 - But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet

sinners, Christ died for us.

Luke 22:16 For I say unto you, I will not any more eat thereof, until it be fulfilled in the kingdom of God.

This passage speaks of Jesus' declaration that he will not eat of the Passover meal until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God.

1. The Fulfillment of Passover in the Kingdom of God

2. The Significance of Jesus' Sacrifice

1. Matthew 26:17–19 - Jesus institutes the Lord's Supper

2. Revelation 19:6-9 - Jesus is revealed as King of Kings and Lord of Lords

Luke 22:17 And he took the cup, and gave thanks, and said, Take this, and divide it among yourselves:

The disciples were given a cup of wine and instructed to divide it among themselves. 1: Jesus' example of sharing and showing gratitude should be followed. 2: Jesus' example of humility and service to others should be followed. 1: Philippians 2:3-4 - Do nothing from rivalry or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. 2: John 13:12-17 - Jesus humbly washed his disciples' feet as an example of how we should serve one another.

Luke 22:18 For I say unto you, I will not drink of the fruit of the vine, until the kingdom of God shall come.

The Kingdom of God will come when Jesus will drink from the fruit of the vine.

1. The Kingdom of God is Coming - Luke 22:18

2. Waiting Patiently for the Kingdom of God - Luke 22:18

1. Isaiah 9:6-7 - For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given: and the government shall be upon His shoulder: and His name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.

2. Revelation 22:20 - He which testifieth these things saith, Surely I come quickly. Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus.

Luke 22:19 And he took bread, and gave thanks, and brake it, and gave unto them, saying, This is my body which is given for you: this do in remembrance of me.

Jesus took bread, gave thanks, broke it, and gave it to the disciples, telling them to do this in remembrance of Him.

1. The Meaning of Communion: An Exploration of Luke 22:19

2. The Gift of Jesus: A Reflection on the Significance of Taking Communion

1. 1 Corinthians 11:23-26 - For I have received of the Lord that which also I delivered unto you, That the Lord Jesus the same night in which he was betrayed took bread: And when he had given thanks, he brake it, and said, Take, eat: this is my body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of me.

2. John 6:51-58 - I am the living bread which came down from heaven: if any man eat of this bread, he shall live for ever: and the bread that I will give is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world.

Luke 22:20 Likewise also the cup after supper, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood, which is shed for you.

This passage speaks of Jesus establishing the New Covenant through His shed blood.

1: The permanence of Jesus' sacrifice and the power of the New Covenant.

2: The importance of Christ's death and the significance of the cup.

1: Jeremiah 31:31-33 - God's promise of a New Covenant.

2: 1 Corinthians 11:25 - The importance of partaking of the cup in remembrance of Jesus' death.

Luke 22:21 But, behold, the hand of him that betrayeth me is with me on the table.

Jesus predicted that one of His disciples would betray Him while they were gathered together for the Last Supper.

1. The Peril of Betrayal: How to Spot and Avoid Treachery

2. Reassuring Reminders: God is in Control of Unfavorable Circumstances

1. Matthew 26:21-25: When Jesus predicted His betrayal for the first time.

2. Psalm 55:12-14: God’s protection from treacherous enemies.

Luke 22:22 And truly the Son of man goeth, as it was determined: but woe unto that man by whom he is betrayed!

Jesus tells his disciples that He will be betrayed as it was predetermined, but warns against the man who will do it.

1. The Ultimate Sacrifice: Jesus' Betrayal

2. The Power of Forgiveness: Jesus' Unconditional Love

1. Hebrews 12:2 - "looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God."

2. 1 John 4:10 - "Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins."

Luke 22:23 And they began to enquire among themselves, which of them it was that should do this thing.

This passage discusses the disciples' confusion when Jesus told them that one of them would betray him.

1. "The Power of Betrayal: Understanding Jesus' Warning to His Disciples"

2. "The Strength of Faith: How Did the Disciples Respond to Jesus' Betrayal?"

1. Psalm 40:10 - "I have not hidden your righteousness in my heart; I have declared your faithfulness and your salvation. I have not concealed your steadfast love and your faithfulness from the great assembly."

2. Matthew 26:21-25 - "And as they were eating, he said, “Truly, I say to you, one of you will betray me.” And they were very sorrowful and began to say to him one after another, “Is it I, Lord?” He answered, “He who has dipped his hand in the dish with me will betray me. The Son of Man goes as it is written of him, but woe to that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been better for that man if he had not been born.” Judas, who would betray him, answered, “Is it I, Rabbi?” He said to him, “You have said so.”

Luke 22:24 And there was also a strife among them, which of them should be accounted the greatest.

This passage speaks of the disciples arguing among themselves over which of them was the greatest.

1: “The Greatest Among Us” - Our pride and ambition can lead us to behave in ways that are contrary to the teachings of Jesus. We should instead focus on humility and serving others.

2: “The Power of Humility” - The disciples' pride and ambition led them to neglect the example Jesus set for us by serving others, rather than striving for greatness.

1: Philippians 2:3, “Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves.”

2: Matthew 20:26-28, “Whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be your slave— just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

Luke 22:25 And he said unto them, The kings of the Gentiles exercise lordship over them; and they that exercise authority upon them are called benefactors.

Jesus teaches his disciples about the power of rulers and those in authority.

1: God calls us to be humble and obedient to those in authority, even when they are not acting in our best interest.

2: We must remember that God is our ultimate ruler and authority, and submit to Him above all else.

1: Ephesians 5:22 - Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord.

2: Romans 13:1 - Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God.

Luke 22:26 But ye shall not be so: but he that is greatest among you, let him be as the younger; and he that is chief, as he that doth serve.

This passage encourages humility among those in authority, emphasizing that the greatest should be humble and serve just as the younger.

1: The Greatest Among Us Should Serve

2: The Power of Humility

1: Philippians 2:3-4 - "Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others."

2: James 4:10 - "Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you."

Luke 22:27 For whether is greater, he that sitteth at meat, or he that serveth? is not he that sitteth at meat? but I am among you as he that serveth.

Jesus taught that we should serve others instead of trying to be served.

1: We can learn from Jesus' example of humility and service.

2: We should put the needs of others first and serve them out of love.

1: Philippians 2:3-4 - Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves.

2: Galatians 5:13 - Serve one another humbly in love.

Luke 22:28 Ye are they which have continued with me in my temptations.

This passage reminds us of Jesus' unconditional love and faithfulness even when his followers were not always faithful.

1: We are called to continue with Jesus, even in times of difficulty.

2: Jesus is faithful to us, even when we are not always faithful to him.

1: Philippians 1:6, "And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ."

2: Hebrews 13:8, "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever."

Luke 22:29 And I appoint unto you a kingdom, as my Father hath appointed unto me;

Jesus appoints His followers with a kingdom, just as His Father had appointed one for Him.

1: God calls us to take up the mantle of leadership, just as He did for Jesus.

2: We are given responsibilities to fulfill in the kingdom of God, and we must remember to be faithful in carrying them out.

1: Matthew 28:18-20 - Jesus commands us to go and make disciples of all nations.

2: Philippians 2:3-4 - We must learn to submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.

Luke 22:30 That ye may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom, and sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel.

This verse speaks of Jesus' promise of a place at His table in His kingdom for those who follow Him.

1. Jesus' Promise of a Place at His Table: A Call to Follow Him

2. Jesus' Invitation to His Kingdom: An Invitation to Share In His Feast

1. Matthew 7:21-23 - Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven.

2. Revelation 19:9 - Then the angel said to me, “Write this: Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding supper of the Lamb!” And he added, “These are the true words of God.”

Luke 22:31 And the Lord said, Simon, Simon, behold, Satan hath desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat:

Jesus warns Simon Peter of the spiritual battle he was about to face.

1: Strategies to Overcome Temptation

2: The Victory Over Satan Through Jesus

1: 1 Corinthians 10:13, "No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it."

2: Ephesians 6:10-11, "Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil."

Luke 22:32 But I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not: and when thou art converted, strengthen thy brethren.

Jesus prayed for Peter, asking that his faith would not fail, and that when he was restored, he would strengthen his brothers.

1. "The Power of Prayer: Jesus Prays for Peter"

2. "Strengthening Our Brethren: Living Out Jesus's Example"

1. James 5:16b - "The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working."

2. Hebrews 10:24-25 - "And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near."

Luke 22:33 And he said unto him, Lord, I am ready to go with thee, both into prison, and to death.

The disciples were willing to stand with Jesus, even in death.

1. Standing Firm in the Face of Great Trials

2. Taking up our Crosses and Following Jesus

1. Romans 8:37-39 - No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

2. John 15:13 - Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends.

Luke 22:34 And he said, I tell thee, Peter, the cock shall not crow this day, before that thou shalt thrice deny that thou knowest me.

Jesus tells Peter that he will deny knowing him three times before the cock crows.

1. Overcoming Temptation: Lessons from Peter's Denial of Jesus

2. When Tragedy Strikes: How to Respond with Faith and Resolve

1. James 4:7 – Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

2. Hebrews 12:1-2 – Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith.

Luke 22:35 And he said unto them, When I sent you without purse, and scrip, and shoes, lacked ye any thing? And they said, Nothing.

Jesus asked the disciples if they lacked anything when he sent them out without a purse, bag, or shoes. The disciples answered that they lacked nothing.

1. Living a Life of Abundance - How Jesus Provides for Our Needs

2. Trust in the Lord - Relying on Him Alone for Provision

1. Philippians 4:19 - "And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus."

2. Matthew 6:26 - "Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they?"

Luke 22:36 Then said he unto them, But now, he that hath a purse, let him take it, and likewise his scrip: and he that hath no sword, let him sell his garment, and buy one.

Jesus encourages his disciples to buy swords if they do not have them.

1. "The Sword of the Spirit: A Call to Be Ready"

2. "The Price of Preparation: Selling Your Garment for a Sword"

1. Ephesians 6:17 - And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

2. Isaiah 54:17 - No weapon formed against you shall prosper, and every tongue which rises against you in judgment You shall condemn.

Luke 22:37 For I say unto you, that this that is written must yet be accomplished in me, And he was reckoned among the transgressors: for the things concerning me have an end.

This passage states that the things concerning Jesus must come to an end, and that He was considered a transgressor.

1. The Suffering and Death of Jesus: What Does it Mean for Us?

2. The Importance of Understanding the Significance of Jesus' Sacrifice.

1. Isaiah 53:12 - Therefore I will divide him a portion with the great, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong; because he hath poured out his soul unto death: and he was numbered with the transgressors; and he bare the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.

2. Philippians 2:7-8 - But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.

Luke 22:38 And they said, Lord, behold, here are two swords. And he said unto them, It is enough.

The disciples offered Jesus two swords, and He accepted.

1. The Power of Enough - God never asks us to go beyond what we are able to give.

2. When Less is More - Reminding us that Jesus only needed two swords to fulfill God's will.

1. Matthew 6:33 - But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.

2. Proverbs 21:20 - There is treasure to be desired and oil in the dwelling of the wise; but a foolish man spendeth it up.

Luke 22:39 And he came out, and went, as he was wont, to the mount of Olives; and his

disciples also followed him.

Jesus went to the Mount of Olives as He was accustomed to do, and His disciples followed Him.

1. Jesus set an example of prayerfulness and devotion for us to follow.

2. Following Jesus allows us to experience the peace and strength that comes from being close to God.

1. Psalm 23:5 - “You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.”

2. Romans 8:28 - “And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.”

Luke 22:40 And when he was at the place, he said unto them, Pray that ye enter not into temptation.

Jesus told his disciples to pray so that they would not be tempted to sin.

1. True Strength Comes From Praying To God For Protection From Temptation

2. Strengthen Your Faith Through Prayer To Resist Temptation

1. James 1:12-15 - Blessed is the one who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love him.

2. Philippians 4:6-7 - Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Luke 22:41 And he was withdrawn from them about a stone's cast, and kneeled down, and prayed,

Jesus demonstrates His faith in prayer during a time of great tribulation.

1: In times of crisis, it is important to rely on faith in God and prayer.

2: Jesus provides us an example of prayer during difficult times.

1: Philippians 4:6-7 - Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.

2: Matthew 6:9-13 - Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.

Luke 22:42 Saying, Father, if thou be willing, remove this cup from me: nevertheless not my will, but thine, be done.

Jesus' prayer to God to take away the suffering he was about to endure, but ultimately surrendering to God's will.

1. The Strength of Submission: Learning to Lean on God in Difficult Times

2. Surrendering Selfish Desires: Finding Peace in God's Will

1. Philippians 4:6-7 "Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."

2. James 4:7-8 "Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded."

Luke 22:43 And there appeared an angel unto him from heaven, strengthening him.

During Jesus' agony in the Garden of Gethsemane, an angel from heaven appeared to strengthen Him.

1. "God's Strengthening Presence"

2. "The Comfort of the Lord in Times of Trouble"

1. Hebrews 13:5-6 - "Keep your life free from love of money, and be content with what you have, for he has said, “I will never leave you nor forsake you.”

2. Psalm 46:1 - "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble"

Luke 22:44 And being in an agony he prayed more earnestly: and his sweat was as it were great drops of blood falling down to the ground.

Jesus was in great agony as he prayed and his sweat was like drops of blood falling to the ground.

1. The Power of Prayer: Jesus’s Experience in the Garden of Gethsemane

2. The Significance of Jesus’s Agony: The Cost of Salvation

1. Matthew 26:39 - "And he went a little farther, and fell on his face, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt."

2. Hebrews 5:7 - "Who in the days of his flesh, when he had offered up prayers and supplications with strong crying and tears unto him that was able to save him from death, and was heard in that he feared;"

Luke 22:45 And when he rose up from prayer, and was come to his disciples, he found them sleeping for sorrow,

Jesus prayed and when he returned to his disciples, they were sleeping due to sadness.

1. The Power of Prayer: Jesus' example teaches us the power of prayer in the face of difficult circumstances.

2. Trust in God: Jesus' example teaches us to trust in God even in the face of sorrow and temptation.

1. James 5:16 - "The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working."

2. Psalm 23:4 - "Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me."

Luke 22:46 And said unto them, Why sleep ye? rise and pray, lest ye enter into temptation.

Jesus encourages the disciples to stay alert and pray so they don't succumb to temptation.

1. The Power of Prayer in Overcoming Temptation

2. Preparing Ourselves for Temptation Through Prayer

1. James 4:7 - "Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you."

2. 1 Corinthians 10:13 - "No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it."

Luke 22:47 And while he yet spake, behold a multitude, and he that was called Judas, one of the twelve, went before them, and drew near unto Jesus to kiss him.

A large crowd arrives and Judas, one of Jesus' twelve disciples, draws near to kiss Him.

1. Betrayal in the Face of Love: A Reflection on Judas' Actions in Luke 22:47

2. How to Stay Faithful in the Face of Temptation

1. Matthew 26:14-16 - "Then one of the twelve, called Judas Iscariot, went unto the chief priests, and said unto them, What will ye give me, and I will deliver him unto you? And they covenanted with him for thirty pieces of silver. And from that time he sought opportunity to betray him."

2. Romans 8:31 - "What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us?"

Luke 22:48 But Jesus said unto him, Judas, betrayest thou the Son of man with a kiss?

The passage speaks of Judas' betrayal of Jesus with a kiss.

1. Betrayal in the Church: The Story of Judas

2. The Power of a Kiss: The Betrayal of Jesus

1. Psalm 55:12-14: "For it is not an enemy who taunts me— then I could bear it; it is not an adversary who deals insolently with me— then I could hide from him. But it is you, a man, my equal, my companion, my familiar friend. We took sweet counsel together; we walked in the house of God with the throng."

2. John 13:21-30: "After saying these things, Jesus was troubled in his spirit, and testified, “Truly, truly, I say to you, one of you will betray me.” The disciples looked at one another, uncertain of whom he spoke. One of his disciples, whom Jesus loved, was reclining at table at Jesus’ side, so Simon Peter motioned to him to ask Jesus of whom he was speaking. So that disciple, leaning back against Jesus, said to him, “Lord, who is it?” Jesus answered, “It is he to whom I will give this morsel of bread when I have dipped it.” So when he had dipped the morsel, he gave it to Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot."

Luke 22:49 When they which were about him saw what would follow, they said unto him, Lord, shall we smite with the sword?

The disciples asked Jesus if they should use their swords to defend him when they saw what was about to happen.

1. How to be Ready to Follow Jesus in Any Situation

2. The Power of Faith in Difficult Times

1. Matthew 26:51-52 - And, behold, one of them which were with Jesus stretched out his hand, and drew his sword, and struck a servant of the high priest's, and smote off his ear. Then said Jesus unto him, Put up again thy sword into his place: for all they that take the sword shall perish with the sword.

2. Romans 12:19 - Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord.

Luke 22:50 And one of them smote the servant of the high priest, and cut off his right ear.

One of Jesus' disciples struck the High Priest's servant, cutting off his right ear.

1. The Power of Mercy: Jesus' Example of Love and Forgiveness in Luke 22:50

2. The Value of Forgiveness: Demonstrating Grace and Compassion in Luke 22:50

1. Matthew 5:38-39 - “You have heard that it was said, ‘An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.’ But I say to you, Do not resist the one who is evil. But if anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to him the other also.”

2. Luke 6:27-31 - “But I say to you who hear, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. To one who strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also, and from one who takes away your cloak do not withhold your tunic either. Give to everyone who begs from you, and from one who takes away your goods do not demand them back. And as you wish that others would do to you, do so to them.”

Luke 22:51 And Jesus answered and said, Suffer ye thus far. And he touched his ear, and healed him.

Jesus healed a man who was wounded by a sword.

1: Jesus' power is infinite; He can heal us physically and spiritually.

2: We must learn to trust in Jesus and not in ourselves.

1: Isaiah 53:5 "But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed."

2: Matthew 8:17 "That it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Esaias the prophet, saying, Himself took our infirmities, and bare our sicknesses."

Luke 22:52 Then Jesus said unto the chief priests, and captains of the temple, and the

elders, which were come to him, Be ye come out, as against a thief, with swords and staves?

Jesus rebukes the chief priests, captains of the temple, and elders for coming to arrest him with swords and staves as though he were a thief.

1. The Unjust Treatment of Jesus - how Christ was wrongfully accused and arrested.

2. Jesus' Unconditional Love - how Jesus responded to those who sought to harm him with love and grace.

1. Matthew 5:38-39 - "You have heard that it was said, ‘An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.’ But I say to you, Do not resist the one who is evil. But if anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to him the other also."

2. Galatians 5:13-14 - "For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another. For the whole law is fulfilled in one word: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”

Luke 22:53 When I was daily with you in the temple, ye stretched forth no hands against me: but this is your hour, and the power of darkness.

The disciples did not lift a hand against Jesus while He was with them in the temple, but now is the hour of the power of darkness.

1: We can never be too careful in our walk with God, for there is always a spirit of darkness lurking and seeking to take us away from God's path.

2: Jesus knew that the hour of darkness was coming, yet He still chose to love us and stay with us. We must respond to His love by following His example and loving those around us.

1: 1 Peter 2:21-23 “For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps: Who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth: Who, when he was reviled, reviled not again; when he suffered, he threatened not; but committed himself to him that judgeth righteously.”

2: John 15:12-14 “This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you. Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends. Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you.”

Luke 22:54 Then took they him, and led him, and brought him into the high priest's house. And Peter followed afar off.

Jesus is taken to the High Priest's house, and Peter follows from a distance.

1. When we are struggling to remain faithful, Jesus understands.

2. Even in difficult times, Jesus is always with us.

1. Hebrews 13:5 - "Keep your life free from love of money, and be content with what you have, for he has said, “I will never leave you nor forsake you.”

2. Matthew 28:20 - "And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

Luke 22:55 And when they had kindled a fire in the midst of the hall, and were set down together, Peter sat down among them.

Peter sat down among the people who had kindled a fire in the middle of the hall.

1. The Power of Fellowship: Peter's Example of Joining In

2. Taking Courage in the Midst of Opposition: Peter's Example of Bravery

1. Acts 4:13-20 - When Peter and John encountered opposition for preaching about Jesus, they took courage and persevered.

2. Psalm 34:1-3 - We can find strength and courage in the Lord when we are facing opposition.

Luke 22:56 But a certain maid beheld him as he sat by the fire, and earnestly looked upon him, and said, This man was also with him.

This passage tells the story of a maid who identifies Jesus as one of the men with whom her master was speaking with.

1. We should never forget the example of the maid, who humbly and courageously identified Jesus.

2. Our faith in Jesus should be so strong that it is evident to all who look upon us.

1. Matthew 10:32-33 – “Therefore whoever confesses Me before men, him I will also confess before My Father who is in heaven. But whoever denies Me before men, him I will also deny before My Father who is in heaven.”

2. Proverbs 28:1 – “The wicked flee when no one pursues, But the righteous are bold as a lion.”

Luke 22:57 And he denied him, saying, Woman, I know him not.

The passage recounts how Peter denied Jesus three times before the rooster crowed.

1. The Power of Denial: Learning from Peter's Mistake

2. A Reflection On Faithfulness: Standing With Jesus Despite Difficulties

1. Matthew 26:69-75 - Peter's denials of Jesus

2. John 21:15-17 - Jesus' restoration of Peter after his denials

Luke 22:58 And after a little while another saw him, and said, Thou art also of them. And Peter said, Man, I am not.

Peter, one of Jesus' disciples, denied being a follower when he was questioned by another.

1. "Standing Up For Your Faith"

2. "The Strength of Denial"

1. John 15:13 - "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends."

2. Romans 8:37 - "Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us."

Luke 22:59 And about the space of one hour after another confidently affirmed, saying, Of a truth this fellow also was with him: for he is a Galilaean.

This passage recounts an accusation against Jesus by one of those present at his trial, affirming that he was with Him.

1. The Power of False Witnesses: Examining the Consequences of Malicious Allegations

2. Standing Firm in the Face of Adversity: Overcoming Opposition and Upholding Truth

1. Matthew 10:19-21 - "But when they deliver you up, take no thought how or what ye shall speak: for it shall be given you in that same hour what ye shall speak. For it is not ye that speak, but the Spirit of your Father which speaketh in you. And the brother shall deliver up the brother to death, and the father the child: and the children shall rise up against their parents, and cause them to be put to death."

2. James 1:12 - "Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him."

Luke 22:60 And Peter said, Man, I know not what thou sayest. And immediately, while he yet spake, the cock crew.

Peter denies Jesus three times, and while he is still speaking, the cock crew.

1. The Power of Our Words: How What We Say Can Have Unexpected Consequences

2. Never Deny Your Faith: The Example of Peter

1. Matthew 18:15-17 - “If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother. But if he does not listen, take one or two others along with you, that every charge may be established by the evidence of two or three witnesses. If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church. And if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector.”

2. Isaiah 1:18 - “Come now, let us reason together, says the LORD: though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall become like wool.”

Luke 22:61 And the Lord turned, and looked upon Peter. And Peter remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said unto him, Before the cock crow, thou shalt deny me thrice.

Jesus turned and looked at Peter, causing him to remember what Jesus had said about him denying Him three times before the cock crowed.

1. The Power of a Look: Jesus' Love and Grace in the Face of Betrayal

2. Remembering God's Word: How We Can Overcome Temptation

1. Luke 22:31-34; Jesus predicts Peter's denial

2. Matthew 26:75; Peter's third denial

Luke 22:62 And Peter went out, and wept bitterly.

Peter went out and wept bitterly after being rebuked by Jesus for denying him three times.

1. Learning to accept God's will in spite of our failures.

2. Understanding God's grace in the midst of sorrow and repentance.

1. Romans 8:28, "And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose."

2. Isaiah 61:3, "To bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair. They will be called oaks of righteousness, a planting of the Lord for the display of his splendor."

Luke 22:63 And the men that held Jesus mocked him, and smote him.

The men who were holding Jesus mocked and struck him.

1: We should love our enemies, even when they hurt us. Matthew 5:44

2: We should forgive those who wrong us, just as Jesus did. Luke 23:34

1: Proverbs 25:21-22 - If thine enemy be hungry, give him bread to eat; and if he be thirsty, give him water to drink: For thou shalt heap coals of fire upon his head, and the LORD shall reward thee.

2: Ephesians 4:31-32 - Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice: And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.

Luke 22:64 And when they had blindfolded him, they struck him on the face, and asked him, saying, Prophesy, who is it that smote thee?

Jesus was blindfolded and struck on the face, then asked to prophesy who had done the deed.

1: We must not take vengeance into our own hands, but instead look to God for justice.

2: We can still trust in God even when we are mistreated.

1: Romans 12:19-21 - "Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, “Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord.” To the contrary, “if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink; for by so doing you will heap burning coals on his head.” Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

2: Matthew 5:38-42 - “You have heard that it was said, ‘An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.’ But I say to you, Do not resist the one who is evil. But if anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to him the other also. And if anyone would sue you and take your tunic, let him have your cloak as well. And if anyone forces you to go one mile, go with him two miles. Give to the one who begs from you, and do not refuse the one who would borrow from you.

Luke 22:65 And many other things blasphemously spake they against him.

Passage People spoke blasphemously against Jesus.

1. "The Danger of Blasphemy: The Cost of Speaking Against God"

2. "Learning to Respect God's Word: The Power of Reverence"

1. Leviticus 24:16 - "And he that blasphemeth the name of the LORD, he shall surely be put to death, and all the congregation shall certainly stone him: as well the stranger, as he that is born in the land, when he blasphemeth the name of the LORD, shall be put to death."

2. Psalm 50:21 - "These things hast thou done, and I kept silence; thou thoughtest that I was altogether such an one as thyself: but I will reprove thee, and set them in order before thine eyes."

Luke 22:66 And as soon as it was day, the elders of the people and the chief priests and the scribes came together, and led him into their council, saying,

The elders of the people, chief priests, and scribes came together when it was day and brought Jesus before their council.

1. The Power of a United Front: How the Unification of God's People Can Lead to Greatness

2. Standing for What's Right: The Courage of Jesus in the Face of Unjust Accusations

1. Daniel 6:7-10 - The Courage of Daniel in the Face of Unjust Accusations

2. Ephesians 4:1-3 - The Unity of the Church and How We Can Work Together to Bring Glory to God

Luke 22:67 Art thou the Christ? tell us. And he said unto them, If I tell you, ye will not believe:

This passage highlights the incredulity of Jesus' questioners, who did not believe He was the Messiah, despite His teachings.

1. "The Unbelief of Jesus' Questioners"

2. "The Power of Faith in Christ"

1. John 11:25-27 - "Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die."

2. Isaiah 8:14 - "And he shall be for a sanctuary; but for a stone of stumbling and for a rock of offence to both the houses of Israel, for a gin and for a snare to the inhabitants of Jerusalem."

Luke 22:68 And if I also ask you, ye will not answer me, nor let me go.

This passage illustrates Jesus' interrogation by the high priest, during which he refuses to answer the questions posed to him.

1: We can find strength in Jesus' example of standing firm in our convictions, even in the face of opposition.

2: We can learn from Jesus' example of humility and grace even when facing difficult circumstances.

1: Philippians 4:13 - "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."

2: James 4:6 - "God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble."

Luke 22:69 Hereafter shall the Son of man sit on the right hand of the power of God.

Jesus prophesies that he will sit at the right hand of God.

1. "The Power of Jesus: Knowing Our Place in His Kingdom"

2. "The Power of God: Understanding His Position of Authority"

1. Matthew 26:64 - Jesus says to the high priest, "You have said so. Nevertheless, I say to you, hereafter you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Power, and coming on the clouds of heaven."

2. Ephesians 1:20-21 - "which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, far above all principality and power and might and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in that which is to come."

Luke 22:70 Then said they all, Art thou then the Son of God? And he said unto them, Ye say that I am.

The chief priests and scribes asked Jesus if He was the Son of God, and He affirmed that He was.

1. The Authority of Jesus - Jesus' unequivocal affirmation of His divine identity shows His authority and power.

2. Standing Firm in Faith - Jesus' bold response to the chief priests and scribes shows us how to stand firm in our faith despite opposition.

1. Matthew 16:13-20 - Jesus' questioning by the chief priests and scribes is similar to Peter's declaration that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God.

2. John 14:5-11 - Jesus' identity as the Son of God is further confirmed by His assurance to His disciples that He is the way, the truth, and the life.

Luke 22:71 And they said, What need we any further witness? for we ourselves have heard of his own mouth.

The people hearing Jesus's words did not need any further witnesses or evidence, as they had heard him speak themselves.

1. The importance of being a witness to the truth of Jesus

2. Taking the time to listen to Jesus and learn from his teachings

1. John 8:14 "Jesus replied, "Even if I testify on my own behalf, my testimony is valid, for I know where I came from and where I am going."

2. John 15:27 "And you also must testify, for you have been with me from the beginning."

Luke 23 covers the trial of Jesus before Pilate and Herod, His crucifixion, death, and burial. It also includes the story of the two criminals crucified with Him.

1st Paragraph: The chapter begins with Jesus being led before Pilate where religious leaders accused Him of subverting nation opposing payment taxes Caesar claiming Himself be Christ king. Pilate found no basis for a charge against Him but upon learning that He was under Herod's jurisdiction sent Him to Herod who was also in Jerusalem at that time. Herod initially delighted to see Jesus hoping see miracle performed by Him however when Jesus did not answer his questions religious leaders vehemently accused Him. After mocking him dressing him elegant robe sent him back to Pilate indicating neither found any guilt deserving death (Luke 23:1-12). Despite declaring innocence both rulers consented pressure crowd release Barabbas prisoner insurrection murder instead Jesus calling for His crucifixion (Luke 23:13-25).

2nd Paragraph: As He was led away to be crucified, a man named Simon from Cyrene was forced to carry His cross. A large number women followed mourning lamenting but Jesus turned them said 'Daughters Jerusalem do not weep me weep yourselves your children' predicting coming judgment on Jerusalem (Luke 23:26-31). At place called Skull He was crucified between two criminals one right other left praying Father forgive them do not know what they are doing fulfilling prophecy dividing clothes casting lots also soldiers mocked offered sour wine people stood watching leaders scoffed saying 'He saved others let him save himself if he is God’s Messiah Chosen One' (Luke 23:32-38).

3rd Paragraph: One criminals hanging there hurled insults at Him saying 'Aren’t you Messiah? Save yourself us!' But other rebuked him acknowledged their punishment just due their deeds unlike Jesus asked remember him when came into kingdom which assuredly replied 'Truly I tell you today you will be with me in paradise' indicating promise salvation repentant faith even last moments life (Luke 23:39-43). Around noon darkness came over land until three afternoon sun stopped shining curtain temple torn two then cried out loud voice 'Father into your hands I commit my spirit.' When had said this breathed his last centurion seeing what happened praised God surely this man righteous! All people knew this including women who had followed from Galilee saw these events beat breasts went away revealing impact His death onlookers(Luke 23:44-49). Finally Joseph Arimathea member Council good upright man had not consented their decision action requested body Jesus from Pilate wrapped linen cloth laid tomb cut rock where no one yet been laid preparing spices perfumes rest Sabbath accordance commandment marking beginning burial resurrection narrative next chapter(Luke 23:50-56).

Luke 23:1 And the whole multitude of them arose, and led him unto Pilate.

The people led Jesus to Pilate for judgement.

1: We must always accept Jesus and follow His example.

2: We must always stand up for what is right and just.

1: Philippians 2:5-8 - Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men.

2: Matthew 5:38-39 - You have heard that it was said, ‘An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.’ But I say to you, Do not resist the one who is evil. But if anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to him the other also.

Luke 23:2 And they began to accuse him, saying, We found this fellow perverting the nation, and forbidding to give tribute to Caesar, saying that he himself is Christ a King.

The people accused Jesus of trying to overthrow the government and refusing to pay taxes, claiming He was the King of the Jews.

1. "The Power of Accusation: How to Respond to Unjust Criticism"

2. "The Authority of Jesus: Who Do We Serve?"

1. Matthew 10:28 - "And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell."

2. Romans 13:1 - "Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God."

Luke 23:3 And Pilate asked him, saying, Art thou the King of the Jews? And he answered him and said, Thou sayest it.

Pilate asked Jesus if he was the King of the Jews, to which Jesus responded "You say it".

1. The Power of Confidence in Christ's Identity - Luke 23:3

2. The Sovereignty of Christ - Luke 23:3

1. Philippians 2:6-11 - Jesus humbled himself and was obedient to God

2. John 18:33-37 - Jesus answered Pilate's questions with confidence and truth

Luke 23:4 Then said Pilate to the chief priests and to the people, I find no fault in this man.

Pilate found no fault in Jesus after examining him.

1. God is faithful and just, even in the face of unjust accusations.

2. Jesus demonstrates grace and mercy in the face of persecution.

1. Psalm 25:10 - All the paths of the Lord are steadfast love and faithfulness, for those who keep his covenant and his testimonies.

2. Romans 8:31 - What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?

Luke 23:5 And they were the more fierce, saying, He stirreth up the people, teaching throughout all Jewry, beginning from Galilee to this place.

The Jews were enraged at Jesus for stirring up the people and teaching throughout all of Jewry from Galilee to Jerusalem.

1: Jesus was willing to teach and stir up the people even in the face of opposition.

2: We should follow Jesus' example and have courage in the face of opposition to further His kingdom.

1: Matthew 10:28 - "And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. But rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell."

2: Acts 4:13 - "Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were unlearned and ignorant men, they marvelled; and they took knowledge of them, that they had been with Jesus."

Luke 23:6 When Pilate heard of Galilee, he asked whether the man were a Galilaean.

Pilate asked if Jesus was from Galilee when he heard of the region.

1. Jesus: Our Humble King

2. The Power of Jesus in Galilee

1. Matthew 5:5 - "Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth."

2. John 1:14 - "And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth."

Luke 23:7 And as soon as he knew that he belonged unto Herod's jurisdiction, he sent him to Herod, who himself also was at Jerusalem at that time.

Pilate sends Jesus to Herod since he knew Herod had jurisdiction over Jesus.

1. Embrace the power of God to see you through trying times.

2. Obey authority so that you may experience God's blessings.

1. Romans 13:1-7

2. Psalm 46:1-3

Luke 23:8 And when Herod saw Jesus, he was exceeding glad: for he was desirous to see him of a long season, because he had heard many things of him; and he hoped to have seen some miracle done by him.

Herod was very pleased when he saw Jesus because he had heard many things about Him and wanted to see Him perform a miracle.

1. The Power of Faith: How Herod's Faith Led Him to See Jesus

2. The Joy of Discovery: Experiencing God's Presence in Unexpected Ways

1. Hebrews 11:1 - "Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen."

2. Psalm 16:11 - "You make known to me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore."

Luke 23:9 Then he questioned with him in many words; but he answered him nothing.

This passage describes the Roman governor, Pilate, questioning Jesus in an attempt to find a fault in Him, yet Jesus answers him nothing.

1. The Power of Silence in the Face of Oppression

2. How Our Words Reflect Our Faith

1. Proverbs 17:28 - Even a fool is counted wise when he holds his peace; When he shuts his lips, he is considered perceptive.

2. James 1:19-20 - Understand this, my beloved brothers: let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger; for the anger of man does not produce the righteousness of God.

Luke 23:10 And the chief priests and scribes stood and vehemently accused him.

Passage The chief priests and scribes stood and made vehement accusations against Jesus.

1. "The Power of Accusations: Why We Should Speak with Kindness and Love"

2. "The Virtue of Standing Up for What Is Right: Jesus' Example"

1. Romans 12:14-21 - "Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them."

2. Proverbs 16:28 - "A dishonest man spreads strife, and a whisperer separates close

friends."

Luke 23:11 And Herod with his men of war set him at nought, and mocked him, and arrayed him in a gorgeous robe, and sent him again to Pilate.

Jesus was mocked and humiliated by Herod and his troops before being sent back to Pilate.

1. The Power of Humiliation - how Jesus humbled himself and endured suffering for our salvation.

2. The Power of Forgiveness - Jesus' willingness to forgive Herod and his troops despite their mistreatment.

1. Philippians 2:5-8 - Christ's humility and obedience to God's will despite the shame and suffering.

2. Matthew 6:14-15 - Jesus' teaching on how we should forgive others just as God forgives us.

Luke 23:12 And the same day Pilate and Herod were made friends together: for before they were at enmity between themselves.

The Bible passage discusses how Pilate and Herod became friends on the same day that they were previously at enmity.

1. The Power of Reconciliation - In this , explore the reconciliation between Pilate and Herod, and how this reflects the power of forgiveness and making amends.

2. The Power of Forgiveness - In this , discuss how a single act of forgiveness can change the course of two lives, as was seen with Pilate and Herod.

1. Ephesians 4:32 - "Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you."

2. Colossians 3:13 - "Bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive."

Luke 23:13 And Pilate, when he had called together the chief priests and the rulers and the people,

The people of Jerusalem gathered before Pilate to hear his verdict.

1. We must look to Jesus for justice and mercy in times of trouble.

2. God calls us to live in unity and peace, no matter our differences.

1. Isaiah 30:18, “Therefore the Lord waits to be gracious to you, and therefore he exalts himself to show mercy to you. For the Lord is a God of justice; blessed are all those who wait for him.”

2. Ephesians 4:3, “Making every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.”

Luke 23:14 Said unto them, Ye have brought this man unto me, as one that perverteth the people: and, behold, I, having examined him before you, have found no fault in this man touching those things whereof ye accuse him:

This passage is about Jesus being examined before the people and found to be innocent of the accusations brought against him.

1. Jesus: The Innocent Sufferer

2. What Does it Mean to be Found Innocent?

1. Isaiah 53:7 - He was oppressed and afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth; he was led like a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before its shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth.

2. Proverbs 17:15 - He who justifies the wicked and he who condemns the righteous, both of them alike are an abomination to the Lord.

Luke 23:15 No, nor yet Herod: for I sent you to him; and, lo, nothing worthy of death is done unto him.

The Roman governor Pilate found no fault in Jesus and refused to condemn him.

1: God's protection of Jesus shows his love for us.

2: Jesus' innocence reveals the power of his truth.

1: Isaiah 53:9 - He was assigned a grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death, though he had done no violence, nor was any deceit in his mouth.

2: Philippians 2:7-8 - but made himself nothing, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

Luke 23:16 I will therefore chastise him, and release him.

This passage expresses Jesus' willingness to forgive those who have wronged Him.

1. "The Power of Forgiveness"

2. "The Necessity of Mercy"

1. Matthew 6:14-15 - "For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you, but if you do not forgive others their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses."

2. Ephesians 4:32 - "Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you."

Luke 23:17 (For of necessity he must release one unto them at the feast.)

The passage explains that when the people demanded that Pilate release a prisoner, Jesus was given to them in accordance with the custom of the feast.

1. Making Sacrifices for Others: Understanding Jesus' Sacrifice for Us

2. The Power of Pilate's Choice: What We Can Learn from His Decision

1. John 3:16: For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

2. Philippians 2:8: And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.

Luke 23:18 And they cried out all at once, saying, Away with this man, and release unto us Barabbas:

This passage describes the crowd's call for the release of Barabbas and the crucifixion of Jesus.

1. The Cost of Redemption: Understanding Jesus' Sacrifice

2. The Sanctity of Life: Choosing Jesus Over Barabbas

1. John 8:34, "Jesus answered them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin."

2. Romans 6:23, "For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."

Luke 23:19 (Who for a certain sedition made in the city, and for murder, was cast into prison.)

This passage describes the arrest of Jesus due to false accusations of sedition and murder.

1: We must strive to remain faithful to God even when facing persecution.

2: We must not bear false witness against others, for it is wrong and against the law of God.

1: James 5:12 - "But above all, my brothers, do not swear, either by heaven or by earth or by any other oath, but let your “yes” be yes and your “no” be no, so that you may not fall under condemnation.”

2: Matthew 7:12 - “So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you,

for this sums up the Law and the Prophets.”

Luke 23:20 Pilate therefore, willing to release Jesus, spake again to them.

Pilate, wanting to free Jesus, spoke a second time to the people.

1. The Power of Mercy: Why Jesus Deserves Forgiveness

2. The Power of Forgiveness: How Jesus Demonstrates Grace

1. Colossians 3:13 - "Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you."

2. Matthew 18:21-25 - "Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, “Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother or sister who sins against me? Up to seven times?” Jesus answered, “I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times.”

Luke 23:21 But they cried, saying, Crucify him, crucify him.

The people called for Jesus to be crucified.

1: Jesus endured the suffering of the cross, and we should remember his sacrifice.

2: We should not be like the crowd that called for Jesus' crucifixion, but instead turn to him for mercy and forgiveness.

1: 1 Peter 2:21-24 - "For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps. He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth. When he was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but continued entrusting himself to him who judges justly. He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed."

2: Isaiah 53:4-6 - "Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned—every one—to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all."

Luke 23:22 And he said unto them the third time, Why, what evil hath he done? I have found no cause of death in him: I will therefore chastise him, and let him go.

This passage describes Pilate's third attempt to persuade the crowd to release Jesus after finding no fault with him.

1. Jesus, the Innocent One: A message on the power of Jesus's innocence and how it had the power to save him.

2. The Crowd's Influence: A message on the danger of mob mentality and how it should not be trusted.

1. Isaiah 53:9 - "He was assigned a grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death, though he had done no violence, nor was any deceit in his mouth."

2. John 8:46 - "Which of you convicts me of sin? If I tell the truth, why do you not believe me?"

Luke 23:23 And they were instant with loud voices, requiring that he might be crucified. And the voices of them and of the chief priests prevailed.

The people and chief priests demanded that Jesus be crucified.

1. The Power of Unification: One Voice, One Purpose

2. The Danger of Groupthink: Following the Crowd at What Cost?

1. Psalm 118:8 - It is better to trust in the Lord than to put confidence in man.

2. Acts 5:29 - Then Peter and the other apostles answered and said, We ought to obey God rather than men.

Luke 23:24 And Pilate gave sentence that it should be as they required.

This passage reveals that Pilate gave in to the people's demands and allowed them to have their way.

1. God is always in control, even if it doesn't feel like it.

2. Submission to God's will is the only way to true peace.

1. Isaiah 55:8-9 “For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways,” declares the Lord. “As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

2. Proverbs 16:9 In their hearts humans plan their course, but the Lord establishes their steps.

Luke 23:25 And he released unto them him that for sedition and murder was cast into prison, whom they had desired; but he delivered Jesus to their will.

The people of Jerusalem desired Barabbas to be released, and instead, Jesus was delivered to their will.

1. The Power of Compassion: How Jesus Changed a Sentence of Death into Life

2. The Power of the People: Examining the Effects of the Crowd's Voice.

1. Matthew 27:15-26 - Pilate's interaction with the people of Jerusalem and the ultimate decision to release Barabbas and crucify Jesus.

2. Luke 15:11-32 - The Parable of the Prodigal Son, illustrating Jesus' compassion and mercy.

Luke 23:26 And as they led him away, they laid hold upon one Simon, a Cyrenian, coming out of the country, and on him they laid the cross, that he might bear it after Jesus.

The soldiers forced Simon to bear Jesus' cross.

1: God uses unexpected people to carry out His plan.

2: We can trust God, even when we are forced to do something difficult.

1: Acts 10:34-35 - God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him.

2: Matthew 16:24-25 - Then Jesus said to his disciples, “Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me.

Luke 23:27 And there followed him a great company of people, and of women, which also bewailed and lamented him.

A large crowd of people, including many women, followed Jesus and expressed their sorrow for him.

1. Jesus Christ: Our Suffering Savior

2. The Power of Jesus’ Love and Compassion

1. Hebrews 4:15-16 “For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.”

2. John 11:35 “Jesus wept.”

Luke 23:28 But Jesus turning unto them said, Daughters of Jerusalem, weep not for me, but weep for yourselves, and for your children.

Jesus counsels the women of Jerusalem to weep for their own suffering instead of his.

1: Weeping for our own Suffering - Jesus' instruction to the women of Jerusalem in Luke 23:28.

2: Empathy for Others - Jesus' teaching to the women of Jerusalem in Luke 23:28 to weep for their own and their children's suffering.

1: Romans 12:15 - Rejoice with those who rejoice; weep with those who weep.

2: Matthew 5:4 - Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

Luke 23:29 For, behold, the days are coming, in the which they shall say, Blessed are the barren, and the wombs that never bare, and the paps which never gave suck.

This passage speaks of a time when barren women will be blessed.

1: God's Grace for the Barren Women - A on God's grace for those who are barren and childless.

2: Hope for the Barren Women - A exploring the hope that comes from God even when a woman is barren.

1: Psalm 113:9 - He maketh the barren woman to keep house, and to be a joyful mother of children. Praise ye the Lord.

2: Isaiah 54:1 - Sing, O barren, thou that didst not bear; break forth into singing, and cry aloud, thou that didst not travail with child: for more are the children of the desolate than the children of the married wife, saith the Lord.

Luke 23:30 Then shall they begin to say to the mountains, Fall on us; and to the hills, Cover us.

People in anguish cry out for the mountains and hills to fall on them and cover them.

1. The Depths of Despair: Exploring the Depths of Desperation in the Bible

2. When All Hope is Lost: Finding Comfort in the Words of Jesus

1. Lamentations 3:48-51

2. Psalm 61:2-4

Luke 23:31 For if they do these things in a green tree, what shall be done in the dry?

The passage talks about God's mercy and judgment and how they will be meted out

according to a person's actions.

1. God's Mercy and Judgment: The Green Tree and the Dry

2. The Consequences of Our Actions: Receiving What We Deserve

1. Jeremiah 17:7-8 - “Blessed is the man who trusts in the Lord, whose trust is the Lord. He is like a tree planted by water, that sends out its roots by the stream, and does not fear when heat comes, for its leaves remain green, and is not anxious in the year of drought, for it does not cease to bear fruit.”

2. Romans 2:6-9 - “He will render to each one according to his works: to those who by patience in well-doing seek for glory and honor and immortality, He will give eternal life; but for those who are self-seeking and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, there will be wrath and fury. There will be tribulation and distress for every human being who does evil, the Jew first and also the Greek.”

Luke 23:32 And there were also two other, malefactors, led with him to be put to death.

Two criminals were led to be put to death alongside Jesus.

1: Jesus endured suffering and death to show us the depth of God's mercy and love.

2: Jesus demonstrated true courage and obedience to God, even in the face of difficult circumstances.

1: Philippians 2:8 - "And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death— even death on a cross!"

2: Isaiah 53:5 - "But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed."

Luke 23:33 And when they were come to the place, which is called Calvary, there they crucified him, and the malefactors, one on the right hand, and the other on the left.

Jesus was crucified between two criminals at the place of Calvary.

1. Jesus' Great Love: A Reflection on the Crucifixion of Christ

2. The Power of Forgiveness: Lessons from the Cross

1. Isaiah 53:5 - But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed.

2. Matthew 27:46 - And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, “Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?” that is, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”

Luke 23:34 Then said Jesus, Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do. And they parted his raiment, and cast lots.

Jesus asked God to forgive those who did not understand what they were doing.

1: We Should Forgive Others Despite Their Wrongdoing

2: Jesus Sets an Example of Forgiveness

1: Colossians 3:13 - Bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive.

2: Ephesians 4:32 - Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.

Luke 23:35 And the people stood beholding. And the rulers also with them derided him, saying, He saved others; let him save himself, if he be Christ, the chosen of God.

The people and rulers mock Jesus by saying He should save Himself if He is the chosen of God.

1. The importance of faith in difficult times

2. The power of the spoken word

1. 1 Corinthians 1:27-29 – God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise and God chose the weak things of the world to shame the things which are strong.

2. Romans 10:17 – So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.

Luke 23:36 And the soldiers also mocked him, coming to him, and offering him vinegar,

The soldiers mocked and offered Jesus vinegar.

1. The Power of Humility: Lessons from the Crucifixion of Jesus

2. The Strength of Forgiveness: Jesus's Response to Mocking

1. Philippians 2:3-8 - Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves.

2. Matthew 5:38-48 - Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you.

Luke 23:37 And saying, If thou be the king of the Jews, save thyself.

This passage highlights the mocking of Jesus by those present at his crucifixion, who challenged him to prove his kingship by saving himself from the cross.

1: Jesus was mocked and challenged during his crucifixion, but he chose to follow God's will and remain obedient to him.

2: Jesus was willing to face ridicule and challenge in order to follow God's will and provide salvation for all mankind.

1: Philippians 2:5-8 "Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross."

2: Hebrews 12:2 "Looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God."

Luke 23:38 And a superscription also was written over him in letters of Greek, and Latin, and Hebrew, THIS IS THE KING OF THE JEWS.

A superscription was written over Jesus in Greek, Latin, and Hebrew that read "This is the King of the Jews".

1. The Kingship of Jesus: Examining the Sign of the Cross.

2. The Superscription of the Cross: Examining What It Meant Then and Now.

1. Matthew 27:37-38 - Pilate wrote a notice and put it on the cross.

2. John 19:19-22 - Pilate wrote a notice and put it on the cross.

Luke 23:39 And one of the malefactors which were hanged railed on him, saying, If thou be Christ, save thyself and us.

The criminal on the cross rebuked Jesus, asking Him to save Himself and them.

1: Despite our sin, Jesus still loves us and is there to save us.

2: Jesus is the only way to salvation and it is through Him that we can be saved.

1: John 3:16-17 - “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

2: Romans 10:9-10 - “If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved.”

Luke 23:40 But the other answering rebuked him, saying, Dost not thou fear God, seeing thou art in the same condemnation?

Two criminals being crucified with Jesus, one of them rebuked the other for mocking Jesus, reminding him to fear God.

1. Fear God in all circumstances, even when you are facing trials and tribulations.

2. Reject mockery and seek repentance in times of distress.

1. Proverbs 1:7 - The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and instruction.

2. Isaiah 55:6-7 - Seek the Lord while he may be found; call upon him while he is near; let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him return to the Lord, that he may have compassion on him, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.

Luke 23:41 And we indeed justly; for we receive the due reward of our deeds: but this man hath done nothing amiss.

This passage reflects on the two criminals crucified alongside Jesus. Although they were receiving the due punishment for their wrongdoings, Jesus had done nothing wrong.

1. "The Power of Forgiveness: Examining Jesus' Innocence"

2. "The Grace of God: Reflections on the Crucifixion"

1. Matthew 27:24-26 - "When Pilate saw that he could prevail nothing, but that rather a tumult was made, he took water, and washed his hands before the multitude, saying, I am innocent of the blood of this just person: see ye to it. Then answered all the people, and said, His blood be on us, and on our children."

2. 1 Peter 2:21-24 - "For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps: Who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth: Who, when he was reviled, reviled not again; when he suffered, he threatened not; but committed himself to him that judgeth righteously: Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed."

Luke 23:42 And he said unto Jesus, Lord, remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom.

This passage reveals the plea of the criminal who was crucified next to Jesus, asking to

be remembered by Jesus when He comes into His Kingdom.

1. Jesus shows mercy to the humble and repentant - Luke 23:42

2. Christ's grace is extended to those who believe - Luke 23:42

1. Isaiah 57:15 - “For thus says the One who is high and lifted up, who inhabits eternity, whose name is Holy: “I dwell in the high and holy place, and also with him who is of a contrite and lowly spirit, to revive the spirit of the lowly, and to revive the heart of the contrite.”

2. Romans 5:8 - “But God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”

Luke 23:43 And Jesus said unto him, Verily I say unto thee, To day shalt thou be with me in paradise.

This passage describes Jesus' promise of eternal life to the criminal who was crucified alongside him on the cross.

1: Jesus offers us peace and assurance of eternal life with Him in paradise.

2: Jesus' sacrifice on the cross was not only an atonement for our sins, but a promise of eternity with Him.

1: John 3:16 - "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life."

2: 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 - "But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep. For this we declare to you by a word from the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep. For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord."

Luke 23:44 And it was about the sixth hour, and there was a darkness over all the earth until the ninth hour.

On the day of Jesus' crucifixion, a darkness covered the whole earth from the sixth to the ninth hour.

1: How Jesus’ sacrifice on the cross brought darkness over the earth to show His immense suffering and love for us.

2: How Jesus endured darkness on the cross to save us from our sins and how we should accept His love and grace.

1: Matthew 27:45-46 - Now from the sixth hour there was darkness over all the land until the ninth hour. And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, “Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?” that is, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”

2: Isaiah 53:3-5 - He was despised and rejected by mankind, a man of suffering, and familiar with pain. Like one from whom people hide their faces he was despised, and we held him in low esteem. Surely he took up our pain and bore our suffering, yet we considered him punished by God, stricken by him, and afflicted. But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed.

Luke 23:45 And the sun was darkened, and the veil of the temple was rent in the midst.

The sun was darkened and the veil of the temple was torn in half when Jesus died.

1. The Power of the Crucifixion: God's Judgement and Mercy Displayed

2. Seeing God's Presence in Times of Mourning and Difficulty

1. Romans 5:8-9 - But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

2. Isaiah 53:5 - But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed.

Luke 23:46 And when Jesus had cried with a loud voice, he said, Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit: and having said thus, he gave up the ghost.

Jesus' final words before His death were a prayer of trust to God.

#1: What Jesus' final words before His death can teach us about trusting God in difficult times.

#2: How Jesus' prayer of trust to God can inspire us to have faith in Him.

#1: Isaiah 12:2 - “Behold, God is my salvation; I will trust, and not be afraid; for the LORD GOD is my strength and my song; He also has become my salvation.”

#2: Hebrews 11:6 - “But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.”

Luke 23:47 Now when the centurion saw what was done, he glorified God, saying, Certainly this was a righteous man.

The centurion, upon seeing Jesus' crucifixion, praised God and declared Jesus to be a righteous man.

1. True righteousness is found in Christ's sacrificial death.

2. God will not let the righteous go without reward.

1. Romans 5:8 - But God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners.

2. Psalm 34:19 - Many are the afflictions of the righteous, but the Lord delivers him out of them all.

Luke 23:48 And all the people that came together to that sight, beholding the things which were done, smote their breasts, and returned.

The people watching the crucifixion of Jesus were filled with sorrow and grief.

1. "The Power of Grief"

2. "The Sacrifice of Jesus"

1. Isaiah 53:3-5 "He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not. Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed."

2. Romans 5:8 "But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us."

Luke 23:49 And all his acquaintance, and the women that followed him from Galilee, stood afar off, beholding these things.

The women who followed Jesus from Galilee were witnesses of the crucifixion.

1: We must learn to trust God even in times of hardship and suffering.

2: We must be willing to follow Jesus no matter the cost.

1: Romans 8:28 - And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.

2: Hebrews 12:2 - Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Luke 23:50 And, behold, there was a man named Joseph, a counsellor; and he was a good man, and a just:

Joseph was a good and just man.

1: Living Justly in an Unjust World

2: A Good Man's Example

1: Proverbs 21:3 - To do righteousness and justice is more acceptable to the LORD than

sacrifice.

2: Matthew 5:6 - Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.

Luke 23:51 (The same had not consented to the counsel and deed of them;) he was of Arimathaea, a city of the Jews: who also himself waited for the kingdom of God.

This passage highlights Joseph of Arimathaea, a city of the Jews, who did not agree with the counsel and deed of the others and instead waited for the kingdom of God.

1. Following God in Times of Adversity

2. Staying Faithful to God Even When Others Don't

1. Acts 1:6-7 - So when they had come together, they asked him, “Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?” He said to them, “It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority.

2. Romans 8:18-19 - For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God.

Luke 23:52 This man went unto Pilate, and begged the body of Jesus.

Joseph of Arimathea asked Pilate for the body of Jesus.

1. The Power of Faith: Joseph of Arimathea's Commitment to Jesus

2. The Beauty of Sacrifice: Joseph of Arimathea's Selflessness

1. John 19:38-42 – Joseph of Arimathea's burial of Jesus

2. Matthew 27:57-60 – Joseph of Arimathea's request for Jesus' body from Pilate

Luke 23:53 And he took it down, and wrapped it in linen, and laid it in a sepulchre that

was hewn in stone, wherein never man before was laid.

Jesus was buried in a tomb hewn from stone, which had never been used before.

1. The Sacrifice of Jesus: How Jesus' Death Changed the World

2. The Tomb of Jesus: An Empty Grave and a New Hope

1. Isaiah 53:7-9 - He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth: he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he openeth not his mouth. He was taken from prison and from judgment: and who shall declare his generation? For he was cut off out of the land of the living: for the transgression of my people was he stricken.

2. John 19:38-42 - And after this Joseph of Arimathaea, being a disciple of Jesus, but secretly for fear of the Jews, besought Pilate that he might take away the body of Jesus: and Pilate gave him leave. He came therefore, and took the body of Jesus. And there came also Nicodemus, which at the first came to Jesus by night, and brought a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about an hundred pound weight. Then took they the body of Jesus, and wound it in linen clothes with the spices, as the manner of the Jews is to bury. Now in the place where he was crucified there was a garden; and in the garden a new sepulchre, wherein was never man yet laid. There laid they Jesus therefore because of the Jews' preparation day; for the sepulchre was nigh at hand.

Luke 23:54 And that day was the preparation, and the sabbath drew on.

On the day of preparation for the Sabbath, Jesus was crucified.

1. The Sacrifice of Jesus: Why Good Friday is Good

2. The Importance of Sabbath: Finding Rest in God

1. Isaiah 53:5 - "But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed."

2. Exodus 20:8-11 - "Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy. Six days you shall labor and do all your work, but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the Lord your God. On it you shall not do any work, neither you, nor your son or daughter, nor your male or female servant, nor your animals, nor any foreigner residing in your towns. For in six

days the Lord made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but he rested on the seventh day. Therefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy."

Luke 23:55 And the women also, which came with him from Galilee, followed after, and beheld the sepulchre, and how his body was laid.

Women from Galilee followed Jesus to the tomb and saw how his body was laid.

1. Jesus' death was not in vain, but was a sacrifice for the salvation of mankind.

2. Love and loyalty to those we care about will be rewarded in the end.

1. John 3:16 - For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

2. Matthew 28:6 - He is not here: for He is risen, as He said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay.

Luke 23:56 And they returned, and prepared spices and ointments; and rested the sabbath day according to the commandment.

On the day of Jesus' crucifixion, his followers prepared spices and ointments to anoint his body and rested on the Sabbath in accordance with Jewish law.

1. The Power of Obedience: Learning from Jesus’ Followers

2. How to Honor the Sabbath: A Lesson from Jesus’ Followers

1. Deuteronomy 5:12-14 - Honor the Sabbath and keep it holy

2. Luke 22:19 - Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you

Luke 24 covers the resurrection of Jesus, His appearances to His followers, and His ascension into heaven.

1st Paragraph: The chapter begins with women who had followed Jesus from Galilee

going to the tomb early on the first day of the week with spices they had prepared for his body. They found the stone rolled away from the tomb but when they entered, they did not find Jesus' body. Suddenly two men in clothes that gleamed like lightning stood beside them and said 'Why do you look for the living among dead? He is not here; he has risen!' They reminded them of Jesus' words that He must be crucified and on third day be raised again. The women returned from tomb told all these things to Eleven rest (Luke 24:1-10).

2nd Paragraph: Peter got up ran to tomb bending over saw strips linen lying by themselves went away wondering what happened (Luke 24:11-12). That same day two disciples were going village called Emmaus about seven miles from Jerusalem discussing everything that happened. As they talked discussed these things Jesus himself came up walked along with them but their eyes were kept recognizing him asked what discussing appeared downcast explained recent events concerning death resurrection hoped redeem Israel addition how women amazed us went early morning did not find body came said seen vision angels said alive then some companions went tomb found just women had said but him they did not see (Luke 24:13-24). Then He explained to them what was said in all Scriptures concerning Himself beginning Moses Prophets as sat down eat broke bread suddenly their eyes opened recognized Him disappeared from sight(Luke 24:25-31). They returned at once Jerusalem found Eleven those assembled together saying 'It is true! Lord has risen appeared Simon.' Then two told what happened road how recognized him when broke bread (Luke 24:32-35).

3rd Paragraph: While still talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said 'Peace be with you.' Startled frightened thinking saw ghost reassured showed hands feet still doubts joy amazement asked something eat gave piece broiled fish ate presence opened minds understand Scriptures told written Christ suffer rise dead third day repentance forgiveness sins preached his name all nations beginning Jerusalem witnesses these things promised send gift Father asked stay city until been clothed power high(Luke 24:36-49). Finally led out vicinity Bethany lifted hands blessed while blessing left taken into heaven worshipped returned Jerusalem great joy stayed continually temple praising God marking culmination Gospel Luke joyful proclamation resurrection ascension Christ affirmation disciples' mission continue work(Luke 24:50-53).

Luke 24:1 Now upon the first day of the week, very early in the morning, they came unto the sepulchre, bringing the spices which they had prepared, and certain others with them.

On the first day of the week, the women came to the tomb with spices and other people.

1: From Darkness to the Light: How Jesus Overcame Death

2: Preparing To Receive the Light: The Women's Faithful Obedience

1: John 20:1-2 - On the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb early, while it was still dark, and saw that the stone had been taken away from the tomb.

2: Mark 16:1-3 - When the Sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, that they might come and anoint Him. Very early in the morning, on the first day of the week, they came to the tomb when the sun had risen.

Luke 24:2 And they found the stone rolled away from the sepulchre.

The stone that had been blocking the entrance to the tomb was rolled away.

1. The Resurrection of Jesus: A Sign of Hope

2. The Empty Tomb: A Message of Life

1. Isaiah 26:19 - Your dead shall live; their bodies shall rise. You who dwell in the dust, awake and sing for joy!

2. Matthew 28:6 - He is not here, for he has risen, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay.

Luke 24:3 And they entered in, and found not the body of the Lord Jesus.

The women who were followers of Jesus went to the tomb on the morning of the resurrection and found that the body of Jesus was not there.

1. Jesus is alive! He has risen from the dead and offers us hope and a new life in Him.

2. The power of Jesus' resurrection is seen in the empty tomb, and should remind us of His promises and love for us.

1. Romans 6:4-5 ?□herefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. For if we have become united with Him in the likeness of His death, certainly we shall also be in the likeness of His resurrection.??

2. Ephesians 2:4-5 ?□ut God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with

Christ (by grace you have been saved).??

Luke 24:4 And it came to pass, as they were much perplexed thereabout, behold, two men stood by them in shining garments:

The two men in shining garments appeared to the perplexed disciples on the road to Emmaus.

1. Don't be afraid when God sends a messenger to you in a time of confusion.

2. The presence of God is a comfort in times of distress.

1. Isaiah 40:31 - But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.

2. Psalm 46:1 - God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

Luke 24:5 And as they were afraid, and bowed down their faces to the earth, they said unto them, Why seek ye the living among the dead?

Two men appeared to two disciples walking to Emmaus and asked why they were looking for the living among the dead.

1. The Power of Hope in Difficult Times

2. The Strength of Faith in Times of Fear

1. Romans 8:24-25 - For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees?

2. Hebrews 11:1 - Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.

Luke 24:6 He is not here, but is risen: remember how he spake unto you when he was yet in Galilee,

He is risen! Jesus has fulfilled his promise of resurrection.

1: Jesus??resurrection is a reminder of God?□ faithfulness and promises.

2: Jesus??resurrection is a reminder of hope and new life.

1: Isaiah 53:5 ?□ut he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed.??

2: 2 Corinthians 5:17 ?□herefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!??

Luke 24:7 Saying, The Son of man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and the third day rise again.

The Son of Man had to be crucified and rise again on the third day.

1. The Power of the Resurrection: Experiencing a New Life in Christ

2. The Promised Deliverance: Trusting in God's Plan

1. Romans 6:4-11 - We are united with Christ in his death and resurrection

2. 1 Corinthians 15:20-22 - Christ's resurrection is the first of many resurrections that will come

Luke 24:8 And they remembered his words,

Jesus' disciples remembered His words of instruction.

1: The Power of Remembering Jesus' Words

2: Obedience Through Remembering Jesus' Words

1: Joshua 1:8 - This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.

2: Psalm 119:11 - Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.

Luke 24:9 And returned from the sepulchre, and told all these things unto the eleven, and to all the rest.

The women who went to the tomb told the eleven disciples and the other followers about Jesus' resurrection.

1. The Power of Faith: How the women's courage and faith in Jesus inspired others to keep believing.

2. The Power of Testimony: How the women's testimony of Jesus' resurrection spread among the disciples and others.

1. Matthew 28:5-7 - The women at the tomb were told by the angels of Jesus' resurrection.

2. Hebrews 11:1 - Faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.

Luke 24:10 It was Mary Magdalene, and Joanna, and Mary the mother of James, and other women that were with them, which told these things unto the apostles.

Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and other women witnessed the resurrection of Jesus and shared the news with the apostles.

1. Celebrate with Joy: The reality of Jesus's resurrection should fill our hearts with joy.

2. Share the Good News: We should strive to share the good news of Jesus's resurrection with others.

1. Romans 10:14-15 - "How then will they call on Him in whom they have not believed? How will they believe in Him whom they have not heard? And how will they hear without a preacher? How will they preach unless they are sent?"

2. Matthew 28:19-20 - "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.??

Luke 24:11 And their words seemed to them as idle tales, and they believed them not.

The disciples were skeptical of the reports of Jesus' resurrection, thinking the stories were untrue.

1. The Power of the Testimony: How We Can Overcome Skepticism

2. Faith Without Seeing: Believing the Unbelievable

1. Acts 2:24-32 - Peter's about Jesus being resurrected from the dead.

2. Romans 10:17 - Faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word about Christ.

Luke 24:12 Then arose Peter, and ran unto the sepulchre; and stooping down, he beheld the linen clothes laid by themselves, and departed, wondering in himself at that which was come to pass.

Peter ran to the sepulchre and saw the linen clothes lying there, and was amazed at what had happened.

1. Believing in the Power of God Despite Unseen Circumstances

2. The Strength of Faith in the Face of Doubt

1. Romans 8:28 - And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.

2. Hebrews 11:1 - Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

Luke 24:13 And, behold, two of them went that same day to a village called Emmaus, which was from Jerusalem about threescore furlongs.

Two disciples of Jesus went to a village called Emmaus, located about 60 stadia (7.5 miles) from Jerusalem.

1. The Journey of Faith: How the Road to Emmaus Teaches Us to Follow Jesus

2. The Power of Hope: How Jesus Opened the Eyes of the Disciples on the Road to Emmaus

1. Isaiah 35:8-10 - And a highway shall be there, and a way, and it shall be called The way of holiness; the unclean shall not pass over it; but it shall be for those: the wayfaring men, though fools, shall not err therein.

2. Hebrews 11:1-3 - Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

Luke 24:14 And they talked together of all these things which had happened.

The two disciples discussed the events that had transpired.

1. The Power of Conversation: How Sharing Our Experiences Can Lead to Closure

2. Not Giving Up: Reflection on the Disciples??Perseverance in the Face of Difficulty

1. Proverbs 27:17, ?□ron sharpens iron, and one man sharpens another.??

2. Philippians 4:8, ?□inally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.??

Luke 24:15 And it came to pass, that, while they communed together and reasoned, Jesus himself drew near, and went with them.

Jesus drew near to His disciples and journeyed with them.

1: Jesus desires to be close to us even in our difficult times.

2: We can find comfort and companionship in walking with Jesus.

1: Deuteronomy 31:8 - ?□t is the Lord who goes before you. He will be with you; he will not leave you or forsake you. Do not fear or be dismayed.??

2: Psalm 23:4 - ?□ven though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.??

Luke 24:16 But their eyes were holden that they should not know him.

The disciples did not recognize Jesus when He first appeared to them.

1: We must remain open to recognizing Jesus in unexpected ways.

2: Our faith should be strong enough to recognize Jesus, even when He is not in His usual form.

1: John 20:24-29 - Thomas recognized Jesus when He appeared to the disciples after His resurrection.

2: Luke 5:4-6 - The disciples recognized Jesus as the Son of God when He calmed the storm.

Luke 24:17 And he said unto them, What manner of communications are these that ye have one to another, as ye walk, and are sad?

The disciples were walking and discussing something that made them sad.

1: We should never let our trials bring us to the point of sadness.

2: Even when we are faced with difficult times, we should trust in God and lean on Him for support.

1: Jeremiah 29:11 - "For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for

welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope."

2: Psalm 34:17-18 - ?□hen the righteous cry for help, the Lord hears and delivers them out of all their troubles. The Lord is near to the brokenhearted and saves the crushed in spirit.??

Luke 24:18 And the one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answering said unto him, Art thou only a stranger in Jerusalem, and hast not known the things which are come to pass there in these days?

Cleopas and an unnamed companion encounter Jesus on the road to Emmaus, and Cleopas questions Jesus about not knowing the events that have taken place in Jerusalem.

1. The Comfort of Christ in Times of Trouble

2. The Mystery of God's Plan Unfolding

1. Isaiah 53:3-5 He was despised and rejected by mankind, a man of suffering, and familiar with pain. Like one from whom people hide their faces he was despised, and we held him in low esteem.

4 Yet it was our weaknesses he carried; it was our sorrows that weighed him down. And we thought his troubles were a punishment from God, a punishment for his own sins!

2. 1 Peter 4:12-13 Dear friends, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that has come on you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. 13 But rejoice inasmuch as you participate in the sufferings of Christ, so that you may be overjoyed when his glory is revealed.

Luke 24:19 And he said unto them, What things? And they said unto him, Concerning Jesus of Nazareth, which was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people:

The two disciples on the road to Emmaus told Jesus of Nazareth, a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people.

1. The Prophecies of Jesus Fulfilled: Knowing Jesus as a Mighty Prophet

2. Living as a Prophet of God: Striving for Good Deeds and Words

1. Isaiah 35:4-5 - Say to those with fearful hearts, ?□e strong, do not fear; your God will come, he will come with vengeance; with divine retribution he will come to save you.??

2. 1 Peter 2:15 - For it is God?□ will that by doing good you should silence the ignorant talk of foolish people.

Luke 24:20 And how the chief priests and our rulers delivered him to be condemned to death, and have crucified him.

The chief priests and rulers of the Jews betrayed and crucified Jesus.

1. The Betrayal of Jesus: Turning to God in Times of Trial

2. The Crucifixion of Jesus: Finding Strength and Hope in Suffering

1. Isaiah 53:7-8 - He was oppressed and afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth; he was led like a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before its shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth.

2. John 3:16 - For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

Luke 24:21 But we trusted that it had been he which should have redeemed Israel: and beside all this, to day is the third day since these things were done.

Two disciples of Jesus were discussing the events that had taken place over the past three days, including the crucifixion of Jesus and their disappointment in not being redeemed.

1. How to Persevere in Faith During Difficult Times

2. The Nature of God's Redeeming Love

1. Romans 8:28 - And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.

2. Isaiah 53:5 - But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed.

Luke 24:22 Yea, and certain women also of our company made us astonished, which were early at the sepulchre;

The women who had come to the sepulchre amazed the disciples.

1: We can be amazed by the faith of others around us.

2: We must always keep our faith in God even when things seem impossible.

1: Luke 18:27 - Jesus replied, ?□hat is impossible with man is possible with God.??

2: Hebrews 11:1 - Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see.

Luke 24:23 And when they found not his body, they came, saying, that they had also seen a vision of angels, which said that he was alive.

The women who were looking for Jesus' body after his crucifixion could not find it and instead, had a vision of angels who declared that Jesus was alive.

1. We must never lose hope - even in the darkest of times, God is always with us.

2. Through Jesus, we can be resurrected and brought back to life.

1. Isaiah 40:31 - "They that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint."

2. 1 Corinthians 15:20-22 - "But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept. For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive."

Luke 24:24 And certain of them which were with us went to the sepulchre, and found it even so as the women had said: but him they saw not.

Some of the men who were with Jesus' followers went to the tomb of Jesus and found it empty, but they did not see Jesus.

1. The Power of Faith: Learning from the Women Who Witnessed the Empty Tomb

2. The Unexpected Blessing of an Empty Tomb: How Jesus' Resurrection Changes Everything

1. John 20:1-18 - The story of Mary Magdalene seeing the empty tomb

2. Mark 16:1-8 - The story of the other women who went to the tomb and found it empty

Luke 24:25 Then he said unto them, O fools, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken:

Jesus rebukes his disciples for not believing all that the prophets have spoken.

1. Our Faith in What Has Been Spoken - Luke 24:25

2. Slowness of Heart Leads to Doubt - Luke 24:25

1. Rom. 10:17 - So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.

2. Heb. 11:1 - Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.

Luke 24:26 Ought not Christ to have suffered these things, and to enter into his glory?

Jesus' disciples were confused when Jesus was crucified and wanted to understand why he had to suffer before entering into his glory.

1. The Power of Faith: Understanding Jesus' Suffering and Glory

2. The Cross: An Example of Unconditional Love

1. Romans 5:8 - But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

2. Hebrews 12:2 - Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Luke 24:27 And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, he expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself.

Jesus expounded to his disciples the things concerning himself, beginning with Moses and the prophets and continuing through all the scriptures.

1. The Power of Scripture: How Jesus Used the Bible to Reveal Himself

2. What Can We Learn from Jesus' Method of Scripture Study?

1. Isaiah 53:3-4 He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not. Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted.

2. John 5:39 Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me.

Luke 24:28 And they drew nigh unto the village, whither they went: and he made as though he would have gone further.

The disciples draw near to a village and Jesus pretends to go further.

1. "The Power of Pretense: How Jesus Showed Us How to Act in Difficult Situations"

2. "The Significance of Jesus' Journeying: What We Can Learn from His Travels"

1. James 1:19-20 - "Know this, my beloved brothers: let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger; for the anger of man does not produce the righteousness of

God."

2. Romans 12:18 - "If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all."

Luke 24:29 But they constrained him, saying, Abide with us: for it is toward evening, and the day is far spent. And he went in to tarry with them.

Jesus' disciples urge Him to stay with them for the evening as the day was coming to a close.

1. Jesus' example of hospitality and grace

2. The importance of fellowship and companionship

1. Hebrews 13:2 Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by this some have entertained angels without knowing it.

2. Ecclesiastes 4:9-12 Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their toil. For if they fall, one will lift up his fellow. But woe to him who is alone when he falls and has not another to lift him up! Again, if two lie together, they keep warm, but how can one keep warm alone? And though a man might prevail against one who is alone, two will withstand him?□ threefold cord is not quickly broken.

Luke 24:30 And it came to pass, as he sat at meat with them, he took bread, and blessed it, and brake, and gave to them.

Jesus took bread, blessed it, and broke it before giving it to his disciples.

1. The Power of Blessing: How Blessing Can Transform Our Lives

2. The Bread of Life: Finding Joy and Fulfillment in Christ

Cross-

1. Matthew 14:14-21 ??Jesus Feeds the Five Thousand

2. John 6:35 ??Jesus Is the Bread of Life

Luke 24:31 And their eyes were opened, and they knew him; and he vanished out of their sight.

Jesus appears to two of his followers on the road to Emmaus and they recognize him, but he then disappears.

1. The power of the Lord to appear and disappear.

2. The importance of recognizing the presence of the Lord.

1. Hebrews 13:8 - Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever.

2. John 14:18 - I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you.

Luke 24:32 And they said one to another, Did not our heart burn within us, while he talked with us by the way, and while he opened to us the scriptures?

The disciples experienced a burning in their hearts as Jesus spoke with them and opened the scriptures to them.

1. Knowing the Word of God: The Power of Scripture for a Burning Heart

2. Experiencing God: How God's Transforming Presence Can Ignite Our Hearts

1. Psalm 119:103-105 ?How sweet are thy words unto my taste! Yea, sweeter than honey to my mouth! Through thy precepts I get understanding: therefore I hate every false way. Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.??

2. Psalm 19:7-8 ?The law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple. The statutes of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart: the commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes.??

Luke 24:33 And they rose up the same hour, and returned to Jerusalem, and found the eleven gathered together, and them that were with them,

The disciples rose immediately and returned to Jerusalem to find the Eleven gathered together.

1: Never be too discouraged to come together as the church.

2: God is always there to give us strength and courage.

1: Acts 2:42-47 - The early church coming together in unity.

2: Romans 12:4-5 - Being unified in the body of Christ.

Luke 24:34 Saying, The Lord is risen indeed, and hath appeared to Simon.

The Lord has risen and appeared to Simon.

1: The power of Jesus' resurrection for us today.

2: The importance of sharing the good news of Jesus' resurrection.

1: Romans 6:4-5 - Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.

2: Acts 1:8 - But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.

Luke 24:35 And they told what things were done in the way, and how he was known of them in breaking of bread.

Two of Jesus' disciples encountered Him on their way to Emmaus and recognized Him through the breaking of bread.

1. Recognizing Jesus in Unexpected Ways

2. The Power of Breaking Bread Together

1. Matthew 26:26-29 - Jesus institutes the Lord's Supper

2. Acts 2:42-47 - Believers devoted to breaking bread together in fellowship

Luke 24:36 And as they thus spake, Jesus himself stood in the midst of them, and saith unto them, Peace be unto you.

Jesus appeared to the disciples after his resurrection and greeted them with peace.

1. The Power of Peace: How Jesus's Peaceful Greeting Changed the World

2. Jesus's Resurrection: An Astonishing Sign of Hope in a Troubled World

1. Psalm 29:11 - The LORD gives strength to his people; the LORD blesses his people with peace.

2. Romans 5:1 - Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Luke 24:37 But they were terrified and affrighted, and supposed that they had seen a spirit.

The disciples were afraid when they saw Jesus because they thought He was a spirit.

1: God is with us even in times of fear.

2: We should have faith even when things seem impossible.

1: Hebrews 13:5 - "Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee."

2: Matthew 28:20 - "Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen."

Luke 24:38 And he said unto them, Why are ye troubled? and why do thoughts arise in your hearts?

Jesus asked his disciples why they were troubled and why thoughts were arising in their hearts.

1. Don't Lose Heart: Finding Peace in a Troubled World

2. Overcoming Anxiety: How to Calm Your Mind and Heart

1. Philippians 4:6-7 - "Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."

2. Psalm 46:10 - "Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth."

Luke 24:39 Behold my hands and my feet, that it is I myself: handle me, and see; for a spirit hath not flesh and bones, as ye see me have.

The passage speaks of Jesus giving tangible proof of His physical resurrection by showing His hands and feet.

1. The Physical Evidence of Christ's Resurrection: Jesus shows us that He is no mere spirit but has tangible evidence of His resurrection.

2. The Power of Faith: Jesus' physical resurrection gives us faith in the power of God and demonstrates His faithfulness.

1. John 20:27: Then saith he to Thomas, Reach hither thy finger, and behold my hands; and reach hither thy hand, and thrust it into my side: and be not faithless, but believing.

2. Hebrews 11:1: Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

Luke 24:40 And when he had thus spoken, he shewed them his hands and his feet.

The disciples were shown the hands and feet of Jesus after his words.

1: Jesus was truly resurrected after his death, demonstrated by the wounds in His hands and feet.

2: Jesus' physical appearance after resurrection gives us hope in the face of suffering.

1: John 20:27-29 - Then He said to Thomas, ?□ut your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe.??

2: Colossians 3:12-14 - Therefore, as God?□ chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.

Luke 24:41 And while they yet believed not for joy, and wondered, he said unto them, Have ye here any meat?

The disciples were filled with joy but still unsure of what was happening, so Jesus asked if they had any food.

1. Relying on God's Word in the Midst of Uncertainty

2. Finding Joy in the Midst of Adversity

1. Romans 15:13 - "May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit."

2. Psalm 30:5 - "Weeping may remain for a night, but joy comes in the morning."

Luke 24:42 And they gave him a piece of a broiled fish, and of an honeycomb.

This passage describes how Jesus was offered a piece of broiled fish and honeycomb by his disciples.

1. The Power of Hospitality: Jesus' example of accepting and responding to an act of kindness

2. Feeding the Hungry: A reminder to show kindness and compassion to those in need

1. Genesis 18:2-5 - Abraham's hospitality for the three visitors

2. Isaiah 58:7-11 - God's call to care for the hungry and needy.

Luke 24:43 And he took it, and did eat before them.

The disciples witnessed Jesus eat a piece of fish to prove He had been resurrected.

1. Jesus' Resurrection: A Miracle of Miracles

2. The Power of Witnessing Christ's Resurrection

1. John 20:25-29 - Jesus shows Thomas His wounds, proving He is alive.

2. Luke 24:36-43 - Jesus reveals Himself to His disciples and eats a piece of fish.

Luke 24:44 And he said unto them, These are the words which I spake unto you, while I was yet with you, that all things must be fulfilled, which were written in the law of Moses, and in the prophets, and in the psalms, concerning me.

This verse speaks of Jesus reminding the disciples that the events of His life and death had been foretold in the Law, Prophets, and Psalms.

1. The Fulfillment of Prophecy: How Jesus's Life and Death Fulfilled Scripture

2. Faithful Fulfillment: How Jesus's Life Demonstrated Faithfulness

1. Isaiah 53:4??

2. Psalm 22:1??8

Luke 24:45 Then opened he their understanding, that they might understand the scriptures,

The passage speaks of Jesus opening the understanding of his disciples, so that they may comprehend the scriptures.

1) The Power of Jesus: Learning to Rely on His Guidance

2) Unlocking the Power of the Scriptures Through Jesus

1) John 14:26 - "But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you."

2) Psalm 119:18 - "Open my eyes that I may see wonderful things in your law."

Luke 24:46 And said unto them, Thus it is written, and thus it behoved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day:

Jesus instructed his disciples that he must suffer and rise on the third day.

1. The Miraculous Power of the Resurrection

2. The Importance of Fulfilling Prophecy

1. Psalm 16:10 - For thou wilt not leave my soul in hell; neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption.

2. Isaiah 53:4-5 - Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.

Luke 24:47 And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.

Jesus instructed his followers to preach repentance and forgiveness of sins to all the nations, starting in Jerusalem.

1. The Power of Repentance and Forgiveness

2. The Joy of Preaching Jesus' Message of Repentance and Forgiveness

1. Acts 3:19 - Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out.

2. Romans 5:8 - But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Luke 24:48 And ye are witnesses of these things.

This passage emphasizes the importance of being witnesses to the truth of Christ's gospel.

1: Being a witness of Truth - Living a life of integrity and consistently testifying to the truth of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

2: Being a Testimony of Grace - Sharing the message of love, mercy, and grace found in Jesus Christ with others.

1: Acts 1:8 - "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

2: Matthew 28:18-20 - Then Jesus came to them and said, ?□ll authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.??

Luke 24:49 And, behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high.

The disciples were instructed to remain in Jerusalem until they are endued with power from on high.

1. Abiding in God's Promises: Waiting on the Lord for His Power

2. Living in Anticipation: Knowing That the Best is Yet to Come

1. Isaiah 40:31: "But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint."

2. Psalm 27:14: "Wait on the LORD: be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the LORD."

Luke 24:50 And he led them out as far as to Bethany, and he lifted up his hands, and blessed them.

Jesus led his disciples out to Bethany and blessed them with uplifted hands.

1. The Blessings of Faithful Discipleship

2. The Power of Jesus' Blessing

1. Acts 3:1-8, Peter and John heal the lame man in the name of Jesus

2. James 5:13-15, The power of prayer and the effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much

Luke 24:51 And it came to pass, while he blessed them, he was parted from them, and carried up into heaven.

Jesus blessed the disciples and was taken up into heaven.

1. The Ascension of Jesus: The Power of His Blessing

2. Jesus, Our Everlasting Hope: The Blessing of His Ascension

1. Acts 1:9-11 - And when he had said these things, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. And while they were gazing into heaven as he went, behold, two men stood by them in white robes, and said, ?□en of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.??

2. Philippians 2:9-11 - Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in

heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Luke 24:52 And they worshipped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy:

The disciples worshipped Jesus and returned to Jerusalem with great joy.

1: Rejoice in the Lord always, and again I say, rejoice! (Philippians 4:4)

2: Come, let us bow down in worship, let us kneel before the Lord our Maker (Psalm 95:6)

1: Jesus said, ?□o not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me (John 14:1).

2: Jesus said, ?□eace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid (John 14:27).

Luke 24:53 And were continually in the temple, praising and blessing God. Amen.

The disciples were regularly in the temple, praising and worshipping God.

1. God is Worthy of Our Praise

2. Worshipping God in the Temple

1. Psalm 34:1 - ?□ will bless the Lord at all times; his praise shall continually be in my mouth.??

2. Psalm 100:4 - ?□nter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise! Give thanks to him; bless his name!??

John 1 introduces the Word (Logos), John the Baptist's testimony about Jesus, and the first disciples of Jesus.

1st Paragraph: The chapter begins with a profound theological statement about the Word (Logos) who was in the beginning with God and was God. This Word was instrumental in

creation; everything that exists came into being through Him. In Him was life, which is the light of all mankind, shining in darkness which has not overcome it. This Logos became flesh as Jesus Christ full of grace truth living among us revealing glory Father's only Son (John 1:1-14).

2nd Paragraph: The narrative then shifts to John the Baptist who was sent from God to bear witness to this Light so that all might believe through him. He himself was not this Light but came as a witness to testify concerning this Light (John 1:6-8). When Jewish leaders from Jerusalem sent priests Levites ask who he was, he openly declared that he is not Christ nor Elijah nor Prophet but voice one calling wilderness 'Make straight way Lord' quoting prophet Isaiah indicating his role preparer way Messiah (John 1:19-23). The next day when he saw Jesus coming towards him declared 'Behold Lamb God takes away sin world!' testifying divine choosing anointing Jesus Holy Spirit Son God fulfilling his mission pointing others towards Christ (John 1:24-34).

3rd Paragraph: Following day again John stood two his disciples watching Jesus walk by again said 'Behold Lamb God!' Upon hearing this two disciples followed Jesus leading first interaction where asked them what they seeking invited them come see thus they stayed with Him day one these Andrew Simon Peter's brother first found own brother Simon told him found Messiah translated Christ brought him to Jesus looked at said 'You are Simon son John you will be called Cephas' translated Peter introducing personal transformation following Christ(Johm 1:35-42). The chapter concludes with call other early disciples namely Philip Nathanael latter initially skeptical anything good come out Nazareth but upon meeting surprised by Jesus' supernatural knowledge about him confessed Him be Son God King Israel promised greater revelations angels ascending descending on Son Man signifying open heaven divine activity earth through His ministry(John 1:43-51).

John 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

In the beginning was the Word, which was with God and was God.

1. The Power of the Word of God

2. The Divinity of Jesus Christ

1. Genesis 1:1-3 - In the Beginning God Created the Heavens and the Earth

2. Colossians 1:15-17 - He is the Image of the Invisible God, the Firstborn of All Creation

John 1:2 The same was in the beginning with God.

The passage states that Jesus was with God in the beginning.

1. How Jesus is an example of faithfulness to God.

2. The importance of recognizing Jesus as God's son.

1. John 1:14 - "And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth."

2. Colossians 1:15-17 - "He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together."

John 1:3 All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.

This passage is about how Jesus is the creator of all things.

1. Jesus Is the Creator of All - Understanding the importance of Jesus as the source of all creation.

2. Everything Is Made By Him - Appreciating the power of Jesus and His ability to bring life to all things.

1. Genesis 1:1 - "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth."

2. Colossians 1:16 - "For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him."

John 1:4 In him was life; and the life was the light of men.

This passage reveals that Jesus is the source of life and light to all mankind.

1. “The Life-Giving Light of Jesus”

2. “The Light of the World: Jesus”

1. Romans 8:10-11 - And if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. If the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.

2. Psalm 36:9 - For with you is the fountain of life; in your light we see light.

John 1:5 And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not.

This passage explains that the light of God shines in the darkness, but the darkness cannot understand or accept it.

1. "The Light of God in the Darkness"

2. "The Unfathomable Power of Light"

1. Isaiah 9:2 - "The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light: they that dwell in the land of the shadow of death, upon them hath the light shined."

2. Ephesians 5:8-10 - "For ye were sometimes darkness, but now are ye light in the Lord: walk as children of light: (For the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness and righteousness and truth;) Proving what is acceptable unto the Lord."

John 1:6 There was a man sent from God, whose name was John.

John the Baptist was sent by God to prepare the way for Jesus.

1: The importance of preparing the way for Jesus.

2: The significance of John the Baptist's mission.

1: Isaiah 40:3-5 - A voice of one calling: "In the wilderness prepare the way for the Lord; make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

2: Matthew 3:1-3 - In those days John the Baptist came, preaching in the wilderness of Judea and saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near."

John 1:7 The same came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all men through him might believe.

This passage speaks of Jesus Christ coming to the world as a witness to bear witness of the Light, so that all people may believe in Him.

1. The Importance of Bearing Witness of the Light

2. The Power of Belief Through Jesus Christ

1. Isaiah 9:2 - The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in the land of the shadow of death, upon them a light has shined.

2. Matthew 4:16 - The people who sat in darkness saw a great light, and to those who sat in the region and shadow of death Light has dawned.

John 1:8 He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light.

John the Baptist was sent by God to testify of Jesus, who was the true Light.

1. To Bear Witness of the Light: The Role of John the Baptist in God's Plan

2. The Light of the World: Jesus and the Hope He Brings

1. 1 John 1:5-7 - “This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.”

2. Isaiah 9:2 - “The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shone.”

John 1:9 That was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world.

This passage speaks of Jesus as the true light that gives light to every person in the world.

1. Living in the Light of Jesus

2. The Source of Our Light

1. John 8:12 - Jesus said, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.”

2. Isaiah 9:2 - The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned.

John 1:10 He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not.

This passage speaks of Jesus coming into the world and not being recognized by the world.

1: We should recognize the importance of Jesus in our lives and not take him for granted.

2: We should emulate Jesus' example and learn to trust in Him and His guidance.

1: Hebrews 13:8 - Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.

2: John 3:16 - For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

John 1:11 He came unto his own, and his own received him not.

This passage speaks of Jesus coming to his chosen people, yet they did not accept him.

1. The importance of accepting and embracing God’s will for our lives.

2. The importance of being willing to accept Jesus as our Lord and Savior.

1. Isaiah 53:3 – “He was despised and rejected by men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief; and as one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not.”

2. Romans 10:9-10 – “That if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.”

John 1:12 But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:

This passage speaks about the power of believing in Jesus and how it grants people the ability to become children of God.

1. The Power of Believing: A Call to Follow Christ

2. Understanding the Gift of Eternal Life Through Jesus

1. Galatians 3:26 - For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus.

2. Ephesians 2:8-9 - For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast.

John 1:13 Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.

God's divine power is the source of all life.

1. The Power of God: How to Receive Life from the Lord

2. The Will of God: Understanding the Significance of Grace

1. John 3:5-8 - "Jesus answered, “Very truly I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless they are born of water and the Spirit. Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit. You should not be surprised at my saying, ‘You must be born again.’ The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it

comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit.”

2. Romans 8:28-29 - "And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters."

John 1:14 And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.

The Word became flesh and lived among us, revealing God's glory and grace.

1. God's Grace in Christ - John 1:14

2. The Glory of God Revealed in Christ - John 1:14

1. Romans 8:3-4 - "For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do. By sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit."

2. Hebrews 1:3 - "He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power."

John 1:15 John bare witness of him, and cried, saying, This was he of whom I spake, He that cometh after me is preferred before me: for he was before me.

John is testifying to the greatness of Jesus by saying that He is preferred before him and was before him.

1. Jesus is superior to all of us and is worthy of our worship.

2. Jesus' greatness was revealed through John's testimony.

1. Philippians 2:5-11 - “Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Therefore God has highly exalted him and

bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”

2. Hebrews 1:3-4 - “He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.”

John 1:16 And of his fulness have all we received, and grace for grace.

This passage reminds us that God has blessed us with his grace and all of his fullness.

1: We should be thankful for the fullness of God's grace and all that he has given us.

2: God has blessed us with his grace and we should recognize and honor that gift.

1: Ephesians 2:8-9, "For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast."

2: James 4:6, "But he gives more grace. Therefore it says, “God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble.”

John 1:17 For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ.

This passage states that the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ.

1. The Power of Grace: How Jesus Christ Brings Transformation

2. The Importance of Truth: Rejecting Deception and Embracing Holiness

1. Romans 6:14, "For sin shall no longer be your master, because you are not under the law, but under grace."

2. John 8:32, "Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."

John 1:18 No man hath seen God at any time; the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared him.

No one has ever seen God, but Jesus has revealed Him.

1. Jesus - the Revealer of God

2. No One Has Seen God - But We Can Know Him Through Jesus

1. John 14:9 - "Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you so long, and yet you have not known Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; so how can you say, 'Show us the Father'?"

2. Colossians 1:15 - He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation.

John 1:19 And this is the record of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, Who art thou?

John the Baptist was asked by the Jewish leaders who he was.

1. Who Are You? - Reflecting on the identity of John the Baptist as an example for our own lives

2. Answering God's Call - Exploring the importance of fulfilling one's divine purpose despite opposition

1. Isaiah 40:3 - A voice of one calling: "In the wilderness prepare the way for the Lord; make straight in the desert a highway for our God."

2. Luke 3:4, 7-8 - As it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet: "A voice of one calling in the wilderness, 'Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him. ... John said to the crowds coming out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? Produce fruit in keeping with repentance."

John 1:20 And he confessed, and denied not; but confessed, I am not the Christ.

John the Baptist acknowledges that he is not the Christ, the Messiah.

1: Knowing who you are and understanding your God-given identity.

2: Not striving to be something you are not - finding contentment in God's plan for your life.

1: Matthew 3:11-17 - John the Baptist's ministry of baptizing and preparing the way for the Messiah.

2: Philippians 4:11-13 - Finding contentment in God's will for your life.

John 1:21 And they asked him, What then? Art thou Elias? And he saith, I am not. Art thou that prophet? And he answered, No.

Some asked John the Baptist if he was the prophet Elijah or the promised prophet, and he answered no.

1) God's plan of salvation in the Old and New Testaments

2) Preparing the way for Jesus: The ministry of John the Baptist

1) Isaiah 40:3-5 - Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

2) Luke 7:24-27 - When the messengers of John had left, Jesus began to speak to the crowds concerning John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind? But what did you go out to see? A man clothed in soft garments? Indeed, those who are gorgeously appareled and live in luxury are in kings' courts.

John 1:22 Then said they unto him, Who art thou? that we may give an answer to them that sent us. What sayest thou of thyself?

John is asked to identify himself and explain his purpose.

1. We must be prepared to explain our faith and purpose in life.

2. We must be confident in our identity in Christ.

1. Isaiah 43:10-11 - "You are my witnesses," declares the Lord, "and my servant whom I have chosen, that you may know and believe me and understand that I am He. Before me no god was formed, nor shall there be any after me.

2. Ephesians 2:10 - For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

John 1:23 He said, I am the voice of one crying in the wilderness, Make straight the way of the Lord, as said the prophet Esaias.

John the Baptist proclaims a prophecy from Isaiah, declaring himself the voice of one crying in the wilderness to make straight the way of the Lord.

1. The Prophetic Call of John the Baptist - Exploring the fulfillment of Isaiah's prophecy.

2. The Voice of God in the Wilderness - Examining the revelations of God in unexpected places.

1. Isaiah 40:3-5 - The context of the prophecy fulfilled by John the Baptist.

2. Matthew 3:1-3 - John's proclamation of repentance and baptism in the Jordan River.

John 1:24 And they which were sent were of the Pharisees.

This passage states that those who were sent by the Pharisees were doing so on their behalf.

1. Living out our Faith with Boldness: Learning from the Example of the Pharisees

2. The Power of Witnessing: Standing Up for What We Believe

1. Mark 2:16-17 - And when the scribes and Pharisees saw him eat with publicans and sinners, they said unto his disciples, How is it that he eateth and drinketh with publicans and sinners?

2. Matthew 23:23 - Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For ye pay tithe of

mint and anise and cummin, and have omitted the weightier matters of the law, judgment, mercy, and faith: these ought ye to have done, and not to leave the other undone.

John 1:25 And they asked him, and said unto him, Why baptizest thou then, if thou be not that Christ, nor Elias, neither that prophet?

John the Baptist is asked why he is baptizing if he is not the Messiah, Elijah or the prophet.

1. The Power of Baptism: Exploring the Significance of John the Baptist's Mission

2. The Identity of John the Baptist and His Role in the Kingdom of Heaven

1. Matthew 3:11-13 - "I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance: but he that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and with fire: Whose fan is in his hand, and he will throughly purge his floor, and gather his wheat into the garner; but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire."

2. Luke 3:15-17 - "And as the people were in expectation, and all men mused in their hearts of John, whether he were the Christ, or not; John answered, saying unto them all, I indeed baptize you with water; but one mightier than I cometh, the latchet of whose shoes I am not worthy to unloose: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost and with fire: Whose fan is in his hand, and he will throughly purge his floor, and will gather the wheat into his garner; but the chaff he will burn with fire unquenchable."

John 1:26 John answered them, saying, I baptize with water: but there standeth one among you, whom ye know not;

John is introducing Jesus as the one who will baptize with the Holy Spirit.

1: Jesus is the one who gives us the power to be saved.

2: We must put our trust in Jesus and accept him as our savior.

1: Acts 2:38-39 – “Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.”

2: Romans 10:9-10 – “If you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.”

John 1:27 He it is, who coming after me is preferred before me, whose shoe's latchet I am not worthy to unloose.

This passage describes Jesus' greatness and humility, as John the Baptist acknowledges that he is not worthy to perform even the most menial task for Jesus.

1. The Depths of Humility: Understanding Jesus' Example

2. The Highness of Greatness: Acknowledging Jesus' Preeminence

1. Philippians 2:5-8 - Jesus’ example of humility

2. Isaiah 9:6-7 - Jesus’ greatness and preeminence

John 1:28 These things were done in Bethabara beyond Jordan, where John was baptizing.

John the Baptist was baptizing in Bethabara beyond the Jordan river.

1. The Power of Baptism: How John the Baptist's Work is Still Relevant Today

2. The Importance of Following God's Call: Lessons Learned from John the Baptist

1. Matthew 3:16-17, "As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. 17 And a voice from heaven said, 'This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased.'"

2. Isaiah 40:3, "A voice of one calling: 'In the wilderness prepare the way for the Lord; make straight in the desert a highway for our God.'"

John 1:29 The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.

John the Baptist recognized Jesus as the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.

1. "The Lamb of God: Salvation Through Jesus"

2. "John the Baptist: A Faithful Witness"

1. Isaiah 53:6 - All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.

2. John 3:16 - For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

John 1:30 This is he of whom I said, After me cometh a man which is preferred before me: for he was before me.

John the Baptist testifies to Jesus' superiority over him.

1: Jesus is Greater than All of Us

2: Jesus Came Before Us All

1: Colossians 1:15-17 He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together.

2: Philippians 2:5-7 Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men.

John 1:31 And I knew him not: but that he should be made manifest to Israel, therefore am I come baptizing with water.

John the Baptist had come to baptize with water so that Jesus would be made manifest to Israel.

1: Jesus is the manifestation of God's love and grace.

2: John the Baptist's mission was to serve as a messenger of Christ's coming.

1: Isaiah 40:3-5 - A voice of one calling: “In the wilderness prepare the way for the Lord; make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

2: Malachi 3:1 - “See, I will send my messenger, who will prepare the way before me. Then suddenly the Lord you are seeking will come to his temple; the messenger of the covenant, whom you desire, will come,” says the Lord Almighty.

John 1:32 And John bare record, saying, I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it abode upon him.

John the Baptist witnessed the Holy Spirit descending from Heaven like a dove and resting upon Jesus.

1. The Gift of the Holy Spirit: How God Empowers Us for Service

2. The Significance of Jesus' Baptism: A New Era of Divine Power

1. Luke 3:22 - "And the Holy Spirit descended in bodily form like a dove upon Him, and a voice came from heaven which said, “You are My beloved Son; in You I am well pleased.”

2. Acts 2:3-4 - "Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance."

John 1:33 And I knew him not: but he that sent me to baptize with water, the same said unto me, Upon whom thou shalt see the Spirit descending, and remaining on him, the same is he which baptizeth with the Holy Ghost.

John the Baptist did not recognize Jesus, but was told by God that the one on whom he saw the Spirit descend and remain was the one who would baptize with the Holy Spirit.

1. Jesus, the Anointed One Who Baptizes with the Holy Spirit

2. The Power of Recognizing the Messiah

1. Isaiah 11:2-3 - The Spirit of the Lord will rest on him - the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.

2. Acts 2:1-4 - On the day of Pentecost, the Holy Spirit descended on the disciples in the form of tongues of fire.

John 1:34 And I saw, and bare record that this is the Son of God.

John proclaims Jesus as the Son of God.

1. God has revealed His Son to the world.

2. Jesus is the manifestation of God's love and grace.

1. Romans 8:32 "He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things?"

2. Galatians 4:4-5 "But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons."

John 1:35 Again the next day after John stood, and two of his disciples;

John announced the coming of the Messiah and called for repentance.

1. Recognizing the Coming of the Messiah and Preparing for His Arrival

2. Following John's Example of Discipleship

1. Luke 3:3-6 - John the Baptist's call to repentance

2. John 4:1-3 - Jesus' call to His disciples to follow Him

John 1:36 And looking upon Jesus as he walked, he saith, Behold the Lamb of God!

John the Baptist saw Jesus walking and declared Him to be the Lamb of God.

1. The Lamb of God: The Perfect Sacrifice

2. Seeing Jesus: A Call to Belief

1. Isaiah 53:7 - "He was oppressed and afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth; he was led like a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before its shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth."

2. 1 Peter 1:18-19 - "For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your ancestors, but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect."

John 1:37 And the two disciples heard him speak, and they followed Jesus.

John's two disciples heard Jesus speak and chose to follow Him.

1: God's call is powerful and can move us to action.

2: We must choose whether we will respond to God's call or ignore it.

1: Isaiah 6:8 - Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, “Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?” And I said, “Here am I. Send me!”

2: Luke 9:23 - Then he said to them all: “Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me.”

John 1:38 Then Jesus turned, and saw them following, and saith unto them, What seek ye? They said unto him, Rabbi, (which is to say, being interpreted, Master,) where dwellest thou?

Jesus asked the disciples what they were seeking and they responded by asking where He was staying.

1: We should always be ready to answer Jesus' call and be willing to follow Him.

2: We should not be afraid to humbly ask Jesus questions and seek His guidance.

1: Luke 9:23 - And he said to them all, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me.

2: John 15:4-5 - Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me. I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.

John 1:39 He saith unto them, Come and see. They came and saw where he dwelt, and abode with him that day: for it was about the tenth hour.

John invites two of his disciples to come and see where he dwelt, and they stayed with him for the rest of the day.

1. The Invitation of Jesus: Come and See

2. Abode with Christ: Abiding in the Lord

Cross-

1. Matthew 11:28-29 - Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.

2. John 15:4-5 - Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.

John 1:40 One of the two which heard John speak, and followed him, was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother.

Andrew was one of the two who heard John's teachings and chose to follow him.

1: We should be open to hearing God's word and be willing to follow Him.

2: We can look to Andrew's example of courage and willingness to follow Jesus.

1: Matthew 4:19 - "And he saith unto them, Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men."

2: John 15:14 - "Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you."

John 1:41 He first findeth his own brother Simon, and saith unto him, We have found the Messias, which is, being interpreted, the Christ.

Simon finds out that Jesus is the Messiah.

1. The Joy of Sharing Good News

2. Who Is the Messiah?

1. Acts 10:38 - "How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him."

2. Isaiah 9:6-7 - "For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this."

John 1:42 And he brought him to Jesus. And when Jesus beheld him, he said, Thou art Simon the son of Jona: thou shalt be called Cephas, which is by interpretation, A stone.

John is introducing Simon to Jesus, and Jesus bestows upon him the name "Cephas" which means "stone".

1: Jesus has the power to give us a new identity, and that identity is stronger than any earthly name.

2: Jesus offers us a secure foundation, no matter what our past holds.

1: Isaiah 28:16 - Therefore thus says the Lord God, “Behold, I am the one who has laid as a foundation in Zion, a stone, a tested stone, a precious cornerstone, of a sure foundation: whoever believes will not be in haste.

2: Matthew 7:24–25 - “Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock. And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on the rock.

John 1:43 The day following Jesus would go forth into Galilee, and findeth Philip, and saith unto him, Follow me.

Jesus calls Philip to follow Him.

1: Following Jesus means seeking Him first in all things.

2: Obedience to Jesus is essential to our growth in faith.

1: Matthew 6:33 - “But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.”

2: Romans 12:2 - “Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.”

John 1:44 Now Philip was of Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter.

Philip, one of the original disciples, was from Bethsaida.

1. The Importance of Community: A Study of Philip

2. The Power of Invitation: How Jesus Called Philip

1. Matthew 4:18-20 - When Jesus saw two brothers, Simon (Peter) and Andrew, fishing by the sea, He called them to follow Him.

2. Luke 5:1-11 - Jesus invites Simon (Peter) and his companions to fish in a different place, where they catch an abundance of fish.

John 1:45 Philip findeth Nathanael, and saith unto him, We have found him, of whom Moses in the law, and the prophets, did write, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.

Philip tells Nathanael that they have found Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph, whom Moses and the prophets wrote about in the law.

1. Jesus is the fulfillment of the prophecies of the Old Testament.

2. Jesus is the promised Messiah from Nazareth.

1. Isaiah 7:14 - Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.

2. Micah 5:2 - But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting.

John 1:46 And Nathanael said unto him, Can there any good thing come out of Nazareth? Philip saith unto him, Come and see.

Nathanael has doubts about Jesus coming from Nazareth, but Philip tells him to "Come and see" for himself.

1. "Come and See: Testifying to Jesus' Goodness"

2. "Can Any Good Thing Come Out of Nazareth?: Overcoming Doubts in Faith"

1. James 1:5-8 - "If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him"

2. Romans 8:28 - "And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose."

John 1:47 Jesus saw Nathanael coming to him, and saith of him, Behold an Israelite indeed, in whom is no guile!

Jesus commended Nathanael for his honesty and integrity.

1. The Honest Heart: Living with Integrity

2. Being a Man of Your Word: The Power of Keeping Promises

1. Proverbs 10:9 - “Whoever walks in integrity walks securely, but he who makes his ways crooked will be found out.”

2. Luke 6:45 - "The good person out of the good treasure of his heart produces good, and the evil person out of his evil treasure produces evil, for out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks."

John 1:48 Nathanael saith unto him, Whence knowest thou me? Jesus answered and said unto him, Before that Philip called thee, when thou wast under the fig tree, I saw thee.

Nathanael was astounded to discover that Jesus knew him before Philip came to call him. Jesus saw him while he was under the fig tree, and Nathanael recognized Jesus as the promised Messiah.

1. God's knowledge is greater than our own.

2. Jesus is the promised Messiah.

1. Psalm 139:1-2 - "O LORD, you have searched me and known me! You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from afar."

2. John 14:6 - "Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."

John 1:49 Nathanael answered and saith unto him, Rabbi, thou art the Son of God; thou art the King of Israel.

Nathanael declared Jesus as the Son of God and the King of Israel.

1: Jesus is the King of Kings and Lord of Lords

2: Rejoice in the Authority of Jesus

1: Colossians 2:9-10 - For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, and you have been filled in him, who is the head of all rule and authority.

2: Philippians 2:11 - and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

John 1:50 Jesus answered and said unto him, Because I said unto thee, I saw thee under the fig tree, believest thou? thou shalt see greater things than these.

Jesus proclaimed that he had seen Nathanael under the fig tree, and that he would see even greater things.

1. Faith in Jesus leads us to a life of greater things.

2. Believe in Jesus and you will experience even more than you can imagine.

1. Isaiah 11:6-9 – The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them.

2. Psalm 34:8 – O taste and see that the Lord is good: blessed is the man that trusteth in him.

John 1:51 And he saith unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Hereafter ye shall see heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of man.

John is speaking to Nathanael and telling him that he will see heaven open and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man.

1. "Heaven is Open: the Promise of Christ"

2. "The Angels of God: Ascending and Descending"

1. Hebrews 1:14 - “Are they not all ministering spirits sent out to serve for the sake of

those who are to inherit salvation?”

2. Luke 2:15 - “When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let’s go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.”

John 2 recounts the story of Jesus' first miracle at a wedding in Cana and His cleansing of the temple in Jerusalem.

1st Paragraph: The chapter begins with Jesus, His mother Mary, and His disciples attending a wedding in Cana. When they ran out of wine, Mary informed Jesus about it. Despite initially responding that His hour had not yet come, He instructed the servants to fill six stone jars with water. When they drew some out and took it to the master of the banquet, he found that it was turned into fine wine. This was Jesus' first recorded miracle revealing His glory leading disciples believe Him (John 2:1-11).

2nd Paragraph: After this, He went down to Capernaum with his mother brothers disciples stayed few days there but as Jewish Passover approaching went up Jerusalem (John 2:12-13). In Jerusalem He found people selling cattle sheep doves others sitting at tables exchanging money temple courts filled righteous anger made whip cords drove all from temple courts both sheep cattle scattered coins money changers overturned tables told those sold doves 'Get these out here! Stop turning my Father’s house into market!' fulfilling prophecy passion zeal your house will consume me (John 2:14-17).

3rd Paragraph: The Jews then demanded a sign from Him to justify what He had done. In response, Jesus said 'Destroy this temple I will raise it again three days.' They thought He referred physical temple taken forty-six years build but spoke about his body meaning became clear after resurrection when disciples remembered what he had said believed scripture words Jesus spoken (John 2:18-22). The chapter concludes noting many people saw signs performed during Passover festival believed name however did not entrust himself them for knew all people did not need any testimony about mankind for knew what was in each person indicating discerning knowledge human hearts their superficial faith based on miracles alone(John 2:23-25).

John 2:1 And the third day there was a marriage in Cana of Galilee; and the mother of Jesus was there:

Jesus attended a marriage in Cana of Galilee and his mother was present.

1. The importance of family: Jesus makes time to attend important family occasions, even in the midst of his ministry.

2. The joy of marriage: Jesus attended the marriage feast in Cana, demonstrating his approval and blessing on the union of marriage.

1. Colossians 3:12-14 - “Put on then, as God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.”

2. Ephesians 5:25-33 - “Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish. In the same way husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ does the church, because we are members of his body. “Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.” This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church. However, let each one of you love his wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.”

John 2:2 And both Jesus was called, and his disciples, to the marriage.

Jesus and his disciples were invited to a wedding.

1. The importance of celebrating moments in life.

2. The importance of being a part of community gatherings.

1. Ecclesiastes 3:4 - "A time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance."

2. Luke 15:25 - "Now his older son was in the field, and as he came and drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing."

John 2:3 And when they wanted wine, the mother of Jesus saith unto him, They have no wine.

This passage tells the story of Jesus turning water into wine at a wedding in Cana of Galilee.

1: Miracles of Jesus: The Power of a Changed Life

2: The Power of Faith: Jesus and the Wedding at Cana

1: Matthew 9:29 - "Then He touched their eyes, saying, “According to your faith let it be to you”

2: Romans 15:13 - “Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.”

John 2:4 Jesus saith unto her, Woman, what have I to do with thee? mine hour is not yet come.

Jesus rebukes the request for a miracle from a woman, as his hour has not yet come.

1. The Power of Patience: Learning from Jesus to Wait for the Right Time

2. Trust in God's Timing: Knowing that His Plans are Perfect

1. Proverbs 20:22 - "Do not say, 'I'll pay you back for this wrong!' Wait for the Lord, and he will deliver you."

2. 1 Peter 5:7 - "Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you."

John 2:5 His mother saith unto the servants, Whatsoever he saith unto you, do it.

This passage highlights the importance of obedience to Jesus' commands.

1: We must trust and obey God's will, even when it is difficult.

2: Jesus is worthy of our obedience and faith.

1: Deuteronomy 30:20 - "Love the Lord your God, obey his voice, and cling to him. For he is your life and the length of your days."

2: Hebrews 11:6 - "Without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him."

John 2:6 And there were set there six waterpots of stone, after the manner of the purifying of the Jews, containing two or three firkins apiece.

In John 2:6, Jesus performed a miracle at a wedding in Cana of Galilee by changing water into wine. There were six stone water jars, each with two or three firkins of water.

1. Jesus as a Miracle Worker: An Examination of John 2:6

2. God's Provision in Times of Need: A Study of John 2:6

1. Isaiah 55:1 - "Come, all you who are thirsty, come to the waters; and you who have no money, come, buy and eat!"

2. John 7:37-38 - On the last and greatest day of the festival, Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, “Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as Scripture has said, rivers of living water will flow from within them.”

John 2:7 Jesus saith unto them, Fill the waterpots with water. And they filled them up to the brim.

Jesus instructed the servants to fill the waterpots with water until they were full.

1. "The Power of Obedience: Filling the Waterpots with Water"

2. "God's Abundance: Filling the Waterpots to the Brim"

1. Matthew 7:24-27 - "Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock: And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock. And every one that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand: And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell: and great was the fall of it."

2. James 1:22 - "But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own

selves."

John 2:8 And he saith unto them, Draw out now, and bear unto the governor of the feast. And they bare it.

John 2:8 summarizes Jesus telling his disciples to take some of the water he had turned into wine and deliver it to the governor of the feast.

1. Jesus Is Always Ready to Provide: No matter the situation, Jesus is always ready to provide and help us.

2. The Power of Jesus: Jesus has the power to do miraculous things and can provide us with what we need.

1. Isaiah 55:1 - "Come, all you who are thirsty, come to the waters; and you who have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without cost."

2. Matthew 11:28 - "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest."

John 2:9 When the ruler of the feast had tasted the water that was made wine, and knew not whence it was: (but the servants which drew the water knew;) the governor of the feast called the bridegroom,

The governor of the feast was amazed by the transformation of water into wine and was unaware of its source.

1. God can work miracles in our lives if we remain faithful to His will.

2. We must be prepared to stand by God's side even when the world around us does not understand His ways.

1. John 10:30 - I and my Father are one.

2. Matthew 17:20 - He said to them, "Because of your little faith. For truly, I say to you, if you have faith like a grain of mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move, and nothing will be impossible for you.

John 2:10 And saith unto him, Every man at the beginning doth set forth good wine; and when men have well drunk, then that which is worse: but thou hast kept the good wine until now.

Passage Jesus turns water into wine at a wedding and it is the best wine that has been served at the wedding.

1. The Power of Jesus in our Lives - How Jesus can do the impossible in our lives

2. The Wonders of God - How God works in mysterious ways

1. Daniel 3:17-18 - Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego refusing to bow down to the idol of Nebuchadnezzar

2. Exodus 14:13-14 - When God divided the Red Sea so the Israelites could pass through safely

John 2:11 This beginning of miracles did Jesus in Cana of Galilee, and manifested forth his glory; and his disciples believed on him.

Jesus began to manifest his glory in Cana of Galilee through his first miracle, and his disciples believed in him.

1. Jesus' Miraculous Power and the Strength of Faith

2. God's Glory Revealed in Jesus

1. Hebrews 11:1 "Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen."

2. John 14:11 "Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, or else believe on account of the works themselves."

John 2:12 After this he went down to Capernaum, he, and his mother, and his brethren, and his disciples: and they continued there not many days.

Jesus and his disciples went to Capernaum after the wedding in Cana and stayed for a few days.

1: Jesus and his disciples demonstrate the importance of spending time together as a family and community.

2: Jesus teaches us to be humble and generous by following his example of sharing in the joy of others.

1: Ephesians 4:2-3 - “With all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.”

2: Colossians 3:13 - “Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.”

John 2:13 And the Jews' passover was at hand, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem,

The passage discusses Jesus going up to Jerusalem for the Jewish Passover.

1. "The Power of Jesus - A Passover Story"

2. "The Meaning of the Jewish Passover and its Significance in the Life of Jesus"

1. Luke 22:15 - “And he said unto them, With desire I have desired to eat this passover with you before I suffer.”

2. Exodus 12:1-14 - “This month shall be unto you the beginning of months: it shall be the first month of the year to you. Speak ye unto all the congregation of Israel, saying, In the tenth day of this month they shall take to them every man a lamb, according to the house of their fathers, a lamb for an house.”

John 2:14 And found in the temple those that sold oxen and sheep and doves, and the changers of money sitting:

Jesus is angered by the commercial activity in the Temple and drives out all those involved.

1. Jesus calls us to be stewards of God's House and to protect it from being desecrated.

2. God's House should be a place of worship and reverence, not a marketplace.

1. Matthew 21:12-13 - Jesus enters the Temple and drives out all those buying and selling.

2. Isaiah 56:7 - The Temple is a place of prayer for all nations.

John 2:15 And when he had made a scourge of small cords, he drove them all out of the temple, and the sheep, and the oxen; and poured out the changers' money, and overthrew the tables;

Jesus cleansed the temple of corruption.

1: True faith is not about materialism, but rather about living a life of righteousness and justice.

2: Jesus demonstrated that God's house is a place of holiness and purity and should be respected as such.

1: Matthew 21:12-13 - Jesus entered the temple and drove out those who were buying and selling there, saying “It is written, ‘My house will be a house of prayer,’ but you have made it ‘a den of robbers.’”

2: Isaiah 56:7 - “These I will bring to my holy mountain and give them joy in my house of prayer. Their burnt offerings and sacrifices will be accepted on my altar; for my house will be called a house of prayer for all nations.”

John 2:16 And said unto them that sold doves, Take these things hence; make not my Father's house an house of merchandise.

This passage describes Jesus' anger at the merchants who were selling doves in the temple and his command to them to take their merchandise away.

1. Surrendering to the Lordship of Jesus: What Does it Look Like?

2. Responding to Jesus with Obedience and Respect.

1. 1 Corinthians 10:31 - So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the

glory of God.

2. Matthew 6:24 - No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money.

John 2:17 And his disciples remembered that it was written, The zeal of thine house hath eaten me up.

The disciples remembered Jesus' zeal for God's house.

1. The Power of Zeal and Passion for the House of God

2. The Role of Disciples in Remembering and Living Out What Jesus Taught

1. Psalm 69:9 - "For zeal for your house has consumed me, and the insults of those who insult you have fallen on me."

2. Matthew 28:19-20 - "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

John 2:18 Then answered the Jews and said unto him, What sign shewest thou unto us, seeing that thou doest these things?

Jesus' authority was being challenged by the Jews.

1: We must have faith in Jesus' authority above all else.

2: We must trust that Jesus' works are true and powerful.

1: Hebrews 11:1 - Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

2: John 15:7 - If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.

John 2:19 Jesus answered and said unto them, Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.

Jesus demonstrated his divine power by promising to rebuild the temple in three days.

1. The Power of Faith: How Jesus Demonstrated His Authority

2. The Miracle of the Resurrection: What Jesus Showed Us About Life After Death

1. Matthew 28:6 - "He is not here; for he is risen, as he said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay."

2. Hebrews 4:15 - "For we do not have a High Priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in all things as we are, yet without sin."

John 2:20 Then said the Jews, Forty and six years was this temple in building, and wilt thou rear it up in three days?

The Jews were incredulous that Jesus could rebuild the temple in three days.

1: Jesus is more powerful than we can imagine, and His ability to build the temple in three days shows His power.

2: We should not be so quick to doubt the power of God, for He can do much more than we can imagine.

1: Isaiah 40:28-31 - Have you not known? Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable. He gives power to the faint, and to him who has no might he increases strength. Even youths shall faint and be weary, and young men shall fall exhausted; but they who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint.

2: Matthew 19:26 - Jesus looked at them and said, “With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.”

John 2:21 But he spake of the temple of his body.

Jesus spoke of the temple of his body, symbolizing his ultimate sacrifice for mankind.

1. The Greatest Sacrifice: Jesus' Body as a Temple

2. The Meaning of Jesus' Words: The Temple of His Body

1. Ephesians 2:19-22 - You are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God.

2. Hebrews 10:19-20 - Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus, by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain.

John 2:22 When therefore he was risen from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this unto them; and they believed the scripture, and the word which Jesus had said.

This passage speaks of how the disciples believed the scripture and the words of Jesus after He rose from the dead.

1. Jesus Is Risen: The Power of Faithful Belief

2. The Resurrection of Jesus: Repentance and Life Through Faith

1. Romans 10:9-10 - “That if you confess with your mouth, ‘Jesus is Lord,’ and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved.”

2. Romans 6:4-5 - “We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life. For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly also be united with him in a resurrection like his.”

John 2:23 Now when he was in Jerusalem at the passover, in the feast day, many believed in his name, when they saw the miracles which he did.

Many believed in Jesus when they saw the miracles He performed during the Passover in Jerusalem.

1. How a Changed Heart Brings Belief in Jesus

2. The Power of Miracles in Jesus' Ministry

1. John 4:48-50 "Then said Jesus unto him, Except ye see signs and wonders, ye will not believe. The nobleman saith unto him, Sir, come down ere my child die. Jesus saith unto him, Go thy way; thy son liveth. And the man believed the word that Jesus had spoken unto him, and he went his way."

2. Matthew 14:22-27 "And straightway Jesus constrained his disciples to get into a ship, and to go before him unto the other side, while he sent the multitudes away. And when he had sent the multitudes away, he went up into a mountain apart to pray: and when the evening was come, he was there alone. But the ship was now in the midst of the sea, tossed with waves: for the wind was contrary. And in the fourth watch of the night Jesus went unto them, walking on the sea. And when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were troubled, saying, It is a spirit; and they cried out for fear. But straightway Jesus spake unto them, saying, Be of good cheer; it is I; be not afraid. And Peter answered him and said, Lord, if it be thou, bid me come unto thee on the water."

John 2:24 But Jesus did not commit himself unto them, because he knew all men,

Jesus did not trust the people around him, understanding that all people can be dishonest.

1: Don't be too quick to trust others, for we may be misled.

2: Be aware of the danger of being deceived by the people around us.

1: Proverbs 3:5-6 - Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.

2: Philippians 4:8 - Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things.

John 2:25 And needed not that any should testify of man: for he knew what was in man.

John is emphasizing that Jesus knows the hearts of people and does not need man's testimony to know what is in them.

1. God Knows Our Hearts - How Knowing God's Wisdom Can Change Our Lives

2. Jesus Understands Our Struggles - Learning From Our Mistakes and Experiences

1. 1 Samuel 16:7 - “But the Lord said to Samuel, “Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him. For the Lord sees not as man sees: man looks on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart.”

2. Jeremiah 17:10 - “I the Lord search the heart and test the mind, to give every man according to his ways, according to the fruit of his deeds.”

John 3 covers the conversation between Jesus and Nicodemus about being born again, John the Baptist's testimony about Jesus' supremacy, and a discourse on God's love for the world.

1st Paragraph: The chapter begins with Nicodemus, a Pharisee and member of the Jewish ruling council, coming to Jesus at night. He acknowledged that Jesus is a teacher who has come from God as no one could perform signs he does unless God were with him. In response, Jesus introduced the concept of being born again or born from above stating 'Very truly I tell you no one can see kingdom God unless they are born again.' Despite Nicodemus' confusion over this metaphorical language, Jesus elaborated that it referred to spiritual birth through water and Spirit contrasting physical birth. He further explained heavenly things including His own descent ascent Son Man so whoever believes may have eternal life (John 3:1-15).

2nd Paragraph: The most famous verse in this chapter follows where Jesus declares 'For God so loved world gave his one only Son whoever believes him shall not perish but have eternal life.' This emphasizes not condemnation but salvation through belief in Him for those who do not believe already stand condemned because they have not believed in name of God’s one only Son light has come into world people loved darkness instead light because their deeds were evil (John 3:16-21).

3rd Paragraph: The chapter concludes with John Baptist's testimony when he was questioned by his disciples about all going to Jesus instead him. He reiterated his role as merely preparer way Christ likening himself friend bridegroom rejoices bridegroom's voice thus declaring 'He must become greater I must become less.' Further he testified origin from above earthly heavenly nature superiority affirmed whoever accepts his words acknowledges truthfulness divine origin mission wrath remains on those who reject Him emphasizing belief obedience central receiving eternal life (John 3:22-36).

John 3:1 There was a man of the Pharisees, named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews:

Nicodemus was a Pharisee and a ruler of the Jews.

1: Jesus encounters all types of people, regardless of their social status.

2: Everyone is welcome at the feet of Jesus and can receive His grace and mercy.

1: Luke 15:1-2, "Now the tax collectors and sinners were all gathering around to hear Jesus. But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law muttered, 'This man welcomes sinners and eats with them.'"

2: Romans 10:13, "For 'everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.'"

John 3:2 The same came to Jesus by night, and said unto him, Rabbi, we know that thou art a teacher come from God: for no man can do these miracles that thou doest, except God be with him.

John was a man who recognized Jesus as a teacher sent from God, because of the miracles that Jesus could perform.

1. God's power is evident in Jesus' miracles.

2. We should strive to recognize Jesus as a teacher sent from God.

1. John 1:14 - And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.

2. Mark 16:20 - And they went forth, and preached every where, the Lord working with them, and confirming the word with signs following. Amen.

John 3:3 Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.

Jesus teaches Nicodemus that one must be born again to enter the Kingdom of God.

1: What does it mean to be born again?

2: Living a life of faith and repentance through Jesus Christ.

1: Acts 2:37-38 - When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, "Brothers, what shall we do?" Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

2: 1 John 5:1-5 - Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, and everyone who loves the Father loves his child as well. This is how we know that we love the children of God: by loving God and carrying out his commands. In fact, this is love for God: to keep his commands. And his commands are not burdensome, foreveryone born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith. Who is it that overcomes the world? Only the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God.

John 3:4 Nicodemus saith unto him, How can a man be born when he is old? can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born?

Nicodemus asked Jesus how a man can be born again when he is old.

1. "Born Again: A New Life In Christ"

2. "The Renewal of the Spirit"

1. Titus 3:5 - "He saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit."

2. Ezekiel 36:26 - "And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh."

John 3:5 Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.

Salvation requires a spiritual rebirth.

1. “Born Again: How the Spirit Transforms Us”

2. “God’s Kingdom: Entering Through the Door of Grace”

1. Titus 3:4-5 - “But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy”

2. Galatians 2:20 - “I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.”

John 3:6 That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.

Jesus teaches that people must be born of the Spirit in order to enter the kingdom of God.

1. "The Birth of the Spirit: Becoming a Member of God's Kingdom"

2. "The Necessity of Spiritual Rebirth"

1. Ephesians 2:8-9 - "For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast."

2. Titus 3:5 - "He saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit."

John 3:7 Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again.

This passage speaks of the need for spiritual rebirth.

1. The Power of a New Birth: How Being Born Again Changes Everything

2. The Necessity of the New Birth: Understanding the Spiritual Rebirth

1. Romans 6:4 - Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.

2. Titus 3:5 - Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit.

John 3:8 The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: so is every one that is born of the Spirit.

The wind of the Spirit is unpredictable and mysterious, yet it has profound effects on those who are born of it.

1. The Unpredictable yet Powerful Wind of the Spirit

2. Exploring the Mystery and Majesty of the Spirit

1. John 4:4-24 - Jesus converses with the Samaritan woman about the living water of the Holy Spirit

2. Acts 2:1-13 - The coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost and the speaking in tongues that followed.

John 3:9 Nicodemus answered and said unto him, How can these things be?

Nicodemus questions Jesus about the way of salvation.

1. The Power of Faith in Jesus: How Believing in Him Brings Salvation

2. The Uniqueness of Jesus: Why His Way Is the Only Way to Salvation

1. John 3:16 - "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."

2. Romans 10:13 - "For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved."

John 3:10 Jesus answered and said unto him, Art thou a master of Israel, and knowest not these things?

John 3:10 summarizes Jesus's response to a teacher of Israel who didn't understand his teachings: "Are you a teacher of Israel and don't know these things?"

1. The Power of Knowing: A lesson from Jesus on the importance of understanding the basics of faith.

2. Ignorance is Not Bliss: A reminder from Jesus that knowledge is essential to living a life of faith.

1. Matthew 11:29 - "Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls."

2. Proverbs 1:7 - "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and instruction."

John 3:11 Verily, verily, I say unto thee, We speak that we do know, and testify that we have seen; and ye receive not our witness.

Jesus is speaking to Nicodemus, emphasizing the importance of believing in the testimony of Jesus and the Father.

1: Believe in the testimony of Jesus and the Father, for only through them will you receive eternal life.

2: Receive the words of Jesus and the Father, for they are the path to salvation and eternal life.

1: Romans 10:9 - That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.

2: John 1:12 - But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name.

John 3:12 If I have told you earthly things, and ye believe not, how shall ye believe, if I

tell you of heavenly things?

Jesus asks his audience how they can believe in the heavenly things he speaks of if they do not believe in the earthly things he has already told them.

1. Have Faith in God's Word

2. Believe in the Lord and His Promises

1. Hebrews 11:1 - "Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen."

2. Romans 10:17 - "So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ."

John 3:13 And no man hath ascended up to heaven, but he that came down from heaven, even the Son of man which is in heaven.

No one has ascended to heaven except Jesus, who came down from heaven.

1. The Uniqueness of Jesus: Understanding the Truth that Jesus is the Only Way to Heaven

2. Jesus is the Only Way to Heaven: Encouraging Faith in His Promise

1. John 14:6 - Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

2. John 10:30 - I and the Father are one.

John 3:14 And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up:

The passage speaks of the need to lift up the Son of Man, just as Moses had lifted up the serpent in the wilderness.

1. The importance of humbly lifting up the Son of Man.

2. The symbolism of lifting up the serpent in the wilderness.

1. Numbers 21:8-9 – “And the Lord said unto Moses, Make thee a fiery serpent, and set it upon a pole: and it shall come to pass, that every one that is bitten, when he looketh upon it, shall live. And Moses made a serpent of brass, and put it upon a pole, and it came to pass, that if a serpent had bitten any man, when he beheld the serpent of brass, he lived.”

2. Isaiah 45:22 – “Look unto me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth: for I am God, and there is none else.”

John 3:15 That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life.

This passage speaks of the salvation offered to those who believe in Jesus Christ, with the promise of eternal life.

1. The Gift of Eternal Life: A Study on John 3:15

2. Faith and Salvation: Finding Salvation Through Belief in Christ

1. John 5:24, “Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life.”

2. Romans 6:23, “For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.”

John 3:16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

God loves the world so much that He gave His only Son, Jesus Christ, so that whoever believes in Him will not perish but will have eternal life.

1. The Unfathomable Love of God

2. The Gift of Eternal Life

1. 1 John 4:8-10 – “Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. In

this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins."

2. Romans 5:8-10 – "But God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God. For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life."

John 3:17 For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.

God sent His Son to save the world, not condemn it.

1: Rejoice: Christ Came to Save Us, Not Condemn Us

2: God's Love for Us: He Sent His Son to Save us

1: Romans 5:8 - But God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

2: Ephesians 2:4-5 - But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ.

John 3:18 He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

Believers are not condemned, but those who do not believe are already condemned for not believing in the name of Jesus.

1. Faith in Jesus is the Pathway to Salvation

2. Rejecting Jesus Leads to Condemnation

1. Romans 10:9 - "If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved."

2. Hebrews 11:6 - “And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.”

John 3:19 And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.

Men reject the truth of God and choose darkness instead, because of their evil deeds.

1. Sin leads to darkness and alienation from God

2. God's light reveals our sin and brings redemption

1. Romans 1:18-20 - For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, 19 because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown it to them. 20 For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse.

2. Ephesians 5:8-14 - For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light 9 (for the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness, righteousness, and truth), 10 finding out what is acceptable to the Lord. 11 And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose them. 12 For it is shameful even to speak of those things which are done by them in secret. 13 But all things that are exposed are made manifest by the light, for whatever makes manifest is light. 14 Therefore He says: “Awake, you who sleep, Arise from the dead, And Christ will give you light.”

John 3:20 For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reproved.

Everyone who does evil hates the light and avoids it to hide their wrongdoings.

1: Let us not let our sins keep us away from the light but instead accept it and change our ways.

2: We may try to hide our wrongdoings, but the light of truth will always reveal them.

1: Ephesians 5:13-14 - “But when anything is exposed by the light, it becomes visible, for anything that becomes visible is light.”

2: James 1:22-25 - “Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like someone who looks at his face in a mirror and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like. But whoever looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues in it—not forgetting what they have heard, but doing it—they will be blessed in what they do.”

John 3:21 But he that doeth truth cometh to the light, that his deeds may be made manifest, that they are wrought in God.

John 3:21 encourages people to do truth and come to the light so their deeds can be seen as being done in God.

1: We are all called to do what is right, and when we do, God will shine his light upon us and show the world our good works.

2: We should not be afraid of the light, but instead embrace it, knowing that God is glorifying us for our good works.

1: Matthew 5:16 - “Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.”

2: Ephesians 5:8-10 - “For ye were sometimes darkness, but now are ye light in the Lord: walk as children of light: (For the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness and righteousness and truth;) Proving what is acceptable unto the Lord.”

John 3:22 After these things came Jesus and his disciples into the land of Judaea; and there he tarried with them, and baptized.

The disciples of Jesus traveled to the land of Judaea and Jesus stayed with them and baptized.

1. The importance of following Jesus and His teachings.

2. Serving others through baptism.

1. John 14:15 - “If you love me, you will keep my commandments.”

2. Matthew 28:19-20 - “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.”

John 3:23 And John also was baptizing in Aenon near to Salim, because there was much water there: and they came, and were baptized.

John baptized in Aenon near Salim due to the abundance of water.

1: God provides us with the resources we need for His work.

2: We should be willing to go where God leads us to fulfill His will.

1: Isaiah 43:19-20 “Behold, I will do a new thing; now it shall spring forth; shall ye not know it? I will even make a way in the wilderness, and rivers in the desert.”

2: Matthew 10:7-8 “And as ye go, preach, saying, The kingdom of heaven is at hand. Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out devils: freely ye have received, freely give.”

John 3:24 For John was not yet cast into prison.

John was preaching the gospel of Jesus Christ before his imprisonment.

1: Trust in the Lord, and He will provide a safe haven for you, even in the midst of adversity.

2: God's plan for us is greater than the plans of men. We must continue to persevere through trials and tribulations, trusting in His promises.

1: Isaiah 26:3 - You will keep in perfect peace all who trust in you, all whose thoughts are fixed on you!

2: Romans 8:28 - And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them.

John 3:25 Then there arose a question between some of John's disciples and the Jews about purifying.

John's disciples were asking the Jews questions about purification.

1: We can gain clarity through respectful dialogue with those with different perspectives.

2: We should approach conversations with humility, knowing that we may not have all the answers.

1: James 1:5 - If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him.

2: Colossians 2:8 - See to it that no one takes you captive by philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the world, and not according to Christ.

John 3:26 And they came unto John, and said unto him, Rabbi, he that was with thee beyond Jordan, to whom thou barest witness, behold, the same baptizeth, and all men come to him.

John was asked about Jesus, to whom he had borne witness, and who was baptizing many people.

1. The Power of Testimony: How Your Words Can Make a Difference

2. The Call to Follow Jesus: A Response to the Invitation

1. Acts 4:18-20 - And they called them, and commanded them not to speak at all nor teach in the name of Jesus.

2. Matthew 28:18-20 - And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost.

John 3:27 John answered and said, A man can receive nothing, except it be given him from heaven.

John emphasizes the importance of relying on God's grace for all things.

1: We must recognize our dependence on God and rely on His grace for all of our needs.

2: To receive the blessings of God, we must acknowledge our reliance on Him and accept His grace.

1: Ephesians 2:8-9 - "For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast."

2: Romans 11:36 - "For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be glory forever. Amen."

John 3:28 Ye yourselves bear me witness, that I said, I am not the Christ, but that I am sent before him.

The passage reveals that John the Baptist denies being the Messiah, but rather that he is sent before Him.

1: We must always be mindful of our own purpose in life and not attempt to fill roles that are not meant for us.

2: We must follow the example of John the Baptist, who humbly accepted his role of preparation for the coming of the Messiah.

1: Philippians 2:3-5 - "Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others. In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus."

2: Isaiah 40:3 - "A voice of one calling: “In the wilderness prepare the way for the Lord; make straight in the desert a highway for our God."

John 3:29 He that hath the bride is the bridegroom: but the friend of the bridegroom, which standeth and heareth him, rejoiceth greatly because of the bridegroom's voice: this my joy therefore is fulfilled.

The joy of being a friend to the bridegroom is fulfilled when one hears the bridegroom's voice.

1. The Joy of Friendship: Being a Friend to the Bridegroom

2. Celebrating with Joy: Rejoicing in the Bridegroom's Voice

1. John 15:14-15, "Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you. Henceforth I call you not servants; for the servant knoweth not what his lord doeth: but I have called you friends; for all things that I have heard of my Father I have made known unto you."

2. Proverbs 17:17, "A friend loveth at all times, and a brother is born for adversity."

John 3:30 He must increase, but I must decrease.

This passage emphasizes the importance of humility and self-sacrifice, showing that Jesus must be given the highest priority above all else.

1. "The Power of Humility in the Christian Life"

2. "The Priority of Jesus in Our Lives"

1. Philippians 2:3-5 - "Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus."

2. James 4:10 - "Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you."

John 3:31 He that cometh from above is above all: he that is of the earth is earthly, and speaketh of the earth: he that cometh from heaven is above all.

He that cometh from heaven is greater than all else. 1: God is the source of all true greatness, and we should seek to live in accordance with his will. 2: Our lives should reflect the heavenly perspective, rather than the earthly one. 1: Matthew 6:9-10 "Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven." 2: James 4:7-8 "Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you."

John 3:32 And what he hath seen and heard, that he testifieth; and no man receiveth his

testimony.

John is testifying to what he has seen and heard, but no one is accepting his testimony.

1. The Power of Unwavering Faith in the Face of Doubt

2. The Necessity of Witnessing for the Kingdom of God

1. Hebrews 11:6 - “And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him.”

2. Acts 1:8 - “But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

John 3:33 He that hath received his testimony hath set to his seal that God is true.

This verse emphasizes that those who accept God's testimony also confirm that God is true.

1. "Believing in God's Testimony"

2. "God's Truth: A Foundation for Our Lives"

1. Romans 10:9-10 - "If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved."

2. 2 Timothy 2:13 - "If we are faithless, he remains faithful, for he cannot disown himself."

John 3:34 For he whom God hath sent speaketh the words of God: for God giveth not the Spirit by measure unto him.

God has given the prophet Jesus the Spirit without limits.

1. The Unmeasured Gift of God: How Jesus' Abundant Love Transforms Us

2. The Unfathomable Power of the Spirit: How Jesus' Divine Gifts Strengthen Us

1. Jeremiah 31:3 - "I have loved you with an everlasting love; and I have drawn you with lovingkindness."

2. Romans 8:38-39 - "For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord."

John 3:35 The Father loveth the Son, and hath given all things into his hand.

This passage reveals that God loves Jesus and has given him authority over all creation.

1: God's Love for Jesus is Unconditional

2: Jesus is the Lord of All Creation

1: Jeremiah 31:3 - "The Lord hath appeared of old unto me, saying, Yea, I have loved thee with an everlasting love: therefore with lovingkindness have I drawn thee."

2: Colossians 1:15-17 - "Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature: For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him: And he is before all things, and by him all things consist."

John 3:36 He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.

Those who believe in Jesus have eternal life, while those who do not believe in Him will not have life, but instead face the wrath of God.

1. "Living in the Light of Eternal Life"

2. "The Reality of God's Wrath"

1. Romans 6:23 - For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

2. John 17:3 - And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent.

John 4 narrates the encounter between Jesus and the Samaritan woman at the well, His teaching about spiritual harvest, and the healing of an official's son.

1st Paragraph: The chapter begins with Jesus leaving Judea for Galilee, choosing to go through Samaria. There He encountered a Samaritan woman drawing water from Jacob's well. Despite cultural barriers, He asked her for a drink and proceeded to speak about living water leading to eternal life. When she expressed interest in this water, Jesus revealed her personal life details indicating His supernatural knowledge eventually revealing Himself as Messiah (John 4:1-26).

2nd Paragraph: After this encounter, His disciples returned surprised find Him talking with a woman yet no one questioned it. Instead they urged Him to eat but He responded 'I have food eat you know nothing about.' This puzzled them but He clarified that His food was doing will of Him who sent Him finishing His work introduced metaphorical language sowing reaping harvest eternal life indicating readiness people receive gospel (John 4:27-38).

3rd Paragraph: Upon returning to town, many Samaritans believed in Him because of the woman's testimony then because of his words when they heard him themselves declaring indeed Savior world (John 4:39-42). Afterwards Jesus left Samaria went back Galilee despite prophet having no honor own country accepted there went Cana where had turned water into wine. There royal official whose son was sick Capernaum came asked him come heal his son dying without leaving place he was Jesus said 'Go your son will live.' The man took Jesus at his word departed while still on way servants met him news boy living faith healing power Christ displayed again concluding chapter (John 4:43-54).

John 4:1 When therefore the LORD knew how the Pharisees had heard that Jesus made and baptized more disciples than John,

Jesus' ministry of baptizing more disciples than John challenged the traditional expectations of the Pharisees.

1. Jesus' Ministry: Challenging Tradition

2. Jesus' Baptism: A Call to Follow

1. Mark 1:14-15 - "Now after John was arrested, Jesus came into Galilee, proclaiming the gospel of God, and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel.”

2. Acts 5:27-29 - “When they had brought them, they set them before the council. And the high priest questioned them, saying, “We strictly charged you not to teach in this name, yet here you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching and you intend to bring this man's blood upon us.” But Peter and the apostles answered, “We must obey God rather than men.”

John 4:2 (Though Jesus himself baptized not, but his disciples,)

John's Gospel chapter 4 verse 2 emphasizes Jesus' mission of teaching and sharing the gospel rather than baptizing himself.

1. Jesus' Mission: Teaching and Sharing the Gospel

2. The Power of a Church Community Working in Unity

1. Romans 10:14-15 - "How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? And how are they to preach unless they are sent?"

2. Matthew 28:19-20 - "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you."

John 4:3 He left Judaea, and departed again into Galilee.

Jesus left Judaea and returned to Galilee to preach the gospel.

1: Jesus left Judaea to begin a mission of preaching the gospel of God.

2: Jesus left Judaea to continue his mission of preaching the good news of salvation.

1: Acts 1:8 - “But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth.”

2: Matthew 28:19-20 - “Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”

John 4:4 And he must needs go through Samaria.

The passage reveals Jesus's necessity to travel through Samaria.

1. Jesus' Obedience: The Necessity of Following God's Plan

2. Divine Direction: How Jesus' Journey Through Samaria Teaches Us to Follow the Lord's Commands

1. Matthew 7:7-11, "Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you: For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened. Or what man is there of you, whom if his son ask bread, will he give him a stone? Or if he ask a fish, will he give him a serpent? If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give good things to them that ask him?"

2. Romans 8:28, "And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose."

John 4:5 Then cometh he to a city of Samaria, which is called Sychar, near to the parcel of ground that Jacob gave to his son Joseph.

Jesus visits Sychar, a city in Samaria.

1. The Power of Generosity - Jesus' example of giving through Jacob's offering of the parcel of ground to Joseph.

2. The Power of Love - Jesus' showing of love through his visit to Samaria, a place historically despised by the Jews.

1. Genesis 48:22 - "Moreover I have given to thee one portion above thy brethren, which I

took out of the hand of the Amorite with my sword and with my bow."

2. Luke 10:25-37 - "And, behold, a certain lawyer stood up, and tempted him, saying, Master, what shall I do to inherit eternal life? He said unto him, What is written in the law? how readest thou? And he answering said, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy strength, and with all thy mind; and thy neighbour as thyself."

John 4:6 Now Jacob's well was there. Jesus therefore, being wearied with his journey, sat thus on the well: and it was about the sixth hour.

Jesus, upon being weary from his journey, stopped at Jacob's well and sat on it at around noon.

1. Weariness in our Journey - John 4:6

2. Finding Rest and Refreshment - John 4:6

1. Isaiah 40:31 - But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.

2. Hebrews 4:9-11 - There remaineth therefore a rest to the people of God. For he that is entered into his rest, he also hath ceased from his own works, as God did from his. Let us labour therefore to enter into that rest, lest any man fall after the same example of unbelief.

John 4:7 There cometh a woman of Samaria to draw water: Jesus saith unto her, Give me to drink.

The passage is about Jesus asking a Samaritan woman for a drink of water.

1. The Power of Jesus' Love and Compassion

2. The Importance of Breaking Down Barriers

1. Luke 10:25-37 - The Parable of the Good Samaritan

2. Romans 5:8 - God Demonstrates His Own Love for Us

John 4:8 (For his disciples were gone away unto the city to buy meat.)

The passage describes how Jesus was speaking to the Samaritan woman at the well, and how his disciples had gone away to the city to buy food.

1. The Power of Encountering Christ: The Story of Jesus and the Samaritan Woman

2. The Beauty of Service: Jesus' Disciples' Journey to Buy Food

1. Matthew 10:8 - "Freely you have received, freely give."

2. John 13:34-35 - "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

John 4:9 Then saith the woman of Samaria unto him, How is it that thou, being a Jew, askest drink of me, which am a woman of Samaria? for the Jews have no dealings with the Samaritans.

The woman of Samaria questions Jesus on why He, a Jew, is asking her, a Samaritan, for a drink.

1. How can we as Christians look past our differences to reach out to those we would normally not associate with?

2. How can we rely on the example of Jesus to bridge divides and create relationships with those different from us?

1. Ephesians 2:14-17 - For he himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility.

2. Romans 12:18 - If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.

John 4:10 Jesus answered and said unto her, If thou knewest the gift of God, and who it is that saith to thee, Give me to drink; thou wouldest have asked of him, and he would have

given thee living water.

Jesus offered living water to the woman at the well, showing her God's gift of grace and mercy.

1: Jesus offered living water to the woman at the well, which is a representation of the gift of grace and mercy that God offers to us.

2: The woman at the well was offered living water by Jesus, showing us the boundless grace and mercy of our Lord.

1: John 3:16, "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."

2: Ephesians 2:8-9, "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast."

John 4:11 The woman saith unto him, Sir, thou hast nothing to draw with, and the well is deep: from whence then hast thou that living water?

The woman at the well questions Jesus on where he has obtained the living water he is offering.

1. The Living Water: An Unfathomable Gift

2. What is Jesus Offering?

1. Psalm 36:9 - For with thee is the fountain of life; in thy light shall we see light.

2. Isaiah 12:3 - Therefore with joy shall ye draw water out of the wells of salvation.

John 4:12 Art thou greater than our father Jacob, which gave us the well, and drank thereof himself, and his children, and his cattle?

This passage from John 4:12 contains a question about Jesus' power in comparison to Jacob's.

1. The Power of Faith: Understanding Jesus' Authority

2. A Father's Legacy: Jacob and the Gift of the Well

1. Genesis 26:18-22 - The story of how Jacob dug the well

2. Matthew 14:22-33 - Jesus walking on water as a display of His power

John 4:13 Jesus answered and said unto her, Whosoever drinketh of this water shall thirst again:

Jesus teaches that worldly satisfaction is fleeting and only spiritual satisfaction can bring true fulfillment.

1: Jesus reminds us that worldly goods cannot bring lasting satisfaction and that only God can fill our deepest longings.

2: We must seek God to fill the voids in our lives, as only He can provide true and lasting satisfaction.

1: Matthew 6:19-21 - Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

2: Psalm 16:11 - You make known to me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

John 4:14 But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life.

The water that Jesus provides will never leave the drinker thirsty, but will be a source of everlasting life.

1. The Power of Jesus's Living Water - Exploring how Jesus's living water can bring everlasting life

2. Jesus's Invitation to Drink - Unpacking the invitation that Jesus offers to drink of His Living Water

1. Isaiah 55:1 - “Come, all you who are thirsty, come to the waters; and you who have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without cost.”

2. Revelation 22:17 - “The Spirit and the bride say, ‘Come!’ And let the one who hears say, ‘Come!’ Let the one who is thirsty come; and let the one who wishes take the free gift of the water of life.”

John 4:15 The woman saith unto him, Sir, give me this water, that I thirst not, neither come hither to draw.

The woman asked Jesus for the living water so that she would never thirst again.

1: Jesus offers us living water that can satisfy our spiritual thirst forever.

2: The woman showed her faith in Jesus by asking Him for living water.

1: Isaiah 55:1 - "Ho, every one that thirsteth, come ye to the waters, and he that hath no money; come ye, buy, and eat; yea, come, buy wine and milk without money and without price."

2: Revelation 22:17 - "And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely."

John 4:16 Jesus saith unto her, Go, call thy husband, and come hither.

The passage reveals Jesus instructing the Samaritan woman to call her husband and return.

1: Jesus is the ultimate source of guidance and comfort for us.

2: Jesus showed compassion when he instructed the Samaritan woman to call her husband.

1: Philippians 4:6-7 - "Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and

supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God."

2: John 14:27 - "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid."

John 4:17 The woman answered and said, I have no husband. Jesus said unto her, Thou hast well said, I have no husband:

The woman acknowledged that she was not married.

1. The Power of Honesty: Examining the Woman at the Well

2. Being True to Ourselves: The Example of the Woman at the Well

1. Proverbs 10:19, “When words are many, transgression is not lacking, but whoever restrains his lips is prudent."

2. 1 Peter 3:3-4, “Do not let your adorning be external—the braiding of hair and the putting on of gold jewelry, or the clothing you wear— but let your adorning be the hidden person of the heart with the imperishable beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which in God’s sight is very precious.”

John 4:18 For thou hast had five husbands; and he whom thou now hast is not thy husband: in that saidst thou truly.

The woman at the well had been married five times and was currently living with a man who was not her husband.

1. God's Unconditional Love and Redemption

2. Breaking Free from Toxic Relationships

1. Isaiah 43:25 - “I, even I, am he that blotteth out thy transgressions for mine own sake, and will not remember thy sins.”

2. 1 Corinthians 6:18 - “Flee from sexual immorality. All other sins a person commits are outside the body, but whoever sins sexually, sins against their own body.”

John 4:19 The woman saith unto him, Sir, I perceive that thou art a prophet.

The woman recognized Jesus as a prophet.

1: We should be discerning and recognize God's presence in our lives.

2: We should be willing to accept God's will even when it goes against our own.

1: John 7:40 - "When they heard these words, some of the people said, 'This really is the Prophet.'"

2: Isaiah 11:2-3 - "And the Spirit of the Lord will rest on him—the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. He will delight in obeying the Lord."

John 4:20 Our fathers worshipped in this mountain; and ye say, that in Jerusalem is the place where men ought to worship.

The passage discusses how our fathers worshipped on a mountain and how the people of Jesus' time said that Jerusalem was the place for worship.

1. The importance of worshipping God in the right place.

2. Recognizing and honoring the traditions of our fathers.

1. Deuteronomy 12:5-7; You shall seek the place that the Lord your God will choose out of all your tribes to put his name and make his habitation there.

2. Psalm 122:1-5; I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of the Lord!"

John 4:21 Jesus saith unto her, Woman, believe me, the hour cometh, when ye shall neither in this mountain, nor yet at Jerusalem, worship the Father.

This passage from John 4:21 conveys Jesus' message that worship of the Father is no longer limited to one physical location.

1. Worship of God is a Spiritual Act, Not a Physical One

2. The Power of Faith: Finding God Anywhere

1. Hebrews 11:6 - "But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him."

2. Psalm 95:6 - "O come, let us worship and bow down: let us kneel before the LORD our maker."

John 4:22 Ye worship ye know not what: we know what we worship: for salvation is of the Jews.

This passage highlights the difference between Jewish and non-Jewish worship, noting that the Jews worship with understanding, while non-Jews do not.

1. "True Worship: Knowing What We Worship"

2. "The Source of Salvation: A Jewish Heritage"

1. Isaiah 43:7 - "Everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made."

2. Romans 11:11-15 - "So I ask, did they stumble in order to fall? By no means! But through their trespass salvation has come to the Gentiles, so as to make Israel jealous. Now if their trespass means riches for the world, and if their failure means riches for the Gentiles, how much more will their full inclusion mean! Now I am speaking to you Gentiles. Inasmuch then as I am an apostle to the Gentiles, I magnify my ministry in order somehow to make my fellow Jews jealous, and thus save some of them."

John 4:23 But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him.

The Father desires worshippers to approach Him in spirit and in truth.

1. Worshipping God in Spirit and in Truth

2. Making the Most of Our Worship Experiences

1. Romans 12:1-2 - Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship.

2. James 4:8 - Come near to God and he will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded.

John 4:24 God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.

God calls for us to worship Him in spirit and truth.

1: We must come to God with sincerity of heart and be honest in our worship.

2: We must come to God with humility and reverence, understanding who He truly is.

1: Psalm 95:6-7 - “Oh come, let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker! For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand.”

2: Romans 12:1-2 - “I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.”

John 4:25 The woman saith unto him, I know that Messias cometh, which is called Christ: when he is come, he will tell us all things.

The woman in John 4:25 recognized that the Messiah, called Christ, would come and reveal all things to them.

1: Jesus is the Christ, the Messiah promised in the Old Testament, and He is here to reveal all things to us.

2: We can trust in Jesus Christ, for He is the promised Messiah who has come to reveal all things to us.

1: Isaiah 9:6 - For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.

2: Jeremiah 33:14-16 - Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will perform that good thing which I have promised unto the house of Israel and to the house of Judah. In those days, and at that time, will I cause the Branch of righteousness to grow up unto David; and he shall execute judgment and righteousness in the land. In those days shall Judah be saved, and Jerusalem shall dwell safely: and this is the name wherewith she shall be called, The LORD our righteousness.

John 4:26 Jesus saith unto her, I that speak unto thee am he.

Jesus reveals himself to the woman at the well and proclaims that he is the source of living water.

1: Jesus is the source of living water that brings us eternal life.

2: Jesus reveals himself to us and calls us to have a personal relationship with him.

1: Isaiah 12:3 - With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.

2: Jeremiah 2:13 - My people have committed two sins: They have forsaken me, the spring of living water, and have dug their own cisterns, broken cisterns that cannot hold water.

John 4:27 And upon this came his disciples, and marvelled that he talked with the woman: yet no man said, What seekest thou? or, Why talkest thou with her?

Jesus' disciples were surprised to find him speaking with a woman, but no one asked why he was doing so.

1. "The Value of Respectful Conversation: A Lesson from Jesus' Interaction with the Samaritan Woman"

2. "Gaining Wisdom from Engaging in Conversation with Others"

1. Proverbs 18:13 - "He that answereth a matter before he heareth it, it is folly and shame unto him."

2. Colossians 4:5-6 - "Walk in wisdom toward them that are without, redeeming the time. Let your speech be always with grace, seasoned with salt, that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man."

John 4:28 The woman then left her waterpot, and went her way into the city, and saith to the men,

The woman at the well encountered Jesus and left her waterpot to go and tell the people in the city about Him.

1: Jesus is the Living Water that satisfies our deepest thirst.

2: We must share the Good News of Jesus with others.

1: John 7:37-38 - On the last day of the festival, the great day, while Jesus was standing there, he shouted out, “Let anyone who is thirsty come to me, and let the one who believes in me drink.”

2: Romans 10:14-15 - How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? And how can anyone preach unless they are sent?

John 4:29 Come, see a man, which told me all things that ever I did: is not this the Christ?

The Samaritan woman was astonished by Jesus' ability to tell her all that she had done in her life and asked if He was the Christ.

1. Jesus' supernatural knowledge and ability to provide comfort and insight to all who seek Him.

2. Recognizing the divine presence of Christ in our lives.

1. Psalm 147:3 "He healeth the broken in heart, and bindeth up their wounds."

2. Luke 8:48 "And he said unto her, Daughter, be of good comfort: thy faith hath made

thee whole; go in peace."

John 4:30 Then they went out of the city, and came unto him.

The people of Sychar went out of the city and came unto Jesus.

1: Jesus is always willing to meet us wherever we are.

2: Jesus is ever-ready to meet us when we seek Him.

1: Psalm 145:18 - The Lord is near to all who call upon him, to all who call upon him in truth.

2: Acts 17:27 - that they should seek God, in the hope that they might feel their way toward him and find him.

John 4:31 In the mean while his disciples prayed him, saying, Master, eat.

Jesus was encouraged by his disciples to eat.

1: We should always be open to encouragement from those around us and be thankful for it.

2: We should be willing to put aside our own needs and take care of the needs of others.

1: Philippians 2:3-4 “Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.”

2: Galatians 6:2 “Carry each other’s burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.”

John 4:32 But he said unto them, I have meat to eat that ye know not of.

Jesus reveals to his disciples that he has a source of spiritual nourishment that is unknown to them.

1. The Bread of Life: Discovering the Hidden Source of Spiritual Nourishment.

2. Jesus: A Source of Unfathomable Abundance.

1. Isaiah 55:1-2 - “Come, all you who are thirsty, come to the waters; and you who have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without cost. Why spend money on what is not bread, and your labor on what does not satisfy?”

2. Philippians 4:19 - “And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus.”

John 4:33 Therefore said the disciples one to another, Hath any man brought him ought to eat?

Jesus expressed His divine identity when He declared to the Samaritan woman that He could provide her with living water.

1: Jesus is the source of true and lasting nourishment for our souls.

2: The power of Jesus is greater than any earthly need we may face.

1: Isaiah 55:1 - "Ho, everyone that thirsteth, come ye to the waters, and he that hath no money; come ye, buy, and eat; yea, come, buy wine and milk without money and without price."

2: John 6:35 - "And Jesus said unto them, I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst."

John 4:34 Jesus saith unto them, My meat is to do the will of him that sent me, and to finish his work.

Jesus' motivation is to do the will of God and to complete His work.

1. The importance of doing the will of God.

2. The importance of completing the work of God.

1. Matthew 6:33 - But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.

2. Colossians 3:23 - And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men.

John 4:35 Say not ye, There are yet four months, and then cometh harvest? behold, I say unto you, Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest.

The harvest is ready and the call is to look up and take action.

1: Look Up - seize the opportunity to reap the harvest for the Lord.

2: Don't Delay - the harvest is now, don't let it pass you by.

1: Ecclesiastes 9:10 - Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with all your might.

2: Matthew 9:37-38 - Then He said to His disciples, “The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Therefore, pray to the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into His harvest.”

John 4:36 And he that reapeth receiveth wages, and gathereth fruit unto life eternal: that both he that soweth and he that reapeth may rejoice together.

The passage emphasizes the joy of reaping what has been sown in the pursuit of eternal life.

1. The Joy of Sowing and Reaping in Pursuit of Eternal Life

2. Reaping the Rewards of Faith and Obedience

1. Galatians 6:7-9 – “Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap. For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life. And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up.”

2. Matthew 6:19-21 – “Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

John 4:37 And herein is that saying true, One soweth, and another reapeth.

The saying that one sows and another reaps is true.

1. The Power of Sowing and Reaping: A lesson from John 4:37

2. Investing in Others: How To Reap Blessings

1. Galatians 6:7-9 - Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap.

2. 2 Corinthians 9:6-10 - Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully.

John 4:38 I sent you to reap that whereon ye bestowed no labour: other men laboured, and ye are entered into their labours.

This verse is a reminder that many of the blessings we receive are through the labours of others and that we must show our appreciation by being productive and generous in our own labours.

1. God Calls Us to Recognize the Value of Others’ Labors

2. Appreciating the Blessings of Others' Labors

1. Ephesians 4:28 - Let him that stole steal no more: but rather let him labour, working with his hands the thing which is good, that he may have to give to him that needeth.

2. Proverbs 6:6-11 - Go to the ant, thou sluggard; consider her ways, and be wise: which having no guide, overseer, or ruler, provideth her meat in the summer, and gathereth her food in the harvest.

John 4:39 And many of the Samaritans of that city believed on him for the saying of the

woman, which testified, He told me all that ever I did.

Many Samaritans in the city believed in Jesus after a woman testified about all the things He had told her.

1. The Power of Testimony: How Our Stories Can Help Others Believe

2. Believing in Jesus: The Importance of Experiencing and Sharing His Love

1. Romans 10:14-17 - "...and how can they believe in him of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching?"

2. Acts 1:8 - "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

John 4:40 So when the Samaritans were come unto him, they besought him that he would tarry with them: and he abode there two days.

The Samaritans asked Jesus to stay with them and He stayed for two days.

1. Jesus' willingness to remain with those who asked Him for help.

2. The importance of being open to other cultures and beliefs.

1. Matthew 11:28-29 "Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls."

2. Romans 12:15 "Rejoice with them that do rejoice, and weep with them that weep."

John 4:41 And many more believed because of his own word;

The people of Samaria believed in Jesus's word.

1. The Power of Jesus's Words: Exploring the Trustworthiness of Jesus

2. Believe and Receive: Embracing the Promises of Jesus

1. Romans 10:17 - So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.

2. Hebrews 11:1 - Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.

John 4:42 And said unto the woman, Now we believe, not because of thy saying: for we have heard him ourselves, and know that this is indeed the Christ, the Saviour of the world.

The people of Sychar believed in Jesus as the Christ and Saviour of the world after hearing Him for themselves.

1. The Power of Personal Testimony: How Our Experiences Can Lead Others to Believe

2. Believe in the Lord: How Faith Can Move Mountains

1. Romans 10:14-17 - How faith comes from hearing the message and how the message is proclaimed

2. Acts 2:22-24 - Peter's testimony of Jesus and how the people of Jerusalem responded to it

John 4:43 Now after two days he departed thence, and went into Galilee.

The passage states that after two days Jesus left the area and traveled to Galilee.

1. Jesus' travels: Lessons in commitment and perseverance.

2. Jesus' example of ministry: Focusing on the mission.

1. Mark 12:30 - "And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength."

2. Matthew 11:28-29 - “Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.”

John 4:44 For Jesus himself testified, that a prophet hath no honour in his own country.

This passage highlights Jesus' lack of recognition in his own homeland, despite being a prophet.

1: We should not become complacent in our faith, but recognize the good in others, even if we do not agree with them.

2: We should be willing to look beyond our own preconceived notions to see the good in others, regardless of where they come from.

1: Matthew 7:12 - "So whatever you wish that others would do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets."

2: Romans 12:17-18 - "Repay no one evil for evil, but give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all. If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all."

John 4:45 Then when he was come into Galilee, the Galilaeans received him, having seen all the things that he did at Jerusalem at the feast: for they also went unto the feast.

John's arrival in Galilee was welcomed by the Galilaeans who had heard of his works at the feast in Jerusalem.

1. God's Power Can Reach Anywhere - John 4:45

2. Welcome the Stranger - John 4:45

1. Romans 15:8-13 - For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith.

2. Matthew 25:35 - For I was an hungred, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in:

John 4:46 So Jesus came again into Cana of Galilee, where he made the water wine. And there was a certain nobleman, whose son was sick at Capernaum.

Jesus returned to Cana of Galilee, where he had previously turned water into wine. A nobleman from Capernaum asked Jesus to heal his son, who was sick.

1. The Unending Power of Jesus: How Jesus Healed the Nobleman's Son

2. Jesus' Return to Galilee: A Miraculous Healing

1. Mark 5:21-43 - Jesus heals a woman who had been bleeding for 12 years

2. John 11:1-44 - Jesus raises Lazarus from the dead

John 4:47 When he heard that Jesus was come out of Judaea into Galilee, he went unto him, and besought him that he would come down, and heal his son: for he was at the point of death.

Jesus heals a man's son who was at the point of death.

1. Jesus is the source of life and healing.

2. God's power overcomes all pain and suffering.

1. Isaiah 53:5 - "But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed."

2. Matthew 9:22 - "But Jesus turned him about, and when he saw her, he said, Daughter, be of good comfort; thy faith hath made thee whole. And the woman was made whole from that hour."

John 4:48 Then said Jesus unto him, Except ye see signs and wonders, ye will not believe.

Jesus tells a man that he must witness signs and wonders in order to believe.

1. The Necessity of Faith: Jesus and the Power of Miracles

2. The Evidence of Jesus: Seeing is Believing

1. Hebrews 11:1 - "Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen."

2. Matthew 17:20 - "He said to them, “Because of your little faith. For truly, I say to you, if you have faith like a grain of mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, ‘Move from here to there,’ and it will move, and nothing will be impossible for you.”

John 4:49 The nobleman saith unto him, Sir, come down ere my child die.

The nobleman asked Jesus to come down and heal his son before he died.

1. The Power of Faith: How Believing in Jesus Can Bring Miracles

2. The Love of a Father: How Far a Father Will Go For His Child

1. Mark 5:35-43 - Jesus Heals a Man With an Evil Spirit

2. Matthew 8:5-13 - Jesus Heals a Centurion's Servant

John 4:50 Jesus saith unto him, Go thy way; thy son liveth. And the man believed the word that Jesus had spoken unto him, and he went his way.

This passage shows the power of Jesus' words to bring healing and faith to a man who was desperately searching for help.

1. "The Power of Our Lord's Words"

2. "The Healing that Faith Brings"

1. Mark 5:35-36 - And he said unto them, Go into the village over against you, and straightway ye shall find an ass tied, and a colt with her: loose them, and bring them

unto me. And if any man say ought unto you, ye shall say, The Lord hath need of them; and straightway he will send them.

2. James 5:15 - And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him.

John 4:51 And as he was now going down, his servants met him, and told him, saying, Thy son liveth.

Jesus' servants met him while he was on his way down and informed him that his son was alive.

1: Believing in Miracles - We should always have faith and believe in miracles, as Jesus did when he received the news of his son's recovery.

2: Hope in Difficult Times - Even in difficult times, we should have hope, as Jesus did when he was told of his son's recovery.

1: Hebrews 11:1 - Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

2: Romans 5:5 - And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us.

John 4:52 Then enquired he of them the hour when he began to amend. And they said unto him, Yesterday at the seventh hour the fever left him.

A man asked a group of people what time his healing occurred and they responded that it was the previous day at the seventh hour.

1. Faith in God's healing power can often be seen in unexpected ways.

2. It is important to have faith in God's timing and to be patient for His will to be fulfilled.

1. Philippians 4:6-7 - Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

2. James 5:16 - Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working.

John 4:53 So the father knew that it was at the same hour, in the which Jesus said unto him, Thy son liveth: and himself believed, and his whole house.

A father believed in Jesus when his son was healed at the same time that Jesus said his son would live.

1. God can work miracles in our lives when we put our faith in Him.

2. Jesus has the power to heal and restore us to life.

1. John 4:53 - "So the father knew that it was at the same hour, in the which Jesus said unto him, Thy son liveth: and himself believed, and his whole house."

2. Mark 5:36 - "Be not afraid, only believe."

John 4:54 This is again the second miracle that Jesus did, when he was come out of Judaea into Galilee.

Jesus performed a second miracle when he traveled from Judaea to Galilee.

1. Jesus' Power to Change Lives: A Look at the Miracles of Jesus

2. Jesus and His Journey to Galilee: A Study in Faith and Obedience

1. Romans 8:28: And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.

2. Matthew 28:18-20: Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

John 5 describes the healing of a man at the pool of Bethesda, the ensuing controversy about Sabbath observance, and Jesus' discourse on His relationship with God the Father.

1st Paragraph: The chapter begins with Jesus in Jerusalem during a Jewish festival. He encountered a man at the pool of Bethesda who had been an invalid for thirty-eight years. When Jesus learned that he had been in this condition for a long time, He asked him if he wanted to get well. After the man explained his inability to get into the healing waters of the pool when they were stirred up, Jesus told him to pick up his mat and walk. Immediately, he was healed and did as instructed (John 5:1-9).

2nd Paragraph: However, this miracle caused controversy because it took place on Sabbath. The Jewish leaders criticized not only the healed man for carrying his mat but also Jesus for performing such work on Sabbath. In response to their criticism, Jesus said 'My Father is always at his work to this very day I too am working.' This claim equality with God enraged Jewish leaders further sought all more kill Him not only breaking Sabbath but even calling God own Father making himself equal with God (John 5:10-18).

3rd Paragraph: In defense against these accusations, Jesus gave an extended discourse about His relationship with God Father explaining Son can do nothing by himself only what sees Father doing whatever does Son also does likewise giving life whom wants having authority execute judgment because Son Man testifying four witnesses namely John Baptist works Father Himself Scriptures leading eternal life those who hear believe yet despite ample evidence Jewish leaders refused come Him have life ending discourse stern rebuke their unbelief (John 5:19-47).

John 5:1 After this there was a feast of the Jews; and Jesus went up to Jerusalem.

This passage describes an instance where Jesus went to Jerusalem to attend a Jewish feast.

1: Jesus shows us the importance of participating in religious festivals and being in community with other believers.

2: We can learn from Jesus' example of obedience to God's instructions.

1: Galatians 5:13-14 - "For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another. For the whole law is fulfilled in one word: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”

2: Romans 12:10 - "Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor."

John 5:2 Now there is at Jerusalem by the sheep market a pool, which is called in the Hebrew tongue Bethesda, having five porches.

This passage describes a pool called Bethesda located by the sheep market in Jerusalem.

1. Jesus is always there when we are in need.

2. God works in mysterious ways.

1. Psalm 138:7 - Though I walk in the midst of trouble, thou wilt revive me: thou shalt stretch forth thine hand against the wrath of mine enemies, and thy right hand shall save me.

2. James 5:13-15 - Is any among you afflicted? let him pray. Is any merry? let him sing psalms. Is any sick among you? let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord: And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him.

John 5:3 In these lay a great multitude of impotent folk, of blind, halt, withered, waiting for the moving of the water.

This passage from John 5:3 describes a large group of disabled people waiting at the pool of Bethesda for the waters to be stirred.

1. God's Compassion for the Marginalized - Exploring the message of hope and comfort from John 5:3.

2. Overcoming Impossibility - Examining the power of faith in the face of adversity.

1. Mathew 11:28 - Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

2. Isaiah 35:3-6 - Strengthen ye the weak hands, and confirm the feeble knees. Say to them that are of a fearful heart, Be strong, fear not.

John 5:4 For an angel went down at a certain season into the pool, and troubled the

water: whosoever then first after the troubling of the water stepped in was made whole of whatsoever disease he had.

This passage tells of a miracle at the Pool of Bethesda where an angel would come and trouble the waters, and whoever stepped in first was healed of their disease.

1. Trust in God's Miracles - The power of faith to heal

2. The Unseen Hand - God's presence in our lives

1. James 5:15 - “And the prayer of faith will save the one who is sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven.”

2. Isaiah 53:5 - “But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed.”

John 5:5 And a certain man was there, which had an infirmity thirty and eight years.

This passage tells of a man who had been suffering from an illness for 38 years.

1: Jesus is the ultimate healer. Nothing is too difficult for Him.

2: Sickness and suffering can be used by God to bring about His will.

1: Isaiah 53:4-5 - Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.

2: Matthew 8:17 - That it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Esaias the prophet, saying, Himself took our infirmities, and bore our sicknesses.

John 5:6 When Jesus saw him lie, and knew that he had been now a long time in that case, he saith unto him, Wilt thou be made whole?

Jesus came across a man who had been lying sick for a long time and asked him if he wanted to be healed.

1. God's Healing Power - How Jesus Miraculously Healed a Sick Man

2. The Power of Faith - How to Believe God for Miracles

1. Isaiah 53:5 - But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.

2. James 5:14-15 - Is any sick among you? let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord: And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him.

John 5:7 The impotent man answered him, Sir, I have no man, when the water is troubled, to put me into the pool: but while I am coming, another steppeth down before me.

This passage describes a man who is unable to enter into the pool of water when it is troubled, as he has no one to help him.

1: Jesus shows us that, even in our most helpless moments, He is there to help us.

2: We can take comfort in knowing that the Lord will not leave us to struggle alone.

1: Isaiah 41:10 - “Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with My righteous right hand.”

2: Hebrews 13:5-6 - “Keep your life free from love of money, and be content with what you have, for He has said, “I will never leave you nor forsake you.” So we can confidently say, “The Lord is my helper; I will not fear; what can man do to me?”

John 5:8 Jesus saith unto him, Rise, take up thy bed, and walk.

Jesus healed a man who was unable to walk and commanded him to take up his bed and walk.

1. Jesus is the Ultimate Healer - John 5:8

2. The Power of Obedience - John 5:8

1. Matthew 9:2-7 - Jesus heals a paralytic

2. Acts 3:1-8 - Peter and John heal a man who was lame from birth

John 5:9 And immediately the man was made whole, and took up his bed, and walked: and on the same day was the sabbath.

This passage details the healing of a man by Jesus on the Sabbath day.

1. We can trust in Jesus to provide healing and restoration, even on days of rest.

2. God's love and grace are seen even when following the laws of the Sabbath.

1. Isaiah 53:5, "But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed."

2. James 5:14-15, "Is any sick among you? let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord: And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him."

John 5:10 The Jews therefore said unto him that was cured, It is the sabbath day: it is not lawful for thee to carry thy bed.

A man who had been healed of his infirmity was challenged by the Jews because he was carrying his bed on the Sabbath.

1. Jesus cares more about people than religious rules.

2. Jesus brings us freedom from physical and spiritual infirmities.

1. Matthew 12:1-14 - Jesus defends His disciples for picking grain on the Sabbath.

2. Luke 13:10-17 - Jesus heals a woman on the Sabbath and defends her actions.

John 5:11 He answered them, He that made me whole, the same said unto me, Take up thy bed, and walk.

This passage describes an encounter between Jesus and those who were present at a healing. Jesus explains that He was the one who made the person whole and commanded them to take up their bed and walk.

1. The Power of Jesus' Healing: Discovering the Miraculous in our Lives

2. The Goodness of God: Celebrating the Provision of Healing

1. Isaiah 53:5 - But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed.

2. Exodus 15:26 - And said, If thou wilt diligently hearken to the voice of the LORD thy God, and wilt do that which is right in his sight, and wilt give ear to his commandments, and keep all his statutes, I will put none of these diseases upon thee, which I have brought upon the Egyptians: for I am the LORD that healeth thee.

John 5:12 Then asked they him, What man is that which said unto thee, Take up thy bed, and walk?

The passage discusses Jesus' miraculous healing of a man who was paralyzed.

1: Jesus is the source of healing and hope in our lives.

2: The power of Jesus' words can bring life and healing to us.

1: Isaiah 53:5 - "But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement for our peace was upon Him, and by His stripes we are healed."

2: Isaiah 41:10 - "Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, yes, I will help you, I will uphold you with My righteous right hand."

John 5:13 And he that was healed wist not who it was: for Jesus had conveyed himself away, a multitude being in that place.

The healed man did not know who had healed him because Jesus had left the area, which was crowded.

1: God works in mysterious ways, and though we may not always recognize His presence, He is always there.

2: God's power and love is beyond our understanding, and He works in ways beyond our comprehension.

1: Isaiah 55:8-9 - "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts."

2: Proverbs 3:5-6 - "Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths."

John 5:14 Afterward Jesus findeth him in the temple, and said unto him, Behold, thou art made whole: sin no more, lest a worse thing come unto thee.

Jesus healed the man and warned him to not sin again, or else something worse could happen.

1. The Power of Jesus: A Reminder to Repent

2. Jesus' Reassurance: He is the Source of Life

1. Romans 6:12-14 - "Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its evil desires. Do not offer any part of yourself to sin as an instrument of wickedness, but rather offer yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life; and offer every part of yourself to him as an instrument of righteousness. For sin shall no longer be your master, because you are not under the law, but under grace."

2. Ezekiel 18:20-22 - "The soul that sinneth, it shall die. The son shall not bear the iniquity of the father, neither shall the father bear the iniquity of the son: the righteousness of the righteous shall be upon him, and the wickedness of the wicked shall

be upon him. But if the wicked will turn from all his sins that he hath committed, and keep all my statutes, and do that which is lawful and right, he shall surely live, he shall not die."

John 5:15 The man departed, and told the Jews that it was Jesus, which had made him whole.

A man was healed by Jesus and told the Jews about it.

1. Jesus is the ultimate Healer and He brings hope and wholeness.

2. We should have faith in Jesus and testify to His works.

1. Isaiah 53:5 - “But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed.”

2. Matthew 9:2 - “And behold, some people brought to him a paralytic, lying on a bed. And when Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, “Take heart, my son; your sins are forgiven.”

John 5:16 And therefore did the Jews persecute Jesus, and sought to slay him, because he had done these things on the sabbath day.

The Jews persecuted Jesus and sought to kill him because he performed miracles on the Sabbath.

1. The Power of Unconditional Love: Learning from Jesus' Ability to Love Despite Persecution

2. The Strength of Faith: Understanding the Power of Jesus' Belief in His Mission

1. Romans 12:14-21 - Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse.

2. Matthew 5:38-42 - You have heard that it was said, ‘An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.’ But I say to you, Do not resist an evildoer. But if anyone strikes you on the right cheek, turn the other also.

John 5:17 But Jesus answered them, My Father worketh hitherto, and I work.

Jesus is reminding the people that God is always working and that He Himself is also working.

1. God's Unending Work - Exploring the ongoing work of God in our lives and how we can participate in it.

2. Jesus Is An Example - Considering how Jesus' dedication to the work of God can inspire us to serve Him.

1. Isaiah 55:11 - So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it.

2. Colossians 3:23 - And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men.

John 5:18 Therefore the Jews sought the more to kill him, because he not only had broken the sabbath, but said also that God was his Father, making himself equal with God.

This passage reveals that Jesus claiming God as his Father angered the Jews, causing them to try to kill Him for breaking the Sabbath and making Himself equal with God.

1. The Power of Jesus' Words: How His Claim of God as His Father Changed the Course of History

2. The Cost of Faith: Jesus' Sacrifice as He Stood His Ground

1. John 8:58-59 - Jesus said, "Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I am."

2. Matthew 10:32-33 - Jesus said, "Whoever acknowledges me before men, I will also acknowledge him before my Father in heaven. But whoever disowns me before men, I will disown him before my Father in heaven."

John 5:19 Then answered Jesus and said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, The Son can do nothing of himself, but what he seeth the Father do: for what things soever he doeth, these also doeth the Son likewise.

Jesus tells the people that he can only do what he sees the Father do and that He does the same things the Father does.

1. Learning to Follow the Father's Example

2. Doing the Will of God by Doing What the Father Does

1. Matthew 11:29 - Take My yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.

2. Psalm 40:8 - I delight to do your will, O my God; your law is within my heart.

John 5:20 For the Father loveth the Son, and sheweth him all things that himself doeth: and he will shew him greater works than these, that ye may marvel.

The Father loves the Son and reveals to Him His works so that mankind may marvel.

1: The Father's Love for His Son and How That Love Is Expressed

2: Wonders of God's Work: Marveling at His Creation

1: Deuteronomy 4:32-40 - For ask now of the days that are past, which were before thee, since the day that God created man upon the earth, and ask from the one side of heaven unto the other, whether there hath been any such thing as this great thing is, or hath been heard like it?

2: Psalm 19:1-3 - The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork. Day unto day uttereth speech, and night unto night sheweth knowledge. There is no speech nor language, where their voice is not heard.

John 5:21 For as the Father raiseth up the dead, and quickeneth them; even so the Son quickeneth whom he will.

The Father and the Son both have the power to bring life to whom they choose.

1: The Power to Quicken

2: A Life of Abundance

1: Ezekiel 37:1-14 - The Valley of Dry Bones

2: Romans 8:11 - The Spirit of Life in Christ Jesus

John 5:22 For the Father judgeth no man, but hath committed all judgment unto the Son:

The Father has given all judgment to the Son.

1. The Power of the Son: How Jesus' Authority Gives Us Hope

2. The Sovereignty of God: How He Reigns Over All Judgement

1. John 5:22 - For the Father judgeth no man, but hath committed all judgment unto the Son

2. Philippians 2:9-11 - Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

John 5:23 That all men should honour the Son, even as they honour the Father. He that honoureth not the Son honoureth not the Father which hath sent him.

People should honour the Son, just as they honour the Father, and if they do not honour the Son, they do not honour the Father who sent Him.

1. The Importance of Honouring the Father and the Son

2. The Inseparable Bond between the Father and the Son

1. Philippians 2:9-11 - Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

2. Colossians 1:15-17 - He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together.

John 5:24 Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life.

Believers have passed from death to life and have everlasting life.

1: No matter what we do, God’s love and grace can save us and give us everlasting life.

2: We have the incredible gift of everlasting life through faith in Jesus.

1: Romans 6:23 - For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

2: John 3:16 - For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

John 5:25 Verily, verily, I say unto you, The hour is coming, and now is, when the dead shall hear the voice of the Son of God: and they that hear shall live.

The hour is coming when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God and be brought back to life.

1. The Power of God to Bring Life to the Dead

2. The Hope of Resurrection and Eternal Life

1. Ezekiel 37:1-14 (The vision of the dry bones)

2. John 11:25-26 (Jesus' proclamation of resurrection)

John 5:26 For as the Father hath life in himself; so hath he given to the Son to have life in

himself;

The Father has given life to the Son, so that He also has life in Himself.

1. The Power of Life: How God has Granted Us Life

2. The Gift of Life: Receiving God's Blessing

1. Romans 6:23 - “For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

2. John 3:16 - “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.”

John 5:27 And hath given him authority to execute judgment also, because he is the Son of man.

Jesus has been given authority from God to execute judgment as He is the Son of Man.

1. Jesus: Judge of All

2. The Authority of the Son of Man

1. Matthew 28:18 - And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.

2. Hebrews 10:30 - For we know him that hath said, Vengeance belongeth unto me, I will recompense, saith the Lord. And again, The Lord shall judge his people.

John 5:28 Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice,

The hour is coming when everyone in the graves will be resurrected and hear the Lord's voice.

1: There is Hope in the Resurrection - John 5:28

2: The Voice of the Lord is Powerful - John 5:28

1: 1 Thessalonians 4:16 - For the Lord Himself will descend from Heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God.

2: Isaiah 25:8 - He will swallow up death forever, and the Lord God will wipe away tears from all faces.

John 5:29 And shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation.

The passage speaks of the resurrection of life and damnation, and how our actions before the resurrection will have consequences on which resurrection we will experience.

1. The Consequences of Our Actions: How Our Choices Shape Our Destiny

2. The Blessings of Righteousness: Experiencing the Resurrection of Life

1. Proverbs 11:19 - As righteousness leads to life, so he who pursues evil pursues it to his own death.

2. James 2:14-17 - What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save them? Suppose a brother or a sister is without clothes and daily food. If one of you says to them, “Go in peace; keep warm and well fed,” but does nothing about their physical needs, what good is it? In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.

John 5:30 I can of mine own self do nothing: as I hear, I judge: and my judgment is just; because I seek not mine own will, but the will of the Father which hath sent me.

This passage reminds us that we should seek God's will rather than our own.

1: We must seek to do the will of God instead of our own.

2: Let us strive to follow the example of Jesus in seeking the will of God instead of our own.

1: James 4:13-15 - Come now, you who say, “Today or tomorrow we will go into such and such a town and spend a year there and trade and make a profit”— yet you do not know what tomorrow will bring. What is your life? For you are a mist that appears for a little time and then vanishes. Instead you ought to say, “If the Lord wills, we will live and do this or that.”

2: Romans 12:2 - Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

John 5:31 If I bear witness of myself, my witness is not true.

This verse from John 5:31 reminds us that our witness is not true if we bear witness of ourselves.

1. "The Danger of Arrogance: Putting Faith in Ourselves"

2. "Achieving True Success Through Humility"

1. 2 Corinthians 10:12 - “Not that we dare to classify or compare ourselves with some of those who are commending themselves. But when they measure themselves by one another and compare themselves with one another, they are without understanding.”

2. Proverbs 16:18 - “Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall.”

John 5:32 There is another that beareth witness of me; and I know that the witness which he witnesseth of me is true.

Jesus testified of the truth of his words by citing another witness.

1: God's Word is Truth and can be trusted.

2: Testimony from multiple sources is a sign of truth.

1: Deuteronomy 17:6 - On the testimony of two or three witnesses the one who is to die shall be put to death; a person shall not be put to death on the testimony of one witness.

2: 1 Timothy 2:5 - For there is one God and one mediator between God and mankind, the

man Christ Jesus.

John 5:33 Ye sent unto John, and he bare witness unto the truth.

John is a witness to the truth.

1: We can look to John for a witness to the truth and follow his example.

2: We should seek out truth and use John's teachings to guide us.

1: Proverbs 12:17 - He that speaketh truth sheweth forth righteousness: but a false witness deceit.

2: Philippians 4:8 - Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.

John 5:34 But I receive not testimony from man: but these things I say, that ye might be saved.

Jesus does not accept testimony from humans, instead he speaks so that people may be saved.

1. Jesus' Words: The Path to Salvation

2. Rejecting Human Testimonies: Embracing Jesus' Teachings

1. John 3:16-17 - "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved."

2. Romans 10:9-10 - "That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation."

John 5:35 He was a burning and a shining light: and ye were willing for a season to rejoice in his light.

John 5:35 speaks of Jesus as a light that His followers were willing to rejoice in for a time.

1. Shining Light in the Dark: The Power of Jesus's Love

2. Rejoicing in the Light: Celebrating Jesus's Presence in Our Lives

1. John 8:12 - "Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life."

2. Matthew 5:14-16 - "Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid. Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven."

John 5:36 But I have greater witness than that of John: for the works which the Father hath given me to finish, the same works that I do, bear witness of me, that the Father hath sent me.

John 5:36 provides evidence of Jesus's divine mission through the works that the Father has given him to accomplish.

1. Jesus was sent by the Father to do the works of God here on earth.

2. Our own works can be a witness to the divine mission of Jesus.

1. Romans 8:14-17 - For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God.

2. Ephesians 2:10 - For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

John 5:37 And the Father himself, which hath sent me, hath borne witness of me. Ye have neither heard his voice at any time, nor seen his shape.

Jesus states that neither the Jews nor anyone else has seen or heard God's voice or shape.

1. Understanding the Unseen God - Exploring the mystery of God's invisibility

2. Hearing God's Voice - How to listen for God's guidance in our lives

1. Hebrews 11:27 - By faith Moses left Egypt, not being afraid of the anger of the king; for he endured as seeing Him who is invisible.

2. Isaiah 40:12 - Who hath measured the waters in the hollow of his hand, and meted out heaven with the span, and comprehended the dust of the earth in a measure, and weighed the mountains in scales, and the hills in a balance?

John 5:38 And ye have not his word abiding in you: for whom he hath sent, him ye believe not.

People refuse to believe in Jesus, even though they have not accepted his message.

1. The Power of Jesus' Word: How to Believe in the Unbelievable

2. Overcoming Unbelief: Why We Must Believe in Jesus

1. Romans 10:17 - So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.

2. Hebrews 11:6 - And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him.

John 5:39 Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me.

This passage encourages us to read the scriptures, as they testify of Jesus and contain eternal life.

1. Abiding in the Word of God - Why Searching the Scriptures is Essential for Faith

2. Testimony of Jesus - How the Scriptures Show Us Jesus

1. Isaiah 55:11 - "So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it."

2. John 6:63 - "It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life."

John 5:40 And ye will not come to me, that ye might have life.

Jesus calls on people to come to Him for life.

1: Come to Jesus for Life

2: Receive Life through Jesus

1: John 10:10 - The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.

2: Matthew 11:28 - Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.

John 5:41 I receive not honour from men.

The passage states that Jesus does not receive honor or recognition from men.

1. We should seek our recognition and honor from God alone, not from people.

2. We should take Jesus' example of not seeking recognition from people and instead seek it from God.

1. Matthew 6:1-4 - Do not practice your righteousness before other people in order to be seen by them, but instead seek the approval of God.

2. Romans 2:29 - For a person is not a Jew who is one outwardly, nor is circumcision outward and physical.

John 5:42 But I know you, that ye have not the love of God in you.

The passage from John 5 states that Jesus knows that those he speaks to do not have the love of God in them.

1: Without the love of God, we are nothing.

2: To truly know God, we must love Him.

1: 1 John 4:19 - We love Him, because He first loved us.

2: Ephesians 5:2 - And walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us.

John 5:43 I am come in my Father's name, and ye receive me not: if another shall come in his own name, him ye will receive.

John is cautioning against blindly accepting false teachings and teachings from those who are not sent by God.

1. We must test all teachings against the truth of God's Word.

2. Only accept teachings from those sent by God.

1. Acts 17:11 - These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so.

2. 1 John 4:1 - Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world.

John 5:44 How can ye believe, which receive honour one of another, and seek not the honour that cometh from God only?

People are being warned not to seek glory from each other, but rather from God alone.

1. Seeking Honor from the Lord - John 5:44

2. The Search for True Honor - John 5:44

1. Romans 12:10 - Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving p to one another.

2. Proverbs 3:34 - He mocks proud mockers but gives grace to the humble.

John 5:45 Do not think that I will accuse you to the Father: there is one that accuseth you, even Moses, in whom ye trust.

Jesus warns the Jews that they should not think he will accuse them to the Father, as Moses is the one who will accuse them, because they trust in Moses.

1. Recognizing the Authority of Moses and Jesus

2. Trusting in God's Word Through Moses and Jesus

1. Romans 10:5-6 - "For Moses writes about the righteousness that is based on the law, that the person who does the commandments shall live by them. But the righteousness based on faith says, 'Do not say in your heart, "Who will ascend into heaven?"' (that is, to bring Christ down)"

2. Galatians 3:24-25 - "So then, the law was our guardian until Christ came, in order that we might be justified by faith. But now that faith has come, we are no longer under a guardian."

John 5:46 For had ye believed Moses, ye would have believed me: for he wrote of me.

This passage suggests that those who accept the teachings of Moses can also accept the teachings of Jesus, as Moses wrote of Jesus.

1. The importance of understanding the relationship between Moses and Jesus

2. Recognizing Jesus in the writings of Moses

1. Exodus 3:13-15 - When Moses asked God his identity, God responded with “I am who I

am.”

2. Matthew 11:25-27 - Jesus praises those who accept the teachings of Moses and look for truth in his words.

John 5:47 But if ye believe not his writings, how shall ye believe my words?

Jesus asks people to consider the writings of God as evidence for believing his words.

1. Trusting God's Word: Believing in Jesus' Testimony

2. Scripture: The Basis for Faith

1. 2 Timothy 3:16 - All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness.

2. Hebrews 11:1 - Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

John 6 recounts the feeding of the five thousand, Jesus walking on water, His discourse on being the Bread of Life, and some disciples' decision to turn away.

1st Paragraph: The chapter begins with a large crowd following Jesus because they saw His miraculous signs on those who were ill. With five small barley loaves and two small fish provided by a boy, Jesus performed another miracle by feeding five thousand men. After everyone had enough to eat, twelve baskets of leftovers were collected. Seeing this sign, people began to say that He is indeed Prophet who was come into world (John 6:1-14).

2nd Paragraph: After this miracle, Jesus withdrew again to a mountain by Himself. When evening came His disciples went down lake where they got into boat set off across lake Capernaum it was dark and Jesus had not yet joined them strong wind was blowing waters grew rough when they rowed about three four miles saw walking lake approaching boat terrified but He said 'It is I don’t be afraid' then willingly received him into boat immediately reached shore where they were heading demonstrating divine power over nature (John 6:15-21).

3rd Paragraph: The next day crowd realized only one boat there neither Jesus nor his disciples were in it so when boats from Tiberias landed near place where bread had been given thanks after finding out that He had gone to other side lake followed Him

Capernaum there asked when arrived He rebuked their motives seeking Him not because signs but fill their stomachs encouraged seek food endures eternal life which Son Man will give you introduced Himself Bread Life discourse leading controversy among Jews followers about eating flesh drinking blood eventually causing many disciples leave Him yet Peter confessed behalf remaining Twelve 'Lord whom shall we go? You have words eternal life believe know you are Holy One God.' emphasizing vital spiritual truth nourishment comes through faith Christ alone despite hard understand teachings (John 6:22-71).

John 6:1 After these things Jesus went over the sea of Galilee, which is the sea of Tiberias.

Jesus went over the Sea of Galilee.

1: Jesus' journey across the Sea of Galilee teaches us the importance of perseverance and faith in difficult times.

2: Jesus' journey across the Sea of Galilee reminds us that we can move forward when the waters are rough.

1: Romans 8:28 - And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.

2: Psalm 107:23 - They that go down to the sea in ships, that do business in great waters.

John 6:2 And a great multitude followed him, because they saw his miracles which he did on them that were diseased.

A large crowd of people followed Jesus due to seeing the miracles he performed on those who were sick.

1. Jesus' Healing Miracles: A Call to Follow Him

2. The Power of Faith: Seeing Miracles Through Jesus

1. Mark 10:52-53 “And Jesus said to him, “Go your way; your faith has made you well.” And immediately he received his sight and followed Jesus on the way.

2. Luke 5:17-26 “Now it happened on a certain day, as He was teaching, that there were Pharisees and teachers of the law sitting by, who had come out of every town of Galilee, Judea, and Jerusalem. And the power of the Lord was present to heal them.”

John 6:3 And Jesus went up into a mountain, and there he sat with his disciples.

This passage tells of Jesus going up a mountain with His disciples.

1. Jesus’ Invitation to Climb: An Invitation to Follow God’s Lead

2. The Mountain of God: A Place of Refreshing and Renewal

1. Matthew 17:1-8 - Jesus Transfigured on a Mountain

2. Exodus 19:3-6 - Israel’s Encounter with God on Sinai

John 6:4 And the passover, a feast of the Jews, was nigh.

The passage is about the proximity of the Jewish Passover.

1. The Gift of Salvation in the Passover

2. Living a Life of Faith during Passover

1. Exodus 12:1-14 - God's instructions for the Passover

2. Luke 22:15-20 - Jesus' institution of the Lord's Supper at the Passover

John 6:5 When Jesus then lifted up his eyes, and saw a great company come unto him, he saith unto Philip, Whence shall we buy bread, that these may eat?

Jesus saw a large crowd of people gathered around him, and asked Philip where they could buy bread for them to eat.

1. The Bread of Life: Jesus' Offer of Nourishment for the Soul

2. Jesus' Compassion for the People: Meeting Physical and Spiritual Needs

1. Matthew 14:14-21 - Jesus Feeds the Five Thousand

2. Isaiah 55:1-2 - Invitation to All Who Thirst and Hunger for Righteousness

John 6:6 And this he said to prove him: for he himself knew what he would do.

Jesus tested the disciples by asking them to provide food for the crowd, knowing full well what He was going to do to meet the need.

1. Trusting God to Provide: Learning to Lean on the Lord in Times of Need

2. Jesus’ Power: Understanding His Authority and Miraculous Ability

1. Mark 6:30-44 – Jesus Feeds the Five Thousand

2. Exodus 16:1-36 – The Israelites are Provided with Manna in the Wilderness

John 6:7 Philip answered him, Two hundred pennyworth of bread is not sufficient for them, that every one of them may take a little.

Philip expresses concern that two hundred pennyworth of bread would not be enough to feed the crowd.

1. The Power of Provision - How God Provides for His People

2. The Miracle of Abundance - How Christ Multiplies Resources

1. Genesis 22:14 - “So Abraham called the name of that place, ‘The Lord will provide’; as it is said to this day, “On the mount of the Lord it shall be provided.”

2. Matthew 6:25-34 - “Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow

nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them.

John 6:8 One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, saith unto him,

Jesus' disciple, Andrew, told him about a boy who had five loaves and two fishes.

1. "The Power of Little Things"

2. "The Power of Faith and Generosity"

1. 2 Corinthians 9:6-8

2. Luke 12:31-34

John 6:9 There is a lad here, which hath five barley loaves, and two small fishes: but what are they among so many?

This passage is about Jesus feeding the multitudes with five barley loaves and two small fishes.

1. God is able to provide abundantly in our lives, no matter how small our resources may be.

2. With faith, even the most meager of resources can be used to do great things.

1. Philippians 4:19 - And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus.

2. Matthew 17:20 - He replied, “Because you have so little faith. Truly I tell you, if you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, ‘Move from here to there,’ and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you.

John 6:10 And Jesus said, Make the men sit down. Now there was much grass in the place. So the men sat down, in number about five thousand.

John's gospel records the miracle of Jesus feeding the five thousand with only five loaves

of bread and two fishes.

1: Jesus displays his power and his compassion by feeding the five thousand.

2: Jesus is our provider and protector, even in the most desperate of circumstances.

1: Matthew 14:13-21 – Jesus Feeds the Five Thousand

2: Psalm 33:18-19 – God is our provider and protector.

John 6:11 And Jesus took the loaves; and when he had given thanks, he distributed to the disciples, and the disciples to them that were set down; and likewise of the fishes as much as they would.

The passage recounts Jesus taking the loaves and fishes and giving thanks before distributing them to his disciples.

1. The Power of Thankfulness: How Jesus' Gratitude Changed Lives

2. A Lesson in Generosity: Jesus' Example of Sharing

1. Philippians 4:6-7 - Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.

2. Colossians 3:17 - And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

John 6:12 When they were filled, he said unto his disciples, Gather up the fragments that remain, that nothing be lost.

This passage speaks of Jesus' instruction to his disciples to gather up the leftovers of a meal.

1. The Power of Generosity: How Jesus Demonstrated a Generous Heart

2. Jesus' Example of Stewardship: Appreciating and Utilizing Our Resources

1. Luke 12:13-21 - The parable of the rich fool

2. Matthew 6:19-21 - The parable of the treasure in heaven

John 6:13 Therefore they gathered them together, and filled twelve baskets with the fragments of the five barley loaves, which remained over and above unto them that had eaten.

Jesus miraculously fed a great multitude with five loaves of bread and two fishes. The leftovers were enough to fill twelve baskets.

1: God's provision is always enough.

2: We can find joy in the small things, even when our needs seem too great.

1: Philippians 4:19 - "And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus."

2: Luke 12:22-34 - "Do not worry about your life, what you will eat; or about your body, what you will wear. For life is more than food, and the body more than clothes."

John 6:14 Then those men, when they had seen the miracle that Jesus did, said, This is of a truth that prophet that should come into the world.

The men that saw Jesus perform a miracle proclaimed that he was the prophet that was promised by God.

1. God's Promise of a Prophet is Fulfilled in Jesus

2. Miracles are a Testimony to Jesus' Divinity

1. Deuteronomy 18:15-19 - The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your brothers -- it is to him you shall listen.

2. John 10:37-38 - If I am not doing the works of my Father, then do not believe me; but if I do them, even though you do not believe me, believe the works, that you may know

and understand that the Father is in me and I am in the Father.

John 6:15 When Jesus therefore perceived that they would come and take him by force, to make him a king, he departed again into a mountain himself alone.

Jesus chose to remain humble instead of being made a king by force.

1: We must remain humble and trust in God's plan for our lives.

2: God desires us to have faith in Him and resist the temptation of earthly power.

1: James 4:10 - Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you.

2: Philippians 2:5-8 - Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

John 6:16 And when even was now come, his disciples went down unto the sea,

The disciples of Jesus went to the sea in the evening.

1: Jesus' disciples followed him faithfully, no matter what time of day it was.

2: We should always be ready to follow Jesus and obey his commands.

1: Mark 4:35-41 - Jesus calms the storm at sea

2: Acts 27:13-26 - Paul's shipwreck on the sea

John 6:17 And entered into a ship, and went over the sea toward Capernaum. And it was now dark, and Jesus was not come to them.

The disciples got into a boat and sailed across the Sea of Galilee towards Capernaum. It was nighttime and Jesus had not yet joined them.

1. Doing God's Will in the Dark - John 6:17

2. Growing in Faith in Difficult Times - John 6:17

1. Isaiah 50:10 - "Who is among you that fears the LORD, that obeys the voice of his servant, that walks in darkness, and has no light? let him trust in the name of the LORD, and stay upon his God."

2. Colossians 1:13 - "Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son:"

John 6:18 And the sea arose by reason of a great wind that blew.

Passage A great wind caused the sea to rise.

1. "The Power of Wind: What Can We Learn from John 6:18?"

2. "God's Sovereignty in Nature: Understanding John 6:18"

1. Psalm 148:8 - "Fire and hail, snow and clouds; Stormy wind, fulfilling His word."

2. Ezekiel 37:9 - "Then He said to me, 'Prophesy to the breath, prophesy, son of man, and say to the breath, 'Thus says the Lord God: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe on these slain, that they may live.'"

John 6:19 So when they had rowed about five and twenty or thirty furlongs, they see Jesus walking on the sea, and drawing nigh unto the ship: and they were afraid.

Jesus walking on the sea is a demonstration of his power and authority.

1: Jesus is Lord of all and has power over the sea.

2: We can trust Jesus in uncertain times and put our faith in Him.

1: Psalm 107:23-29 - Those who go down to the sea in ships, who do business in great

waters; these see the works of the Lord, and his wonders in the deep.

2: Matthew 14:22-33 - Immediately Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go before him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up on the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone.

John 6:20 But he saith unto them, It is I; be not afraid.

Jesus appears to the disciples who are afraid, and he tells them not to be afraid.

1. Overcoming Fear Through Faith in Jesus

2. Finding Strength in Jesus in Times of Trouble

1. Isaiah 41:10 - "So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand."

2. Psalm 27:1 - "The Lord is my light and my salvation—whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life—of whom shall I be afraid?"

John 6:21 Then they willingly received him into the ship: and immediately the ship was at the land whither they went.

A group of people willingly allowed Jesus to board their ship, and the ship arrived at its destination quickly.

1. God's power is greater than our own and can be seen in everything we do.

2. We can trust in Jesus to get us to our destination if we let him help us.

1. Isaiah 55:8-9: "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts."

2. Proverbs 3:5-6: "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths."

John 6:22 The day following, when the people which stood on the other side of the sea saw that there was none other boat there, save that one whereinto his disciples were entered, and that Jesus went not with his disciples into the boat, but that his disciples were gone away alone;

The people who were on the other side of the sea saw that Jesus did not enter the boat with his disciples when they left, and they realized there was only one boat.

1: The disciples of Jesus were brave and courageous to go where Jesus did not go.

2: We should have faith in God, even when our circumstances may not be ideal.

1: Isaiah 43:2 - “When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you.”

2: Hebrews 11:6 - “And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him.”

John 6:23 (Howbeit there came other boats from Tiberias nigh unto the place where they did eat bread, after that the Lord had given thanks:)

Jesus feeds the 5,000: The passage describes how Jesus fed 5,000 people with just five loaves and two fishes. After giving thanks, Jesus distributed the food to the crowd.

1. The Power of Gratitude: How Jesus Showed Us the Transformative Power of Thankfulness

2. Miracles of Abundance: How Jesus Used Little to Create Much

1. Matthew 14:13-21 - Jesus Feeds the 5,000

2. Matthew 15:32-38 - Jesus Feeds the 4,000

John 6:24 When the people therefore saw that Jesus was not there, neither his disciples, they also took shipping, and came to Capernaum, seeking for Jesus.

The people travelled to Capernaum in search of Jesus when they realized He was not present.

1. When faced with a challenge, trust in Jesus and He will lead the way.

2. Seek Jesus and you will find Him.

1. Matthew 7:7-8 - “Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you: For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened.”

2. Psalm 34:10 - “The young lions do lack, and suffer hunger: but they that seek the Lord shall not want any good thing.”

John 6:25 And when they had found him on the other side of the sea, they said unto him, Rabbi, when camest thou hither?

Jesus had crossed the Sea of Galilee and the people had found him on the other side.

1. Jesus shows us that faith can move mountains, literally and figuratively.

2. Jesus invites us to take the path of courage and trust in Him.

1. Matthew 17:20 - And Jesus said unto them, Because of your unbelief: for verily I say unto you, If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, Remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible unto you.

2. Hebrews 11:1 - Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

John 6:26 Jesus answered them and said, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Ye seek me, not because ye saw the miracles, but because ye did eat of the loaves, and were filled.

Jesus is criticizing the people for seeking him for selfish reasons, not because of the miracles he performed.

1: We should seek God with a pure and honest heart, not for selfish reasons.

2: Jesus holds us to a higher standard and expects us to seek him for the right reasons.

1: Matthew 22:37-40, “Jesus said to him, “‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.”

2: James 4:3, “You ask and do not receive, because you ask amiss, that you may spend it on your pleasures.”

John 6:27 Labour not for the meat which perisheth, but for that meat which endureth unto everlasting life, which the Son of man shall give unto you: for him hath God the Father sealed.

Labor not to gain worldly possessions, but seek eternal life which only comes from the Son of Man, sealed by God the Father.

1: We must strive to obtain the eternal life which is offered to us through Jesus Christ and not be consumed by the pursuit of worldly possessions.

2: We must labor to gain the eternal life which only comes through Jesus Christ, for God the Father has sealed it.

1: Philippians 3:7-14 - But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ.

2: 1 John 2:15-17 - Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

John 6:28 Then said they unto him, What shall we do, that we might work the works of God?

Passage The people asked Jesus what they must do in order to do the works of God.

1. “Do the Works of God”

2. “Obedience to God’s Commands”

1. Deuteronomy 10:12-13 “And now, Israel, what does the Lord your God require of you, but to fear the Lord your God, to walk in all his ways, to love him, to serve the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul, 13 and to keep the commandments and statutes of the Lord, which I am commanding you today for your good?”

2. Ephesians 2:10 “For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.”

John 6:29 Jesus answered and said unto them, This is the work of God, that ye believe on him whom he hath sent.

This passage emphasizes the importance of believing in Jesus, whom God has sent.

1. The Work of God: Trusting in Jesus

2. Believing in God's Messenger

1. Romans 10:9-10 – "That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation."

2. Ephesians 2:8-9 – "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast."

John 6:30 They said therefore unto him, What sign shewest thou then, that we may see, and believe thee? what dost thou work?

Jesus was challenged to provide a sign to prove his authority.

1. Jesus: Greater than Miracles

2. A Call to Faith

1. Isaiah 53:1 - Who hath believed our report? and to whom is the arm of the Lord revealed?

2. Hebrews 11:1 - Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things

not seen.

John 6:31 Our fathers did eat manna in the desert; as it is written, He gave them bread from heaven to eat.

In the Bible passage of John 6:31, it is written that God provided bread from heaven to the Israelites in the desert.

1. God is our Provider - He will always provide for us in times of need.

2. Manna from Heaven - Learning to trust God in times of difficulty.

1. Deuteronomy 8:2-3 - Remember how the Lord your God led you all the way in the wilderness these forty years, to humble and test you in order to know what was in your heart, whether or not you would keep his commands. He humbled you, causing you to hunger and then feeding you with manna, which neither you nor your ancestors had known, to teach you that man does not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of the Lord.

2. Psalm 78:24 - He rained down manna for the people to eat, he gave them the grain of heaven.

John 6:32 Then Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Moses gave you not that bread from heaven; but my Father giveth you the true bread from heaven.

Jesus tells the people that Moses did not give them the bread from heaven, but instead his Father provides the true bread from heaven.

1. "The Bread of Life: A Gift from Above"

2. "The True Bread of Heaven: The Gift of Jesus"

1. Isaiah 55:1-2 “Come, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and he who has no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labor for that which does not satisfy? Listen diligently to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food.”

2. John 6:35 “Jesus said to them, ‘I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not

hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst.’”

John 6:33 For the bread of God is he which cometh down from heaven, and giveth life unto the world.

This passage reveals that Jesus is the bread of God who gives life to the world.

1. The Bread of Life: Jesus as the Source of Eternal Life

2. The Purpose of Jesus: To Give Life to the World

1. John 10:10 - The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.

2. Psalm 36:9 - For with you is the fountain of life; in your light we see light.

John 6:34 Then said they unto him, Lord, evermore give us this bread.

Jesus offers spiritual bread to satisfy our souls.

1: Jesus is the Bread of Life that can satisfy all our spiritual needs.

2: We can turn to Jesus for sustenance and spiritual nourishment.

1: Isaiah 55:1-2 - "Come, all you who are thirsty, come to the waters; and you who have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without cost."

2: Psalm 63:1-2 - "O God, you are my God, earnestly I seek you; my soul thirsts for you, my body longs for you, in a dry and weary land where there is no water."

John 6:35 And Jesus said unto them, I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst.

The passage speaks of Jesus being the bread of life and those who come to Him and believe in Him shall never hunger or thirst.

1: Jesus is the Bread of Life - coming to Him will provide sustenance and a life of fulfillment.

2: Believe in Jesus - He is the answer to all our needs and will provide us with nourishment.

1: Isaiah 55:1-3 - "Come, all you who are thirsty, come to the waters; and you who have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without cost. Why spend money on what is not bread, and your labor on what does not satisfy? Listen, listen to me, and eat what is good, and your soul will delight in the richest of fare."

2: Matthew 5:6 - "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled."

John 6:36 But I said unto you, That ye also have seen me, and believe not.

The passage states that Jesus had been seen by his followers, but they still did not believe in him.

1: We must have faith in Jesus, even when we don't understand his miracles.

2: Believing in Jesus is a matter of faith, even when we don't understand what he's doing.

1: Hebrews 11:1 - "Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen."

2: James 1:2-3 - "Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness."

John 6:37 All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out.

This passage speaks of the Father's promise to bring those who come to Jesus to Him, and Jesus' promise to never reject them.

1. The Father's Promise of Unconditional Love

2. Jesus' Promise of Unconditional Acceptance

1. Romans 8:38-39 - "For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord."

2. 1 John 4:19 - "We love because he first loved us."

John 6:38 For I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me.

Jesus explains that he came down to earth to do God's will, not his own.

1. "Christ's Submission to the Will of God"

2. "The Power of Surrendering Our Will to God"

1. Philippians 2:5-8

2. Matthew 26:39-42

John 6:39 And this is the Father's will which hath sent me, that of all which he hath given me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up again at the last day.

The Father's will is that Jesus should not lose any of those that He has been given, and He will raise them up on the last day.

1. The Father's Unwavering Love and Faithfulness

2. The Promise of Resurrection at the Last Day

1. Romans 8:28-30 - And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose. For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren. Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them

he also glorified.

2. 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17 - For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.

John 6:40 And this is the will of him that sent me, that every one which seeth the Son, and believeth on him, may have everlasting life: and I will raise him up at the last day.

Jesus explains that those who believe in him will have eternal life and will be resurrected on the last day.

1. Believe in Jesus and Receive Eternal Life

2. The Promise of Resurrection on the Last Day

1. Romans 10:9-10 - "That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation."

2. Ephesians 2:8-9 - "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast."

John 6:41 The Jews then murmured at him, because he said, I am the bread which came down from heaven.

The Jews murmured in response to Jesus claiming to be the bread that came down from heaven.

1. Jesus, the Bread of Heaven: Rediscovering the Miracle of the Incarnation

2. Answering the Murmurs of Doubt: Reaffirming Our Faith in the Bread of Heaven

1. Psalm 78:24-25 - He rained down manna upon them to eat and gave them of the grain of heaven. Man ate of the bread of angels; He sent them food in abundance.

2. John 3:16 - For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

John 6:42 And they said, Is not this Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? how is it then that he saith, I came down from heaven?

The people of Jesus' home town were confused by His claim that He had come down from Heaven even though they knew His earthly parents.

1. Jesus: The Man from Heaven

2. The Mystery of Jesus' Identity

1. John 3:13 - "No one has ever gone into heaven except the one who came from heaven—the Son of Man."

2. Isaiah 55:8-9 - "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways," declares the Lord. "As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts."

John 6:43 Jesus therefore answered and said unto them, Murmur not among yourselves.

Jesus instructs his listeners not to complain among themselves.

1: God wants us to trust in Him and not to murmur or complain.

2: Jesus is teaching us to put our faith in Him and not to worry or be anxious.

1: Philippians 4:6-7 "Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."

2: Psalm 37:4-5 "Take delight in the Lord, and he will give you the desires of your heart. Commit your way to the Lord; trust in him and he will do this."

John 6:44 No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day.

God is the one who draws people to Him, and He will raise them up in the end.

1: God Wants to Draw You Close

2: God's Promise of Eternal Life

1: Isaiah 43:1 - "But now thus saith the Lord that created thee, O Jacob, and he that formed thee, O Israel, Fear not: for I have redeemed thee, I have called thee by thy name; thou art mine."

2: Philippians 2:13 - "For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure."

John 6:45 It is written in the prophets, And they shall be all taught of God. Every man therefore that hath heard, and hath learned of the Father, cometh unto me.

The passage states that everyone who has heard and learned from God will come to Jesus.

1: God’s Call to Come to Jesus

2: Hear and Learn from God’s Word

1: Jeremiah 31:34 – “And they shall teach no more every man his neighbor, and every man his brother, saying, Know the Lord: for they shall all know me, from the least of them unto the greatest of them, saith the Lord: for I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.”

2: James 1:22-25 – “But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves. For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass: For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was. But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed.”

John 6:46 Not that any man hath seen the Father, save he which is of God, he hath seen the Father.

This passage teaches us that no one has seen the Father, except the one who is of God.

1. God is Unseen and Unfathomable

2. The Gift of Faith in the Lord

1. Isaiah 40:28 - Have you not known? Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable.

2. Hebrews 11:1 - Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.

John 6:47 Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me hath everlasting life.

Jesus declares that those who believe in him will have everlasting life.

1. Jesus is the Key to Eternal Life

2. Believe and Receive Everlasting Life

1. Romans 10:9-10 - That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.

2. Ephesians 2:8-9 - For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast.

John 6:48 I am that bread of life.

This passage reveals that Jesus is the bread of life, the one who gives spiritual sustenance and nourishment to those who follow Him.

1. Jesus: The Bread of Life - Exploring how Jesus nourishes us spiritually

2. Finding Strength & Nourishment in Jesus - Learning to rely on Jesus for sustenance

1. Isaiah 55:1-2 - "Come, all you who are thirsty, come to the waters; and you who have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without cost. Why spend money on what is not bread, and your labor on what does not satisfy?"

2. Psalm 34:8 - Taste and see that the Lord is good; blessed is the one who takes refuge in Him.

John 6:49 Your fathers did eat manna in the wilderness, and are dead.

This passage emphasizes the importance of spiritual nourishment, as physical sustenance alone does not lead to eternal life.

1: Jesus is our eternal bread of life, and through Him we can have eternal life.

2: We must seek spiritual nourishment, as physical sustenance alone will not sustain us forever.

1: Matthew 4:4 - "But he answered, 'It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"

2: Psalm 34:8 - "Oh, taste and see that the LORD is good! Blessed is the man who takes refuge in him!"

John 6:50 This is the bread which cometh down from heaven, that a man may eat thereof, and not die.

This passage speaks of the bread of life sent from Heaven, which will give eternal life.

1. The Bread of Life: Living Forever in the Presence of God

2. The Gift of Eternal Life: Accepting the Gift of God

1. John 3:16-17 - For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

2. Romans 6:23 - For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

John 6:51 I am the living bread which came down from heaven: if any man eat of this bread, he shall live for ever: and the bread that I will give is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world.

This passage speaks of Jesus being the living bread that came down from heaven, and that if we eat of this bread we will live forever.

1. The Bread of Life: How Jesus Gives Us Eternal Life

2. Eating Jesus' Flesh: What it Means to Believe in Him

1. John 3:16 - "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life."

2. Romans 10:9 - "if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved."

John 6:52 The Jews therefore strove among themselves, saying, How can this man give us his flesh to eat?

The Jews were confused and argued among themselves when Jesus said he would give them his flesh to eat.

1. The Bread of Life: Jesus' Radical Invitation

2. The Mystery of the Eucharist: Understanding the Gift of Jesus

1. Isaiah 55:1-2 - "Ho, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and he who has no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price.

2. Matthew 26:26-28 - "Now as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and after blessing it broke it and gave it to the disciples, and said, "Take, eat; this is my body." And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he gave it to them, saying, "Drink of it, all of you, for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins."

John 6:53 Then Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except ye eat the flesh

of the Son of man, and drink his blood, ye have no life in you.

Jesus tells his followers that they must eat his flesh and drink his blood in order to have life within them.

1. The Bread of Life: Exploring the Meaning of Jesus' Words in John 6:53

2. Our Eternal Life: Receiving the Gift of Jesus Through His Flesh and Blood

1. 1 Corinthians 11:23-26 – Jesus institutes the Lord’s Supper

2. Ezekiel 16:6 – God promises to be the source of life for Israel

John 6:54 Whoso eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, hath eternal life; and I will raise him up at the last day.

Jesus is offering eternal life to those who believe in him and consume his flesh and blood.

1. Believe in the power of Jesus' sacrifice to provide eternal life.

2. Live with the knowledge that Jesus will raise us up on the last day.

1. John 3:16 - "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."

2. Romans 10:9 - "If you declare with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved."

John 6:55 For my flesh is meat indeed, and my blood is drink indeed.

This passage from John 6:55 emphasizes that Jesus is the source of true sustenance and nourishment for believers.

1: Jesus is the Source of Life - John 6:55

2: The Bread of Life - John 6:55

1: Isaiah 55:1-3 - Come, all you who are thirsty, come to the waters; and you who have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without cost.

2: Matthew 4:4 - Jesus answered, “It is written: ‘Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.’”

John 6:56 He that eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, dwelleth in me, and I in him.

The passage explains that one who eats Jesus' flesh and drinks his blood will dwell in him and he in them.

1. Jesus is our source of life - John 6:56

2. Abiding in Christ - John 6:56

1. John 15:4-5 - Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me.

2. Galatians 2:20 - I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.

John 6:57 As the living Father hath sent me, and I live by the Father: so he that eateth me, even he shall live by me.

This passage emphasizes the importance of living by Jesus, as Jesus lives by the Father.

1. "Living through Jesus: Our Source of Life"

2. "Eating the Bread of Life: Living by Jesus"

1. Romans 6:4-5 - "Therefore we were buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection."

2. Colossians 3:1-4 - "If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth. For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God. When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory."

John 6:58 This is that bread which came down from heaven: not as your fathers did eat manna, and are dead: he that eateth of this bread shall live for ever.

This passage refers to the bread of life that Jesus offers to those who believe in him, which will bring eternal life.

1 - Living a Life of Faith: How Jesus Offers Eternal Life

2 - Eating the Bread of Life: How to Receive Eternal Life

1 - John 3:16 - "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."

2 - Romans 10:9 - "That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved."

John 6:59 These things said he in the synagogue, as he taught in Capernaum.

Jesus taught in the synagogue in Capernaum.

1. Jesus' teachings in the synagogue demonstrate His authority as Teacher and Guide.

2. We can learn from Jesus how to properly apply scripture to our lives.

1. Matthew 5:17-20 "Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. For truly, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the Law until all is accomplished. Therefore whoever relaxes one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

2. Colossians 3:16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God.

John 6:60 Many therefore of his disciples, when they had heard this, said, This is an hard saying; who can hear it?

After Jesus spoke about the necessity of eating his flesh and drinking his blood, many of his disciples had difficulty in understanding this statement and responded with disbelief.

1. Jesus' teachings are meant to be heard and understood, even if they are difficult to comprehend.

2. Jesus' words have the power to transform our lives if we listen to them.

1. Matthew 11:28-29 - Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.

2. Philippians 4:8 - Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.

John 6:61 When Jesus knew in himself that his disciples murmured at it, he said unto them, Doth this offend you?

Jesus asked his disciples if his words were causing them to be offended.

1. Jesus' Love for His Disciples: A Meditation on John 6:61

2. How to Respond to Offending Words: A Lesson from John 6:61

1. Romans 5:8 - But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

2. Matthew 11:28-30 - Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.

John 6:62 What and if ye shall see the Son of man ascend up where he was before?

The passage speaks of Jesus' ascension and the implications of his return.

1: Jesus is Returning - A Call to Prepare

2: Ascension of Jesus - What it Means for Us

1: Acts 1:11 - "This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven."

2: Colossians 3:1–4 - "Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory."

John 6:63 It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life.

The spirit is what gives life, the flesh has no benefit. The words of Jesus are spirit and bring life.

1. The Power of the Word of God - How the words of Jesus bring life and transformation.

2. The Importance of the Spirit - How the spirit brings life and gives us power.

1. Romans 8:11 - “But if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you.”

2. Ezekiel 37:3-5 - “He asked me, “Son of man, can these bones live?” I said, “O Sovereign Lord, you alone know.” Then he said to me, “Prophesy to these bones and say to them, ‘Dry bones, hear the word of the Lord! This is what the Sovereign Lord says to these bones: I will make breath enter you, and you will come to life.’”

John 6:64 But there are some of you that believe not. For Jesus knew from the beginning who they were that believed not, and who should betray him.

Jesus knew from the beginning who would believe in him and who would betray him.

1. The Faithfulness of Jesus - Jesus knew who would believe in Him and remain faithful, despite the fear of betrayal.

2. The Power of Jesus - Jesus had the power to look into the future and know who would stand by Him and who would turn against Him.

1. Isaiah 41:10 - “Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.”

2. Hebrews 13:5 - “Keep your life free from love of money, and be content with what you have, for he has said, “I will never leave you nor forsake you.”

John 6:65 And he said, Therefore said I unto you, that no man can come unto me, except it were given unto him of my Father.

No one can come to Jesus unless given permission by God the Father.

1. Achieving True Salvation: Relying on God's Guide

2. The Father's Grace: Our Only Hope

1. Ephesians 2:8-9 - For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God.

2. Romans 11:36 - For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be glory forever. Amen.

John 6:66 From that time many of his disciples went back, and walked no more with him.

Many of Jesus's disciples abandoned him after he made difficult teachings.

1. "The Difficult Path of Discipleship"

2. "The Challenge of Following Jesus"

1. Matthew 8:19-22 - Jesus's call to a disciple to follow him

2. Luke 14:25-33 - Jesus's teaching on the cost of discipleship

John 6:67 Then said Jesus unto the twelve, Will ye also go away?

Jesus asked the twelve disciples if they were going to leave him like the others.

1. Don't give up on Jesus when He asks the hard questions.

2. When you are tested, stand firm with Jesus.

1. Hebrews 10:23 - Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful.

2. James 1:12 - Blessed is the one who perseveres under trial because, having stood the test, that person will receive the crown of life that the Lord has promised to those who love him.

John 6:68 Then Simon Peter answered him, Lord, to whom shall we go? thou hast the words of eternal life.

Simon Peter declares his loyalty to Jesus, asking Him who else they could turn to for eternal life.

1. "Unwavering Loyalty: A Look at Peter's Commitment to Jesus"

2. "The Words of Eternal Life: Why We Turn to Jesus"

1. Romans 10:8-13 - For “everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”

2. Matthew 16:13-20 - Jesus asks His disciples who people say He is, and Peter responds, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.”

John 6:69 And we believe and are sure that thou art that Christ, the Son of the living God.

Jesus is affirmed by his disciples as the Messiah, the Son of the living God.

1. Reaffirming Jesus as the Messiah: Believing in His Work and Power

2. Knowing Jesus as the Son of God: The Key to Eternal Life

1. Isaiah 9:6-7 - For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

2. Matthew 16:13-17 - When Jesus came into the region of Caesarea Philippi, He asked His disciples, saying, “Who do men say that I, the Son of Man, am?” So they said, “Some say John the Baptist, some Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” Simon Peter answered and said, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.” Jesus answered and said to him, “Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but My Father who is in heaven.”

John 6:70 Jesus answered them, Have not I chosen you twelve, and one of you is a devil?

Jesus asked the twelve disciples if he had chosen them, and reminded them that one of them was a devil.

1. Jesus chooses us carefully, but we must always be wary of the devil’s influence in our lives.

2. Jesus’s love for us is so great that he chose us even when he knew one of us would be a devil.

1. 1 Peter 5:8-9 – “Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. Resist him, firm in your faith…”

2. Ephesians 6:11-13 – “Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.”

John 6:71 He spake of Judas Iscariot the son of Simon: for he it was that should betray him, being one of the twelve.

Jesus revealed that one of his twelve disciples, Judas Iscariot, would betray him.

1. How to be Faithful to God in Times of Betrayal

2. The Importance of Keeping Commitments

1. Psalm 119:63 - I am a companion of all them that fear thee, and of them that keep thy precepts.

2. Matthew 26:45 - Then cometh he to his disciples, and saith unto them, Sleep on now, and take your rest: behold, the hour is at hand, and the Son of man is betrayed into the hands of sinners.

John 7 describes Jesus' visit to the Feast of Tabernacles in Jerusalem, the ensuing controversy about His teachings, and differing opinions about His identity.

1st Paragraph: The chapter begins with Jesus moving around Galilee, avoiding Judea because Jewish leaders there were looking for a chance to kill Him. However, when the Jewish Festival of Tabernacles was near, His brothers suggested He go to Judea openly so that His disciples may see works He was doing. Jesus responded that His time had not yet fully come but theirs is always right then went up privately after they left (John 7:1-10).

2nd Paragraph: During festival Jews were looking for Him whispering speculations about Him but fearing leaders no one spoke publicly about Him. Midway through festival Jesus went up temple courts began teach amazed many who wondered how He knew scriptures without having studied them. In response, He pointed out teaching came from God Father not Himself whoever chooses do God’s will understand whether teaching comes from God or whether speak on own authority leading Pharisees and chief priests send temple guards arrest him yet no one laid hand him because his hour had not yet come (John 7:11-30).

3rd Paragraph: On last greatest day festival Jesus stood said in loud voice 'Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me as Scripture has said rivers living water will flow from within them.' This referred Spirit whom those believed in him were later receive for Spirit had not been given because Jesus had not yet been glorified causing division among crowd some saying 'He is Prophet' others 'He is Christ' while others questioned possibility Christ coming from Galilee ending with Nicodemus defending Him against outright condemnation without hearing defense according law leading further mockery dismissal by his peers leaving each go home (John 7:31-53).

John 7:1 After these things Jesus walked in Galilee: for he would not walk in Jewry, because the Jews sought to kill him.

Jesus avoided the Jews in Galilee because they sought to kill him.

1: God's protection is always there for us, no matter the circumstances.

2: We should never give up hope, no matter the opposition we face.

1: Psalm 23:4 "Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me."

2: Proverbs 3:5-6 "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight."

John 7:2 Now the Jews' feast of tabernacles was at hand.

During the Jews' Feast of Tabernacles, Jesus was traveling to Jerusalem.

1. Jesus' Love for His People: How Jesus Showed His Love by Going to Jerusalem During the Feast of Tabernacles

2. Obedience to God: The Importance of Obeying God Even When It's Difficult

1. John 14:15 - "If you love me, you will keep my commandments."

2. Matthew 28:20 - "And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

John 7:3 His brethren therefore said unto him, Depart hence, and go into Judaea, that thy disciples also may see the works that thou doest.

Jesus's brothers urged him to leave Galilee and go to Judea so that his disciples could see the miracles he was performing.

1. The Power of Faith: Learning to Believe in Miracles

2. Following the Will of the Father: How Jesus Obeyed his Brothers' Advice

1. Heb 13:5-6 - “Keep your life free from love of money, and be content with what you have, for he has said, “I will never leave you nor forsake you.” So we can confidently say, “The Lord is my helper; I will not fear; what can man do to me?”

2. John 14:12-14 - “Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes in me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do, because I am going to the Father. Whatever you ask in my name, this I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask me anything in my name, I will do it.”

John 7:4 For there is no man that doeth any thing in secret, and he himself seeketh to be known openly. If thou do these things, shew thyself to the world.

Jesus encourages us to do good works in public so that others can be encouraged to do the same.

1. Doing Good in Public: Showing the World How Following Jesus Can Change Lives

2. The Power of Service: Making a Difference in the Lives of Others

1. Matthew 5:16 - "Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven."

2. Galatians 6:9 - "And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up."

John 7:5 For neither did his brethren believe in him.

Passage: Even though Jesus had performed many miraculous signs in his hometown of Nazareth, his own brothers did not believe in him (John 7:5).

Jesus was not accepted by his own family, despite the many signs that he had done.

1. Recognizing God's Will in Difficult Situations: Jesus's Example

2. The Power of Faith Despite Unbelief: The Story of Jesus and His Brothers

1. Isaiah 53:1 - "Who has believed our message and to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?"

2. Romans 10:17 - "So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ."

John 7:6 Then Jesus said unto them, My time is not yet come: but your time is alway ready.

Jesus teaches us that our time should be at the service of God.

1: Our time is a gift from God, and it should be used to serve Him.

2: We are called to devote our time and resources to God and His kingdom.

1: Colossians 3:17 - And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him.

2: Ephesians 5:15-16 - See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, Redeeming the time, because the days are evil.

John 7:7 The world cannot hate you; but me it hateth, because I testify of it, that the works thereof are evil.

The world hates Jesus because of the testimony He gives about the evil works of the world.

1. Bearing Witness in Unfavourable Circumstances - John 7:7

2. The Cost of Standing Firm in Faith - John 7:7

1. Romans 12:2 - Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.

2. 1 John 5:19 - We know that we are children of God, and that the whole world is under the control of the evil one.

John 7:8 Go ye up unto this feast: I go not up yet unto this feast: for my time is not yet full come.

John 7:8 teaches us to be patient and wait until the time is right for us to take action.

1: Patience is a virtue - John 7:8

2: God's timing is perfect - John 7:8

1: James 5:7-8 - Be patient therefore, brethren, unto the coming of the Lord. Behold, the husbandman waiteth for the precious fruit of the earth, and hath long patience for it, until he receive the early and latter rain.

2: Ecclesiastes 3:1-8 - To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven: A time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up that which is planted.

John 7:9 When he had said these words unto them, he abode still in Galilee.

Jesus spoke to the crowds in Galilee and then remained in the region afterwards.

1. Jesus' Obedience to God's Plan: The Example of Jesus' Stay in Galilee

2. The Power of Words: How Jesus' Speech Informed His Actions

1. Matthew 4:23-24 - And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing all manner of sickness and all manner of disease among the people.

2. John 9:4 - I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work.

John 7:10 But when his brethren were gone up, then went he also up unto the feast, not openly, but as it were in secret.

John is reminded of his duty to God and goes to the feast, but does so in a discreet manner.

1. Our Duty to God: Even in Secret

2. Living Discreetly to Fulfill Our Obligations

1. Proverbs 16:2 All the ways of a man are clean in his own eyes; but the Lord weigheth the spirits.

2. Matthew 6:4-6 “Therefore do not be like them. For your Father knows the things you have need of before you ask Him. In this manner, therefore, pray: Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

John 7:11 Then the Jews sought him at the feast, and said, Where is he?

The Jews were searching for Jesus at the feast.

1: Jesus is always near us, even when we cannot find Him.

2: We must seek Jesus every moment of our lives.

1: Jeremiah 29:13 - "You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart."

2: 1 Chronicles 16:11 - "Seek the Lord and His strength; seek His presence continually!"

John 7:12 And there was much murmuring among the people concerning him: for some said, He is a good man: others said, Nay; but he deceiveth the people.

People were murmuring about Jesus, with some saying He was a good man and others saying He was deceiving them.

1. God's Love: Seeing Jesus Through Eyes of Faith

2. The Power of Words: Truth and Deception

1. John 3:16-17 - For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

17 For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.

2. James 3:5-6 - Even so the tongue is a little member, and boasteth great things. Behold, how great a matter a little fire kindleth!

6 And the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity: so is the tongue among our members, that it defileth the whole body, and setteth on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire of hell.

John 7:13 Howbeit no man spake openly of him for fear of the Jews.

This passage highlights the danger of speaking openly about Jesus, as the Jews had a negative opinion of him.

1: God gives us the courage to speak openly and boldly about Jesus, despite the fear of what others may think.

2: Even when the odds are against us, we must stand firm in our faith in Jesus.

1: Acts 4:19-20 - “But Peter and John answered and said unto them, Whether it be right in the sight of God to hearken unto you more than unto God, judge ye. For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard.”

2: Matthew 10:32-33 - “Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven. But whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my Father which is in heaven.”

John 7:14 Now about the midst of the feast Jesus went up into the temple, and taught.

Jesus went up to the temple during the middle of the festival and taught.

1. The Power of Jesus' Teaching

2. Jesus' Commitment to His Mission

1. Isaiah 55:11, "So shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it."

2. Matthew 9:35, "And Jesus went throughout all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction."

John 7:15 And the Jews marvelled, saying, How knoweth this man letters, having never learned?

The Jews marveled at Jesus' ability to understand and teach even though he had not been formally taught.

1. The power of God's word to transform lives

2. The importance of recognizing the potential in others

1. Romans 12:2 - Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

2. Philippians 4:13 - I can do all things through him who strengthens me.

John 7:16 Jesus answered them, and said, My doctrine is not mine, but his that sent me.

Jesus was asked about His doctrine and He responded that it came from His Father.

1. The Authority of Jesus' Doctrine

2. The Source of Jesus' Doctrine

1. Matthew 28:18-20 - "And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of

the age.”

2. John 14:26 - "But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you."

John 7:17 If any man will do his will, he shall know of the doctrine, whether it be of God, or whether I speak of myself.

This passage encourages us to seek God's will in order to understand His teachings.

1. Seek God's Will and Understand the Truth of His Teachings

2. Put God's Will Above All Else and Learn His Wisdom

1. Jeremiah 29:13 - "You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart."

2. James 1:5 - "If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him."

John 7:18 He that speaketh of himself seeketh his own glory: but he that seeketh his glory that sent him, the same is true, and no unrighteousness is in him.

This passage emphasizes the importance of seeking God's glory instead of seeking personal glory.

1: Seek God's Glory Instead of Your Own

2: Nothing Unrighteous in Seeking God's Glory

1: Philippians 2:3-4 - "Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others."

2: James 4:10 - "Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up."

John 7:19 Did not Moses give you the law, and yet none of you keepeth the law? Why go

ye about to kill me?

Jesus is questioning why the Jewish leaders are trying to kill him even though they have the law of Moses.

1. The Hypocrisy of Trying to Kill Jesus - Examining our actions in light of the law of Moses.

2. The Uniqueness of Jesus - Discussing the uniqueness of Jesus in comparison to the law of Moses.

1. Matthew 5:17 - "Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them."

2. James 2:10 - "For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become accountable for all of it."

John 7:20 The people answered and said, Thou hast a devil: who goeth about to kill thee?

Jesus was questioned by the people due to his teachings and they accused him of having a devil.

1: Jesus' teachings were so radical and revolutionary that the people could not comprehend them and thus accused him of being possessed by a devil.

2: We must always remain open to the truth, even if it is difficult to accept, as our faith must be strong enough to handle it.

1: John 8:32, "And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."

2: John 14:6, "Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me."

John 7:21 Jesus answered and said unto them, I have done one work, and ye all marvel.

Jesus declared that He performed a single work and the people were astonished.

1. Jesus' Work: An Astonishing Miracle

2. The Wonder of God's Work in Our Lives

1. Hebrews 2:3-4 "How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation; which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard him; God also bearing them witness, both with signs and wonders, and with divers miracles, and gifts of the Holy Ghost, according to his own will?"

2. Acts 2:22 "Ye men of Israel, hear these words; Jesus of Nazareth, a man approved of God among you by miracles and wonders and signs, which God did by him in the midst of you, as ye yourselves also know."

John 7:22 Moses therefore gave unto you circumcision; (not because it is of Moses, but of the fathers;) and ye on the sabbath day circumcise a man.

The passage discusses how Moses gave the Israelites circumcision, not because of his own authority, but because it was something the Israelites' ancestors practiced.

1. The importance of honoring our ancestors and their traditions.

2. God's authority is greater than any human authority.

1. Deuteronomy 10:16 - "Circumcise therefore the foreskin of your heart, and be no more stiffnecked."

2. Psalm 78:5-7 - "For he established a testimony in Jacob, and appointed a law in Israel, which he commanded our fathers, that they should make them known to their children: That the generation to come might know them, even the children which should be born; who should arise and declare them to their children: That they might set their hope in God, and not forget the works of God, but keep his commandments."

John 7:23 If a man on the sabbath day receive circumcision, that the law of Moses should not be broken; are ye angry at me, because I have made a man every whit whole on the sabbath day?

Jesus defends His actions of healing on the Sabbath, asking the people why they are angry if He is doing something that is permitted by the laws of Moses.

1. "Jesus and the Sabbath: Modeling Obedience to God's Commandments"

2. "Jesus and the Sabbath: The Compassionate Healer"

1. Matthew 12:1-14 - Jesus is questioned about His disciples picking grain on the Sabbath

2. Deuteronomy 5:12-15 - God's command to observe the Sabbath day

John 7:24 Judge not according to the appearance, but judge righteous judgment.

Jesus encourages us to make decisions based on facts and righteousness rather than appearances.

1. Making Judgments With Righteousness - John 7:24

2. Seeing Beyond the Surface - John 7:24

1. Proverbs 16:2 - "All the ways of a man are pure in his own eyes, but the Lord weighs the spirit."

2. Colossians 3:12 - "Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience."

John 7:25 Then said some of them of Jerusalem, Is not this he, whom they seek to kill?

Some of the people of Jerusalem asked if the man they were trying to kill was present.

1. How can we be sure that we are following God's will and not the will of man?

2. What is the proper response when we find ourselves in the midst of a situation that seems to go against our faith?

1. Matthew 22:36-40 - "‘Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?’ And He said to him, ‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the great and foremost commandment. The second is like it, You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend the

whole Law and the Prophets.’”

2. Proverbs 14:12 - "There is a way which seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death."

John 7:26 But, lo, he speaketh boldly, and they say nothing unto him. Do the rulers know indeed that this is the very Christ?

Summary - Jesus spoke boldly in public, and despite the rulers knowing he was the Messiah, they chose to remain silent.

1. The courage of Jesus to speak truth in the face of opposition.

2. The consequences of choosing to remain silent in the face of truth.

1. Matthew 10:32-33 - "Whoever acknowledges me before others, I will also acknowledge before my Father in heaven. But whoever disowns me before others, I will disown before my Father in heaven."

2. Isaiah 41:10 - "So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand."

John 7:27 Howbeit we know this man whence he is: but when Christ cometh, no man knoweth whence he is.

The passage suggests that no one knows where Jesus will come from when He arrives.

1. The Mystery of Jesus: Exploring the Unknown

2. The Power of Faith: Believing in the Unseen

1. Isaiah 40:13 - Who hath directed the Spirit of the LORD, or being his counsellor hath taught him?

2. Luke 17:20-21 - And when he was demanded of the Pharisees, when the kingdom of God should come, he answered them and said, The kingdom of God cometh not with observation: Neither shall they say, Lo here! or, lo there! for, behold, the kingdom of God is within you.

John 7:28 Then cried Jesus in the temple as he taught, saying, Ye both know me, and ye know whence I am: and I am not come of myself, but he that sent me is true, whom ye know not.

Jesus taught in the temple, proclaiming that he was sent by God and that the people did not know God's true identity.

1. Jesus' mission and teaching were from God and not from himself.

2. We must recognize God's truth and seek to understand it.

1. John 8:12, "Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.”

2. Psalm 34:8, “Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good! Blessed is the man who takes refuge in him!”

John 7:29 But I know him: for I am from him, and he hath sent me.

Jesus declared that he knows God because he was sent by Him.

1. We are all connected to God through Jesus.

2. Knowing God is a privilege that comes through Jesus.

1. John 1:1-5 - In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

2. Matthew 28:19-20 - Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

John 7:30 Then they sought to take him: but no man laid hands on him, because his hour was not yet come.

Jesus was sought to be taken by those who opposed him but none of them could lay hands on him as his time had not yet come.

1. Learning to Trust God's Timing - We must trust that God's timing is perfect, even when it doesn't make sense to us.

2. The Power in Waiting - Sometimes the most powerful thing we can do is to patiently wait for God's plan to unfold in our lives.

1. Isaiah 55:8-9 - "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts."

2. James 4:13-15 - "Go to now, ye that say, To day or to morrow we will go into such a city, and continue there a year, and buy and sell, and get gain: Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away. For that ye ought to say, If the Lord will, we shall live, and do this, or that."

John 7:31 And many of the people believed on him, and said, When Christ cometh, will he do more miracles than these which this man hath done?

Many of the people were amazed by Jesus' miracles and wondered if He would do even more when He returns.

1. Jesus' Miracles: Signs of a Greater Power

2. Believe in Jesus: A Message from the Miracles

1. Matthew 11:2-5 - John the Baptist's testimony of Jesus

2. Isaiah 35:5-6 - God's promise of healing and restoration

John 7:32 The Pharisees heard that the people murmured such things concerning him; and the Pharisees and the chief priests sent officers to take him.

The Pharisees and Chief Priests heard the people murmuring about Jesus and sent officers to arrest him.

1. The Power of Rumors - How gossip and hearsay can influence our decisions and

actions.

2. The Inevitability of Persecution - Jesus' example of perseverance in the face of opposition.

1. James 3:5-6 - "Even so the tongue is a little member, and boasteth great things. Behold, how great a matter a little fire kindleth! And the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity: so is the tongue among our members, that it defileth the whole body, and setteth on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire of hell."

2. Matthew 5:10-12 - "Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake. Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you."

John 7:33 Then said Jesus unto them, Yet a little while am I with you, and then I go unto him that sent me.

Jesus informs His disciples that He will soon be leaving them to return to His Father.

1: Jesus loves us so much that He willingly gives His life for us.

2: Jesus is our ultimate example of self-sacrifice and obedience.

1: John 10:17-18 - "Therefore do I say unto you, The Son can do nothing of himself, but what he seeth the Father do: for what things soever he doeth, these also doeth the Son likewise. For the Father loveth the Son, and sheweth him all things that himself doeth: and he will shew him greater works than these, that ye may marvel."

2: Philippians 2:5-8 - "Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross."

John 7:34 Ye shall seek me, and shall not find me: and where I am, thither ye cannot come.

Jesus is telling his disciples that they will not find him, and that they cannot go where he

is.

1. The Importance of Faith in Jesus: Seeking Him Even When He is Unseen

2. Jesus' Ascension: The Inaccessibility of Heaven

1. Hebrews 11:6 - But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.

2. Luke 24:50-51 - And he led them out as far as to Bethany, and he lifted up his hands, and blessed them. And it came to pass, while he blessed them, he was parted from them, and carried up into heaven.

John 7:35 Then said the Jews among themselves, Whither will he go, that we shall not find him? will he go unto the dispersed among the Gentiles, and teach the Gentiles?

The Jews were questioning whether Jesus would go to the Gentiles to teach them.

1. Jesus: The Servant of All Nations

2. Going Beyond Our Comfort Zones

1. Acts 10:34-35 "Then Peter began to speak: “I now realize how true it is that God does not show favoritism but accepts from every nation the one who fears him and does what is right."

2. Romans 10:12-13 "For there is no difference between Jew and Gentile—the same Lord is Lord of all and richly blesses all who call on him, for, “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”"

John 7:36 What manner of saying is this that he said, Ye shall seek me, and shall not find me: and where I am, thither ye cannot come?

This passage in John 7 speaks of Jesus' assurance that He will be found by those who seek Him and that He will be in a place that cannot be reached by those who do not believe in Him.

1. The Comfort of Knowing Jesus: Relying on Jesus' Promise that He Will be Found

2. The Challenge of Believing: Taking on the Responsibility to Seek Jesus

1. Jeremiah 29:13 - "And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart."

2. John 4:23 - "But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him."

John 7:37 In the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried, saying, If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink.

Jesus invites all who are thirsty to come to him and drink.

1: Be Refreshed by Jesus: For Those Who Thirst.

2: Drinking from the Well of Jesus: Quenching Your Thirst.

1: Isaiah 55:1-2 - “Come, all you who are thirsty, come to the waters; and you who have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without cost.”

2: Revelation 22:17 - "The Spirit and the bride say, “Come!” And let the one who hears say, “Come!” Let the one who is thirsty come; and let the one who wishes take the free gift of the water of life.”

John 7:38 He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water.

Jesus proclaims that those who believe in him will be blessed with an abundance of spiritual blessings.

1. The Living Water of Jesus: Abundant Spiritual Blessings

2. Rivers of Living Water: The Blessings of Believing in Jesus

1. Ezekiel 47:1-12 - The vision of the river of living water

2. Isaiah 55:1 - An invitation to come to the Lord for the water of life.

John 7:39 (But this spake he of the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive: for the Holy Ghost was not yet given; because that Jesus was not yet glorified.)

The passage discusses how Jesus spoke of the Spirit that believers would receive, but the Holy Spirit had not been given yet because Jesus had not been glorified.

1. Believing in Jesus and the Power of the Holy Spirit

2. Faith and the Gift of the Holy Spirit

1. Acts 2:38 (Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.)

2. Ephesians 4:30 (And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.)

John 7:40 Many of the people therefore, when they heard this saying, said, Of a truth this is the Prophet.

Many people heard Jesus' words and believed he was the prophet.

1. Listen to the Words of Jesus: How His Teachings Can Bring Us Closer to God

2. Believing in Jesus: Becoming A Disciple of the Messiah

1. Deuteronomy 18:15-19 - The Lord speaking of a prophet like Moses.

2. John 1:45 - Philip declaring Jesus to be the promised Messiah.

John 7:41 Others said, This is the Christ. But some said, Shall Christ come out of Galilee?

There was some debate among people as to whether the man Jesus was the Christ, with

some asking whether the Christ would come from Galilee.

1. Jesus: The Christ We Need

2. The Uniqueness of Christ's Origin

1. Isaiah 9:6-7 - For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

2. Matthew 2:23 - And he went and lived in a city called Nazareth, that what was spoken by the prophets might be fulfilled: “He shall be called a Nazarene.”

John 7:42 Hath not the scripture said, That Christ cometh of the seed of David, and out of the town of Bethlehem, where David was?

This passage highlights the fact that Jesus was born from the lineage of David and in the town of Bethlehem.

1. The Miraculous Incarnation: How Christ Fulfilled Scripture

2. The Majesty of Jesus: How His Birth Was Foretold

1. Isaiah 9:6-7: For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

2. Micah 5:2: But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, who are too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel, whose coming forth is from of old, from ancient days.

John 7:43 So there was a division among the people because of him.

The people divided over Jesus.

1. The Divisiveness of Jesus: How to Overcome Conflict

2. The Power of Jesus: How His Presence Can Unite Us

1. Romans 14:13-14 - Let us therefore no longer pass judgement on one another, but rather decide never to put a stumbling block or hindrance in the way of a brother.

2. 1 Corinthians 1:10-13 - I appeal to you, brothers, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same judgment.

John 7:44 And some of them would have taken him; but no man laid hands on him.

John 7:44 is a passage about Jesus avoiding arrest.

1. Don't be afraid to stand up for what is right.

2. God will protect those who serve Him faithfully.

1. Isaiah 41:10 - "Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand."

2. Psalm 27:1 - "The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?"

John 7:45 Then came the officers to the chief priests and Pharisees; and they said unto them, Why have ye not brought him?

The officers asked the chief priests and Pharisees why they had not brought Jesus to them.

1. The power of asking questions to uncover truth.

2. The importance of following through on what is promised.

1. Luke 6:46-49, Why do you call me ‘Lord, Lord,’ and do not do what I say?

2. Luke 11:9-10, Seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you.

John 7:46 The officers answered, Never man spake like this man.

The officers were astounded by Jesus' words.

1: Jesus' words are a source of wonder and awe.

2: We should strive to speak with the same wisdom and authority as Jesus.

1: Isaiah 55:8-9 "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts."

2: James 3:17 "But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be intreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy."

John 7:47 Then answered them the Pharisees, Are ye also deceived?

The Pharisees asked if the people listening to Jesus were also deceived.

1. Nothing is Hidden from God - Ecclesiastes 12:14

2. Heed the Words of Wisdom - Proverbs 23:23

1. Romans 12:2 - Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.

2. Psalm 119:104 - Through your precepts I get understanding; therefore I hate every false way.

John 7:48 Have any of the rulers or of the Pharisees believed on him?

This passage asks if any of the Jewish rulers or Pharisees have believed in Jesus.

1. The Blindness of the Heart: How We Miss God's Presence in Our Lives

2. The Power of Faith: How Belief Can Transform Us

1. Romans 10:14-17 - How everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.

2. John 3:16-17 - How God sent his son to the world so that whoever believes in him will not perish but have eternal life.

John 7:49 But this people who knoweth not the law are cursed.

The people who do not know the law are cursed.

1: Do not forget your duty to God, and to the law; for it is only through following the law that you can be saved.

2: Do not ignore the law, for it is God’s will that we obey it; and those who do not will be cursed.

1: James 2:10-12 - "For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become accountable for all of it. For he who said, “Do not commit adultery,” also said, “Do not murder.” If you do not commit adultery but do murder, you have become a transgressor of the law. So speak and so act as those who are to be judged by the law of liberty."

2: Matthew 5:17-19 - "Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth disappear, not the smallest letter, not the least stroke of a pen, will by any means disappear from the Law until everything is accomplished. Therefore anyone who sets aside one of the least of these commands and teaches others accordingly will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever practices and teaches these commands will be called great in the kingdom of heaven."

John 7:50 Nicodemus saith unto them, (he that came to Jesus by night, being one of them,)

Nicodemus affirms Jesus as the Messiah.

1. What does it mean to be a follower of Jesus?

2. How can we live out our faith in Jesus?

1. John 3:1-21 - Nicodemus visits Jesus

2. Romans 10:9-10 - Confessing with the mouth and believing in the heart leads to salvation

John 7:51 Doth our law judge any man, before it hear him, and know what he doeth?

This passage is asking whether the law should judge a person before they are heard and understood.

1. God's law is not a tool for judgment, but a source of grace and understanding.

2. We should strive to hear and understand others before passing judgement.

1. James 2:12-13 - "Speak and act as those who are going to be judged by the law that gives freedom, because judgment without mercy will be shown to anyone who has not been merciful. Mercy triumphs over judgment."

2. Matthew 7:1-5 - "Do not judge, or you too will be judged. For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you. Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother's eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye? How can you say to your brother, 'Let me take the speck out of your eye,' when all the time there is a plank in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the plank out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye."

John 7:52 They answered and said unto him, Art thou also of Galilee? Search, and look: for out of Galilee ariseth no prophet.

The religious leaders of Jesus' time questioned him, asking if he was from Galilee, because no prophet had ever arisen from Galilee.

1. Jesus was despised and rejected by those who should have known better.

2. We should not be quick to judge someone based on where they come from.

1. Isaiah 53:3 - He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief.

2. Matthew 7:1 - Judge not, that you be not judged.

John 7:53 And every man went unto his own house.

This passage describes how the Jewish people dispersed after the Feast of Tabernacles.

1. The Importance of Keeping God's Holy Days

2. The Blessing of Unity and Fellowship

1. Acts 2:1-4 - The coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost

2. Psalm 133:1 - How good and pleasant it is when God's people dwell together in unity.

John 8 narrates the incident of the woman caught in adultery, Jesus' discourse on His divine identity and origin, and the ensuing controversy with the Jewish leaders.

1st Paragraph: The chapter begins with Jesus teaching at the temple courts when scribes and Pharisees brought a woman caught in adultery before Him. They asked Him whether she should be stoned according to Moses' law, trying to trap Him. Instead of answering directly, Jesus wrote on ground then said 'Let any one of you who is without sin be first throw stone at her.' Convicted by their own consciences, they left one by one until only Jesus was left with woman standing there whom He released saying 'Neither do I condemn you go now leave your life sin.' (John 8:1-11).

2nd Paragraph: After this incident, Jesus declared Himself 'the light of world' promising those who follow Him will never walk darkness but have light life leading Pharisees challenge His testimony as self-affirming hence invalid. In response He asserted that even if bears witness about Himself testimony is valid because knows where came from going further accusing them judging by human standards not knowing God Father sent Him (John 8:12-20).

3rd Paragraph: Despite their continued unbelief and confusion about His identity, He reiterated impending death their resulting sin unbelief because cannot go where going declared unless believe that 'I am he' will die sins causing division among Jews some believing others seeking seize him yet no one laid hand him because his hour had not yet come concluding with affirming Abraham's joy see day saw it rejoiced controversial claim

pre-existence before Abraham 'Before Abraham was born I am.' leading them pick up stones stone him but escaped hid himself (John 8:21-59).

John 8:1 Jesus went unto the mount of Olives.

Jesus went to the mount of Olives to teach His disciples.

1. The Importance of Teaching: Jesus on the Mount of Olives

2. Learning from Jesus: A Journey to the Mount of Olives

1. Matthew 28:18-20 - And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

2. Acts 1:1-8 - In the first book, O Theophilus, I have dealt with all that Jesus began to do and teach, until the day when he was taken up, after he had given commands through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. He presented himself alive to them after his suffering by many proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. And while staying with them he ordered them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father, which, he said, "you heard from me; for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."

John 8:2 And early in the morning he came again into the temple, and all the people came unto him; and he sat down, and taught them.

John taught the people in the temple early in the morning.

1. The Power of Early Rising: Learning from John's Example

2. Investing in Your Spiritual Life: Making Time for God

1. Psalm 5:3 - "In the morning, O Lord, you hear my voice; in the morning I lay my requests before you and wait in expectation."

2. Proverbs 8:17 - "I love those who love me, and those who seek me find me."

John 8:3 And the scribes and Pharisees brought unto him a woman taken in adultery; and when they had set her in the midst,

The scribes and Pharisees brought a woman caught in adultery to Jesus.

1. The Power of Mercy: Learning from the Example of Jesus

2. Jesus and the Law: Examining Our Own Actions

1. James 2:13 - “For judgment is without mercy to one who has shown no mercy. Mercy triumphs over judgment.”

2. Luke 6:36-37 - “Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful. Judge not, and you will not be judged; condemn not, and you will not be condemned; forgive, and you will be forgiven.”

John 8:4 They say unto him, Master, this woman was taken in adultery, in the very act.

This passage is about a woman who was caught in the act of adultery and brought to Jesus for judgment.

1. The Power of Redemption: God's Grace and Love in Forgiveness

2. An Examination of Our Own Sin: Recognizing and Confronting Our Own Flaws

1. Romans 6:23 - For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

2. Isaiah 1:18 - “Come now, let us reason together,” says the Lord. “Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red as crimson, they shall be like wool.”

John 8:5 Now Moses in the law commanded us, that such should be stoned: but what sayest thou?

The passage discusses the fact that Moses commanded stoning for certain offenses, and Jesus' response.

1. Jesus' Mercy: Understanding Jesus' teaching of mercy and grace in light of the law of Moses.

2. The Law and Grace: Comparing and contrasting the laws of the Old Testament with the grace of Jesus.

1. Romans 6:14 - For sin shall not have dominion over you, for you are not under the law, but under grace.

2. Matthew 5:17-18 - "Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. For truly, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the Law until all is accomplished."

John 8:6 This they said, tempting him, that they might have to accuse him. But Jesus stooped down, and with his finger wrote on the ground, as though he heard them not.

John was being tempted by those around him, but Jesus stooped down and wrote on the ground instead, seemingly ignoring the temptation.

1. God gives us the strength to resist temptation.

2. We must use wisdom to discern how to respond to temptation.

1. James 1:13-15 - "Let no one say when he is tempted, “I am being tempted by God,” for God cannot be tempted with evil, and he himself tempts no one. But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire. Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death."

2. Hebrews 4:15-16 - "For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need."

John 8:7 So when they continued asking him, he lifted up himself, and said unto them, He that is without sin among you, let him first cast a stone at her.

The passage highlights Jesus' call to humility and justice, urging people to judge their own sin before condemning another.

1. "The Power of Humility: How God's Grace Can Help Us Judge Righteously"

2. "Justice in the Eyes of God: Learning to Love and Forgive"

1. James 4:12 - "There is only one lawgiver and judge, he who is able to save and to destroy. But who are you to judge your neighbor?"

2. Matthew 7:5 - "You hypocrite, first take the plank out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye."

John 8:8 And again he stooped down, and wrote on the ground.

John was writing on the ground as a sign of humility.

1: Humility is a virtue that can guide us in our daily lives.

2: We can draw strength and wisdom from the example of Jesus in John 8:8.

1: Philippians 2:3-4 - Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves.

2: James 4:10 - Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up.

John 8:9 And they which heard it, being convicted by their own conscience, went out one by one, beginning at the eldest, even unto the last: and Jesus was left alone, and the woman standing in the midst.

The passage describes the reaction of the people who heard Jesus' words, as they were convicted by their own conscience and one by one left the scene, until only Jesus and the woman remained.

1. Living with Integrity: How to Stand Firm in the Face of Temptation

2. The Power of Words: How Our Words Can Speak Life into Others

1. Romans 2:15 - “They show that the work of the law is written on their hearts, while their conscience also bears witness, and their conflicting thoughts accuse or even excuse them”

2. James 3:2 - “for we all stumble in many ways. And if anyone does not stumble in what he says, he is a perfect man, able also to bridle his whole body.”

John 8:10 When Jesus had lifted up himself, and saw none but the woman, he said unto her, Woman, where are those thine accusers? hath no man condemned thee?

The woman was faced with an accusatory crowd, but Jesus saw past it and asked if anyone had condemned her.

1: God looks past the accusations of the world and cares deeply for us.

2: Jesus' love for us is unconditional and extends past even the most damning of circumstances.

1: 1 John 3:16-18 - "By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers. But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him? Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth."

2: Luke 6:27-28 - "But I say to you who hear, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you."

John 8:11 She said, No man, Lord. And Jesus said unto her, Neither do I condemn thee: go, and sin no more.

This passage speaks of Jesus' mercy and grace towards a woman caught in the act of adultery. He showed mercy by not condemning her and instead told her to go and sin no more.

1. The Unconditional Love of Jesus - Jesus' love for us is so great that He looks past our sins and shows us mercy and grace.

2. Living a Life of Holiness - Jesus doesn't just forgive our sins, He calls us to live a life of

holiness and obedience to God.

1. Romans 5:8 - But God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

2. 1 Peter 1:15-16 - But as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, since it is written, “You shall be holy, for I am holy.”

John 8:12 Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.

Jesus proclaims Himself as the light of the world and promises that those who follow Him will not walk in darkness but instead will have the light of life.

1. Living in the Light of Jesus - The Hope of Salvation

2. Walking in the Light of Jesus - The Way to True Life

1. John 1:5 - And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not.

2. Isaiah 60:1 - Arise, shine; for thy light is come, and the glory of the LORD is risen upon thee.

John 8:13 The Pharisees therefore said unto him, Thou bearest record of thyself; thy record is not true.

Jesus' self-witness was challenged by the Pharisees.

1: Jesus' witness is trustworthy despite what the world may say.

2: We can trust in Jesus' words to guide us.

1: John 14:6 - Jesus said to him, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.

2: 2 Corinthians 5:17 - Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things

have passed away; behold, all things have become new.

John 8:14 Jesus answered and said unto them, Though I bear record of myself, yet my record is true: for I know whence I came, and whither I go; but ye cannot tell whence I come, and whither I go.

Jesus testified of himself but his record was true.

1. Jesus' Testimony and the Truth

2. Knowing Where We Come From and Where We Are Going

1. John 1:14 - And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

2. 1 John 5:9-10 - If we receive the testimony of men, the testimony of God is greater, for this is the testimony of God that he has borne concerning his Son. Whoever believes in the Son of God has the testimony in himself.

John 8:15 Ye judge after the flesh; I judge no man.

John 8:15 teaches us to be humble and not to judge others.

1. "Love Your Neighbor: Refraining From Judgment"

2. "The Power of Humility: Refraining From Judging Others"

1. James 4:11-12 - "Do not speak evil against one another, brothers. The one who speaks against a brother or judges his brother, speaks evil against the law and judges the law. But if you judge the law, you are not a doer of the law but a judge.

2. Matthew 7:1-5 - "Judge not, that you be not judged. For with the judgment you pronounce you will be judged, and with the measure you use it will be measured to you. Why do you see the speck that is in your brother's eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye? Or how can you say to your brother, 'Let me take the speck out of your eye,' when there is the log in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your brother's eye."

John 8:16 And yet if I judge, my judgment is true: for I am not alone, but I and the Father that sent me.

Jesus is not alone in His judgement, as He and the Father are one.

1. The Power of Unity: How Working Together Can Strengthen Our Judgements

2. The Father and the Son: A Study on the Relationship Between Jesus and God

1. Romans 8:31-39 - What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us?

2. John 17:1-26 - And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one.

John 8:17 It is also written in your law, that the testimony of two men is true.

This passage speaks to the truthfulness of two or more witnesses in a legal setting, according to the law.

1. "The Power of Testimony: How the Law of Two Witnesses Can Help Us Reach the Truth"

2. "The Law of Witnesses: Practical Applications for Our Lives"

1. Deuteronomy 19:15 - "One witness shall not rise up against a man for any iniquity, or for any sin, in any sin that he sinneth: at the mouth of two witnesses, or at the mouth of three witnesses, shall the matter be established."

2. Hebrews 10:28 - "He that despised Moses' law died without mercy under two or three witnesses."

John 8:18 I am one that bear witness of myself, and the Father that sent me beareth witness of me.

The passage expresses that Jesus is testifying to His identity, and that the Father who has sent Him also testifies to His identity.

1. Jesus is the Son of God: A Testimony of Faith

2. God's Witness of Jesus: A Study on John 8:18

1. Romans 8:16 - The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God.

2. 1 John 5:9-10 - If we receive the witness of men, the witness of God is greater; for this is the witness of God which He has testified of His Son.

John 8:19 Then said they unto him, Where is thy Father? Jesus answered, Ye neither know me, nor my Father: if ye had known me, ye should have known my Father also.

The Pharisees asked Jesus about His Father, to which He answered that they did not know Him or His Father.

1. Our Relationship with God - understanding the importance of knowing who God is and who we are in relationship to Him.

2. Knowing God - recognizing the importance of understanding the essence of God and His character.

1. Matthew 11:27 - "All things have been committed to me by my Father. No one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him."

2. Isaiah 55:8-9 - "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts."

John 8:20 These words spake Jesus in the treasury, as he taught in the temple: and no man laid hands on him; for his hour was not yet come.

Jesus spoke in the temple without being arrested, as his time had not yet come.

1. God's timing is perfect - John 8:20

2. The importance of obedience - John 8:20

1. Acts 2:23 - The predetermined plan and foreknowledge of God concerning Jesus' death.

2. Isaiah 53:10 - Yet it was the Lord's will to crush him and cause him to suffer, and though the Lord makes his life an offering for sin, he will see his offspring and prolong his days, and the will of the Lord will prosper in his hand.

John 8:21 Then said Jesus again unto them, I go my way, and ye shall seek me, and shall die in your sins: whither I go, ye cannot come.

Jesus tells the people that they will seek Him, but will die in their sins, and they cannot follow Him.

1. The Consequences of Denying Jesus

2. The Power of God's Love and Mercy

1. John 3:16 - "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."

2. Romans 6:23 - "For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."

John 8:22 Then said the Jews, Will he kill himself? because he saith, Whither I go, ye cannot come.

The Jews were confused by Jesus' statement that they could not follow Him to where He was going.

1. The Purpose of Jesus' Mission: To Help Us Follow Him Wherever He Leads

2. The Power of Faith: How to Follow Jesus No Matter Where He Goes

1. Hebrews 11:6 - "And without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him."

2. John 14:4 - "And you know the way where I am going."

John 8:23 And he said unto them, Ye are from beneath; I am from above: ye are of this world; I am not of this world.

Jesus makes it clear that he is not from this world, but from above.

1: Jesus came to save us from a world of sin and darkness.

2: Jesus is from heaven, not from this corrupt world.

1: John 3:19-21 - And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reproved. But he that doeth truth cometh to the light, that his deeds may be made manifest, that they are wrought in God.

2: Colossians 1:13-14 - Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son: In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins.

John 8:24 I said therefore unto you, that ye shall die in your sins: for if ye believe not that I am he, ye shall die in your sins.

You will die in your sins unless you believe in Jesus as the Messiah.

1. The Power of Belief: How Faith in Jesus Saves Us

2. Accepting Jesus as the Messiah: What It Means to Follow Him

1. Romans 10:9 - That if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.

2. John 3:16 - For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.

John 8:25 Then said they unto him, Who art thou? And Jesus saith unto them, Even the same that I said unto you from the beginning.

Jesus declared that he is the same as he said from the beginning.

1. Understanding Jesus' Identity - Who is He?

2. Steadfastness - Jesus' Consistency Through Time

1. Isaiah 7:14, "Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel."

2. John 10:30, "I and the Father are one."

John 8:26 I have many things to say and to judge of you: but he that sent me is true; and I speak to the world those things which I have heard of him.

John is speaking to the world of the truth he has heard from God.

1. Living a Life of Truth.

2. Knowing and Accepting God's Truth.

1. John 8:32, "And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."

2. Colossians 3:17, "And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him."

John 8:27 They understood not that he spake to them of the Father.

The people did not understand that Jesus was speaking of the Father.

1. The Father Revealed Through Jesus: Understanding the Significance of Jesus' Words

2. Knowing the Father: Experiencing the Love of God Through Jesus

1. Matthew 11:27 - “All things have been committed to me by my Father. No one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and those to

whom the Son chooses to reveal him.”

2. 1 John 4:16 - “God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him.”

John 8:28 Then said Jesus unto them, When ye have lifted up the Son of man, then shall ye know that I am he, and that I do nothing of myself; but as my Father hath taught me, I speak these things.

The Son of Man is Jesus and He speaks what His Father has taught Him.

1. Jesus, Our Model of Faithfulness

2. The Father's Wisdom and the Son's Obedience

1. John 14:10-11 - "Do you not believe that I am in the Father, and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own authority, but the Father who dwells in me does his works. Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, or else believe on account of the works themselves."

2. Galatians 2:20 - "I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me."

John 8:29 And he that sent me is with me: the Father hath not left me alone; for I do always those things that please him.

God is always with us and will never leave us alone.

1. God is Always There: Relying on the Lord's Presence in Our Lives

2. Pleasing God: How Our Actions Reflect God’s Love

1. Isaiah 41:10 - Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.

2. Hebrews 13:5 - Keep your life free from love of money, and be content with what you have, for he has said, “I will never leave you nor forsake you.”

John 8:30 As he spake these words, many believed on him.

Passage Many people believed in Jesus after He spoke.

1. The Power of Faith - How Jesus' words inspired faith in His followers.

2. Believe and Receive - The importance of believing in Jesus and the blessings that come from it.

1. Ephesians 2:8-9 - "For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast."

2. John 3:16 - "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life."

John 8:31 Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed;

Jesus encourages the Jews to continue in his word in order to become true disciples.

1: Abiding in Christ to be a True Disciple

2: The Cost of Being a Disciple

1: John 15:1-10 - Abiding in Christ to be a True Disciple

2: Luke 14:25-33 - The Cost of Being a Disciple

John 8:32 And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.

This verse encourages people to seek knowledge and truth, which will bring freedom.

1. Recognize that knowledge and truth are the foundation of freedom.

2. Embrace knowledge and truth as a path to a free life.

1. Proverbs 3:13-14 - “Happy is the man that findeth wisdom, and the man that getteth understanding. For the merchandise of it is better than the merchandise of silver, and the gain thereof than fine gold.”

2. Philippians 4:8 - “Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.”

John 8:33 They answered him, We be Abraham's seed, and were never in bondage to any man: how sayest thou, Ye shall be made free?

The Jews claim that they have never been in bondage to any man, but Jesus disagrees.

1. "The Truth of Freedom in Christ"

2. "What Does it Mean to be Truly Free?"

1. Galatians 5:1, "For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery."

2. Hebrews 2:14-15, "Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, he himself likewise partook of the same things, that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong slavery."

John 8:34 Jesus answered them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whosoever committeth sin is the servant of sin.

Sin enslaves us, and Jesus is the only one who can free us.

1: Jesus is the Only Way to Freedom

2: Don't Be a Slave to Sin

1: John 8:34

2: Galatians 5:1 - "For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery."

John 8:35 And the servant abideth not in the house for ever: but the Son abideth ever.

The Son will always remain in the house while servants will not.

1. The Love of the Father: Abiding in Christ

2. The Unfailing Commitment of God: An Eternal Promise

1. John 14:16-18 - And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, even the Spirit of truth.

2. Isaiah 40:8 - The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever.

John 8:36 If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed.

This passage encourages Christians to accept Jesus' gift of freedom and to live in that freedom.

1. "Free Indeed - Living in the Freedom Jesus Offers"

2. "The Unconditional Freedom of Christ"

1. Romans 6:18 "Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness."

2. Galatians 5:1 "Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage."

John 8:37 I know that ye are Abraham's seed; but ye seek to kill me, because my word hath no place in you.

The people of Abraham's lineage were seeking to kill Jesus because they rejected His word.

1: We must be humble to accept the truth of Jesus' Word despite our heritage.

2: We must not use our heritage as an excuse to reject the teachings of Jesus.

1: Romans 2:17-29 - The Jews were reminded that their physical descent from Abraham was not enough to make them righteous before God.

2: Galatians 6:15-16 - Paul reminds the Galatians that it is not their heritage that counts, but rather the new creation in Christ.

John 8:38 I speak that which I have seen with my Father: and ye do that which ye have seen with your father.

Jesus speaks of what He has seen with His Father, and His followers do what they have seen with their father.

1. "Seeing What We Believe: An Examination of John 8:38"

2. "Walking the Talk: Living Out What We Believe"

1. Ephesians 4:1-2 - "I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, entreat you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, showing forbearance to one another in love."

2. Romans 12:2 - "And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect."

John 8:39 They answered and said unto him, Abraham is our father. Jesus saith unto them, If ye were Abraham's children, ye would do the works of Abraham.

The people told Jesus that Abraham was their father, but Jesus replied that if they were truly his children, they would act according to his works.

1. Living a Life of Faith: A Study of Abraham

2. Abide in the Word: Living Out the Scriptures

1. Romans 4:16-17, "Therefore, the promise comes by faith, so that it may be by grace and may be guaranteed to all Abraham’s offspring—not only to those who are of the law but also to those who are of the faith of Abraham. He is the father of us all."

2. James 2:21-22, "Was not our ancestor Abraham considered righteous for what he did when he offered his son Isaac on the altar? You see that his faith and his actions were working together, and his faith was made complete by what he did."

John 8:40 But now ye seek to kill me, a man that hath told you the truth, which I have heard of God: this did not Abraham.

Jesus is being persecuted for speaking the truth of what he heard from God, which Abraham had not done.

1. The Danger of Speaking the Truth

2. Persecution for Doing What is Right

1. John 15:18-21 - “If the world hates you, keep in mind that it hated me first. If you belonged to the world, it would love you as its own. As it is, you do not belong to the world, but I have chosen you out of the world. That is why the world hates you. Remember what I told you: ‘A servant is not greater than his master.’ If they persecuted me, they will persecute you also. If they obeyed my teaching, they will obey yours also. They will treat you this way because of my name, for they do not know the one who sent me.”

2. Luke 6:22-23 - “Blessed are you when people hate you, when they exclude you and insult you and reject your name as evil, because of the Son of Man. Rejoice in that day and leap for joy, because great is your reward in heaven. For that is how their ancestors treated the prophets.”

John 8:41 Ye do the deeds of your father. Then said they to him, We be not born of fornication; we have one Father, even God.

Jesus reveals to the Jews that they do not have to be born of fornication, as they have one Father, God.

1. We All Have the Same Father: Exploring the Meaning of John 8:41

2. The Fatherhood of God: Our True Source of Identity

1. Isaiah 64:8 - But now, O LORD, thou art our father; we are the clay, and thou our potter; and we all are the work of thy hand.

2. 1 John 3:1 - Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not.

John 8:42 Jesus said unto them, If God were your Father, ye would love me: for I proceeded forth and came from God; neither came I of myself, but he sent me.

Jesus is asking those who doubt His identity to consider that if God were truly their Father, they would not doubt Him.

1: We are to love and trust in Jesus, for He comes from God and is sent by Him.

2: We should not be doubtful of Jesus and His identity, as doing so would be a lack of faith in God, our Father.

1: Matthew 7:21-23 "Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. Many will say to me on that day, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name and in your name drive out demons and in your name perform many miracles?’ Then I will tell them plainly, ‘I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!’"

2: 1 John 4:7-8 "Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love."

John 8:43 Why do ye not understand my speech? even because ye cannot hear my word.

Jesus is questioning why his listeners do not understand the message he is conveying, suggesting that the reason they cannot comprehend is because they cannot hear his word.

1. Listening to God's Word: The Key to Understanding

2. Accepting Jesus' Message: A Matter of the Heart

1. James 1:22-25 - But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.

2. Proverbs 4:20-22 - My son, attend to my words; incline thine ear unto my sayings. Let them not depart from thine eyes; keep them in the midst of thine heart.

John 8:44 Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.

This passage highlights the truth that the source of lies and deceit is the devil.

1. The Lies of the Devil: Be Vigilant Against Deception

2. The Power of Truth: Rejecting the Deception of the Enemy

1. 1 John 4:1-6 - Testing the Spirits

2. Ephesians 6:10-18 - Putting on the Armor of God

John 8:45 And because I tell you the truth, ye believe me not.

The truth is rejected by those who hear it.

1: We must be open to hearing the truth, even when it is difficult to accept.

2: We must strive to live a life of truth, so that our words can be trusted.

1: Proverbs 12:17 - He who speaks truth tells what is right, but a false witness, deceit.

2: Colossians 3: 9-10 - Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old self with its practices and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator.

John 8:46 Which of you convinceth me of sin? And if I say the truth, why do ye not believe me?

John 8:46 challenges us to examine our own hearts and consider if we are open to truth, no matter the source.

1: Do not be quick to judge those who bring truth to you, for you might be missing the opportunity to learn something.

2: Believe truth, no matter who speaks it.

1: James 1:19 - Know this, my beloved brothers: let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger.

2: Proverbs 18:13 - If one gives an answer before he hears, it is his folly and shame.

John 8:47 He that is of God heareth God's words: ye therefore hear them not, because ye are not of God.

People who are of God will listen to God's words, while those who are not of God will not hear them.

1. We must choose to be of God if we desire to hear His words.

2. God is calling us to accept His words and be part of His family.

1. Romans 8:14-17 For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.

2. 1 John 5:1-5 Whosoever believeth that Jesus is the Christ is born of God.

John 8:48 Then answered the Jews, and said unto him, Say we not well that thou art a Samaritan, and hast a devil?

The Jews accused Jesus of having a devil because He was a Samaritan.

1. The Unwarranted Accusations of Our Neighbors

2. Refuting False Accusations

1. Romans 8:31-32 - What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things?

2. Matthew 5:11-12 - “Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

John 8:49 Jesus answered, I have not a devil; but I honour my Father, and ye do dishonour me.

Jesus is affirming that He honors God and that the people are dishonoring Him.

1. The Honor of Jesus: A Study in the Gospel of John

2. Living a Life of Honor to Show Respect for God

1. Romans 12:10 - Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves.

2. 1 Peter 2:17 - Show proper respect to everyone: Love the brotherhood of believers, fear God, honor the king.

John 8:50 And I seek not mine own glory: there is one that seeketh and judgeth.

Jesus seeks not His own glory, but there is another who seeks and judges.

1. Finding Glory in Unselfishness - John 8:50

2. God's Judgment - John 8:50

1. Philippians 2:3-4 - Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count

others more significant than yourselves.

4. Romans 14:10 - For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God.

John 8:51 Verily, verily, I say unto you, If a man keep my saying, he shall never see death.

This passage emphasizes the importance of following Jesus' teachings in order to be granted eternal life.

1. The Power of Jesus' Teaching: How Keeping His Word Gives Us Eternal Life

2. Jesus' Promise of Life: A Guide to Living a Life of Faith

1. Isaiah 25:8 - He will swallow up death forever; and the Lord God will wipe away tears from all faces.

2. 1 Corinthians 15:26 - The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death.

John 8:52 Then said the Jews unto him, Now we know that thou hast a devil. Abraham is dead, and the prophets; and thou sayest, If a man keep my saying, he shall never taste of death.

The Jews accused Jesus of having a devil after he said that if a man keeps his sayings, he will never taste death.

1. The Power of Jesus's Words: Why We Should Listen to and Follow Him

2. The Jews' Misunderstanding of Jesus: How We Should Not Follow Their Example

1. Hebrews 9:27 - "And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment"

2. John 11:25-26 - "Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die."

John 8:53 Art thou greater than our father Abraham, which is dead? and the prophets are dead: whom makest thou thyself?

Jesus was being questioned by the Jews about his authority.

1: We should always seek to know the source of the authority we follow.

2: We should always be open to the possibility that another authority may be greater than what we are already following.

1: John 14:6 - Jesus said to him, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.

2: Ephesians 2:19-20 - So then you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone.

John 8:54 Jesus answered, If I honour myself, my honour is nothing: it is my Father that honoureth me; of whom ye say, that he is your God:

Jesus teaches the importance of humility and the power of God.

1. The Power of Humility: Learning from Jesus' Example

2. Honoring God: The Heart of True Worship

1. Philippians 2:5-11

2. Matthew 6:1-4

John 8:55 Yet ye have not known him; but I know him: and if I should say, I know him not, I shall be a liar like unto you: but I know him, and keep his saying.

John knew God and his teachings, and was not afraid to speak out against those who did not.

1: We should not be afraid to speak out when we know the truth.

2: Knowing God and following his teachings is of utmost importance.

1: Proverbs 28:1 - The wicked flee when no man pursueth: but the righteous are bold as a lion.

2: Romans 10:17 - So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

John 8:56 Your father Abraham rejoiced to see my day: and he saw it, and was glad.

The passage speaks of Abraham's joy in seeing Jesus and his day.

1. The Joy of Seeing Jesus: A Look at Abraham's Faith

2. Rejoicing in Jesus: Celebrating the Promise of Redemption

1. Hebrews 11:13-16 - Abraham's faith in the promise of a Savior

2. Romans 4:17-18 - Abraham's faith and hope in God's promises

John 8:57 Then said the Jews unto him, Thou art not yet fifty years old, and hast thou seen Abraham?

Jesus uses Abraham to prove his point that he is from God.

1. We can learn from Jesus' example of using Scripture to back up his statements and teachings.

2. Believing in God's promises and trusting that his timing is perfect.

1. Hebrews 11:8-12 - By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to the place which he would receive as an inheritance. He went out, not knowing where he was going.

2. Psalm 33:4 - For the word of the Lord is right and true; He is faithful in all He does.

John 8:58 Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Before Abraham was, I am.

Jesus claims to be God, as He states that He existed before Abraham, which was a statement of eternity.

1. Jesus Is God: An Exploration of John 8:58

2. Understanding the Greatness of Jesus Through His Eternal Nature

1. Philippians 2:5-11

2. Isaiah 9:6-7

John 8:59 Then took they up stones to cast at him: but Jesus hid himself, and went out of the temple, going through the midst of them, and so passed by.

Jesus avoided conflict and calmly left the temple.

1. The power of peace and humility over conflict.

2. The importance of walking away from temptation.

1. Matthew 26:52-54 - Jesus' response to Peter when he cut off the ear of the servant of the high priest.

2. Proverbs 16:32 - "Better a patient person than a warrior, one with self-control than one who takes a city."

John 9 is the ninth chapter of the Gospel of John, which recounts the healing of a man born blind by Jesus and the subsequent controversy that arises among religious leaders.

1st Paragraph: The chapter begins with Jesus encountering a man who was blind from birth (John 9:1-7). His disciples inquire about the cause of his blindness, asking if it was due to his own sin or his parents' sin. Jesus responds that neither was responsible, but rather this happened so that God's works might be displayed in him. Jesus then spits on the ground, makes mud with His saliva, and applies it to the man's eyes. He instructs him

to wash in the pool of Siloam. The man obeys and miraculously receives his sight.

2nd Paragraph: The healing causes a stir among those who knew the formerly blind man (John 9:8-34). Some are amazed at his newfound sight while others question whether he is indeed the same person. The Pharisees—the religious leaders—summon both the healed man and his parents for questioning. They inquire about how he received his sight on the Sabbath, considering it a violation of their strict interpretation of Sabbath laws. The healed man defends Jesus as a prophet sent from God but admits he does not know much more about Him.

3rd Paragraph: The chapter concludes with Jesus seeking out and revealing Himself to the healed man (John 9:35-41). Upon learning that religious leaders had cast out the once-blind man from their midst, Jesus finds him and asks if he believes in Him as "the Son of Man." The healed man responds affirmatively and worships Him. In response, Jesus declares that He came into this world for judgment—to reveal those who are spiritually blind—and for salvation—to open their eyes to spiritual truth. Some Pharisees overhear this exchange and question whether they too are spiritually blind due to their resistance to Jesus' teachings.

In summary,

Chapter nine of John recounts the healing of a man born blind by Jesus, the subsequent controversy among religious leaders, and Jesus' revelation of Himself as the Son of Man.

Jesus heals the blind man using saliva and instructs him to wash in a pool, restoring his sight. This causes division among those who knew him, leading to questioning by Pharisees about the Sabbath violation.

The healed man defends Jesus as a prophet and later encounters Him again. He acknowledges Jesus as the Son of Man and worships Him. Jesus explains His purpose for judgment and salvation while challenging some Pharisees' spiritual blindness. This chapter highlights Jesus' miraculous power, His confrontation with religious legalism, and His role as both judge and Savior.

John 9:1 And as Jesus passed by, he saw a man which was blind from his birth.

This passage describes Jesus' encounter with a man who was blind from birth.

1. A Blind Man's Faith: Insights into Trusting Jesus Despite Adversity

2. Jesus' Compassion for the Vulnerable: A Model for Our Interactions with Others

1. Matthew 11:5 - "The blind receive their sight, and the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, and the poor have the gospel preached to them"

2. James 1:27 - "Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their trouble, and to keep oneself unspotted from the world."

John 9:2 And his disciples asked him, saying, Master, who did sin, this man, or his parents, that he was born blind?

The disciples of Jesus asked him if the man who was born blind had done something wrong, or if it was the fault of his parents.

1. God uses suffering to bring about good in our lives.

2. Our suffering does not indicate God's displeasure with us.

1. Romans 8:28 "And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose."

2. 2 Corinthians 12:7-10 "Therefore, in order to keep me from becoming conceited, I was given a thorn in my flesh, a messenger of Satan, to torment me. Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me. But he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ’s power may rest on me. That is why, for Christ’s sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong.”

John 9:3 Jesus answered, Neither hath this man sinned, nor his parents: but that the works of God should be made manifest in him.

This passage reveals that Jesus saw no sin in the man born blind, nor in his parents, but that the miraculous works of God could be seen in the healing of the man.

1. The Miraculous Power of God - How the works of God are shown through miracles such as the healing of the man born blind.

2. No Condemnation - How Jesus saw no sin in the man or his parents, and how we too are not condemned by God.

1. Romans 8:1-2 - There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin

and death.

2. Isaiah 53:4-5 - Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed.

John 9:4 I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work.

This passage reminds us that we should work hard and use the time we have now, as night will come and our opportunity will be gone.

1. Making the Most of the Time We Have: Learning from John 9:4

2. Working Hard and Doing What We Can: The Wisdom of John 9:4

1. Ecclesiastes 9:10 - Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with all your might.

2. Ephesians 5:16 - making the best use of the time, because the days are evil.

John 9:5 As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.

Jesus proclaims that as long as He is in the world, He is the light of the world.

1. The Light of the World: How Jesus Brings Hope and Salvation.

2. The World's Greatest Light: Jesus and His Eternal Message of Love and Compassion.

1. Matthew 5:14-16 - “You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.”

2. Philippians 2:14-16 - “Do all things without grumbling or disputing, that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, holding fast to the word of life, so that in the day of Christ I may be proud that I did not run in vain or labor

in vain.”

John 9:6 When he had thus spoken, he spat on the ground, and made clay of the spittle, and he anointed the eyes of the blind man with the clay,

Jesus used his saliva and the dust of the ground to heal the man who was blind.

1: Even in the most difficult times, Jesus can provide us with the healing we need.

2: God can use anything to perform a miracle, even the most basic everyday items.

1: Mark 8:22-25 - Jesus heals a blind man near Bethsaida by touching his eyes.

2: Matthew 9:29-30 - Jesus heals two blind men by touching their eyes.

John 9:7 And said unto him, Go, wash in the pool of Siloam, (which is by interpretation, Sent.) He went his way therefore, and washed, and came seeing.

John teaches the importance of faith and obedience. 1. "Faith and Obedience: The Power Behind Miracles" 2. "The Pool of Siloam: The Strength of Faith and Obedience". 1. Matthew 17:20 - "He said to them, “Because of your little faith. For truly, I say to you, if you have faith like a grain of mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, ‘Move from here to there,’ and it will move, and nothing will be impossible for you.” 2. Hebrews 11:6 - "And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him."

John 9:8 The neighbours therefore, and they which before had seen him that he was blind, said, Is not this he that sat and begged?

A group of people who had previously seen a blind man begging recognize him after he is healed by Jesus.

1. The Miraculous Healing of the Blind Man - John 9:8

2. Seeing the Miracles of Jesus with New Eyes - John 9:8

1. Isaiah 35:5-6 - Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped. Then shall the lame man leap as an hart, and the tongue of the

dumb sing: for in the wilderness shall waters break out, and streams in the desert.

2. Matthew 15:30-31 - And great multitudes came unto him, having with them those that were lame, blind, dumb, maimed, and many others, and cast them down at Jesus’ feet; and he healed them: Insomuch that the multitude wondered, when they saw the dumb to speak, the maimed to be whole, the lame to walk, and the blind to see: and they glorified the God of Israel.

John 9:9 Some said, This is he: others said, He is like him: but he said, I am he.

This passage reveals Jesus' identity as He affirms his own identity.

1. Jesus knows who He is and He wants us to know too

2. How our identity can be found in Jesus

1. Romans 8:38-39 - For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

2. Ephesians 1:17-21 - that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him, having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the working of his great might that he worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come.

John 9:10 Therefore said they unto him, How were thine eyes opened?

He opened his eyes to the truth of Jesus Christ: Jesus is the Light of the world.

1: Jesus is the Light that shines in darkness and brings us all to salvation.

2: We must open our eyes to the truth of Jesus Christ and embrace His light.

1: John 3:16-17 - For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that

whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

2: Matthew 5:14-16 - Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid. Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.

John 9:11 He answered and said, A man that is called Jesus made clay, and anointed mine eyes, and said unto me, Go to the pool of Siloam, and wash: and I went and washed, and I received sight.

The man was healed of his blindness by Jesus, who made clay and anointed his eyes.

1. The Miracles of Jesus: A Call to Believe

2. Jesus' Healing Power: Receive Sight and See the Truth

1. Isaiah 35:5-6 - "Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then shall the lame man leap like a deer, and the tongue of the mute sing for joy."

2. Matthew 11:5 - "The blind receive their sight and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised up, and the poor have the gospel preached to them."

John 9:12 Then said they unto him, Where is he? He said, I know not.

The Pharisees asked Jesus where the healed blind man was, but Jesus said he did not know.

1: God does not always have to be in control of every situation. Sometimes He allows us to make our own decisions and paths.

2: Even when we don't understand God's plan, He is still in control and working for our ultimate good.

1: Romans 8:28 "And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose."

2: Proverbs 3:5 “Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding.”

John 9:13 They brought to the Pharisees him that aforetime was blind.

The Pharisees were presented with a man who had been blind in the past.

1. God's Healing: A Testimony of Faith

2. In Jesus We Find Restoration

1. Isaiah 61:1 - “The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me; because the Lord hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; he hath sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound;

2. Mark 10:46-52 - “And they came to Jericho: and as he went out of Jericho with his disciples and a great number of people, blind Bartimaeus, the son of Timaeus, sat by the highway side begging. And when he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to cry out, and say, Jesus, thou son of David, have mercy on me.... And Jesus said unto him, Go thy way; thy faith hath made thee whole. And immediately he received his sight, and followed Jesus in the way.”

John 9:14 And it was the sabbath day when Jesus made the clay, and opened his eyes.

The passage details the account of Jesus healing a man born blind on the Sabbath day.

1. God's Mercy is Unconditional

2. Healing Through Faith

1. Matthew 12:9-14 - Jesus defends his disciples for picking grain on the Sabbath

2. Luke 6:6-11 - Jesus heals the sick on the Sabbath day, despite criticism from the Pharisees

John 9:15 Then again the Pharisees also asked him how he had received his sight. He

said unto them, He put clay upon mine eyes, and I washed, and do see.

Jesus healed a blind man through a simple act of clay and water.

1: We can experience physical and spiritual healing when we humbly submit to God's plan.

2: Faith in Jesus brings healing and restoration.

1: James 5:15 "And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him."

2: Isaiah 53:5 "But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed."

John 9:16 Therefore said some of the Pharisees, This man is not of God, because he keepeth not the sabbath day. Others said, How can a man that is a sinner do such miracles? And there was a division among them.

This passage shows that the Pharisees were divided in their opinion of Jesus when they saw the miracles he performed on the Sabbath day.

1: We should celebrate God's power, no matter the day.

2: We should not be quick to judge the actions of others.

1: Matthew 7:1-5 - "Judge not, that you be not judged. For with the judgment you pronounce you will be judged, and with the measure you use it will be measured to you."

2: 1 Corinthians 13:4-7 - "Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth."

John 9:17 They say unto the blind man again, What sayest thou of him, that he hath opened thine eyes? He said, He is a prophet.

The blind man attested to the fact that Jesus is a prophet.

1. What testimony can we give about Jesus?

2. How can we recognize the work of God?

1. Deuteronomy 18:15-22 (The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your brothers—it is to him you shall listen—)

2. Hebrews 1:1-2 (Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son...)

John 9:18 But the Jews did not believe concerning him, that he had been blind, and received his sight, until they called the parents of him that had received his sight.

John 9:18 is about the disbelief of the Jews concerning the man who was healed from blindness.

1. God can work miracles in our lives, even when we cannot see it.

2. Our faith should not be dependent on what is seen, but instead be rooted in the unseen.

1. John 20:29 "Jesus said to him, “Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.”

2. Romans 4:17-21 “As it is written, “I have made you the father of many nations”—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist. In hope he believed against hope, that he should become the father of many nations, as he had been told, “So shall your offspring be.” He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was as good as dead (since he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah’s womb. No unbelief made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised.”

John 9:19 And they asked them, saying, Is this your son, who ye say was born blind? how then doth he now see?

The people asked the parents of a blind man how he could now see.

1. How Faith Can Open Our Eyes

2. Seeing God's Miracles in Everyday Life

1. Matthew 9:27-31 (The healing of two blind men)

2. John 11:38-44 (The raising of Lazarus from the dead)

John 9:20 His parents answered them and said, We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind:

John's parents declared their faith in the miraculous healing of their son, despite his obvious blindness.

1: Let us trust in God's miracles, even if we cannot see them with our own eyes.

2: We must accept the will of God with faith, even when our eyes fail to see.

1: Jeremiah 17:7-8 - "Blessed is the man who trusts in the Lord, whose trust is the Lord. He is like a tree planted by water, that sends out its roots by the stream, and does not fear when heat comes, for its leaves remain green, and is not anxious in the year of drought, for it does not cease to bear fruit."

2: Hebrews 11:1 - "Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen."

John 9:21 But by what means he now seeth, we know not; or who hath opened his eyes, we know not: he is of age; ask him: he shall speak for himself.

John 9:21 teaches us to trust in God when our questions are unanswered and to respect the autonomy of others.

1. God's Mystery: Trusting even when we don't understand

2. The Respect of Autonomy: Honoring the decisions of others

1. Isaiah 55:8-9 “For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.”

2. Isaiah 40:28-29 “Have you not known? Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable. He gives power to the faint, and to him who has no might he increases strength.”

John 9:22 These words spake his parents, because they feared the Jews: for the Jews had agreed already, that if any man did confess that he was Christ, he should be put out of the synagogue.

This passage shows the fear of the Jewish people as they believed that confessing Christ would lead to being put out of the synagogue.

1. The Fear of Man is a Trap

2. Stand Up For What You Believe

1. Proverbs 29:25 - The fear of man brings a snare, but whoever trusts in the Lord shall be safe.

2. Romans 10:9-10 - That if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

John 9:23 Therefore said his parents, He is of age; ask him.

Passage: In John 9, Jesus heals a man who was born blind. His neighbors, acquaintances, and even his parents were questioned about who had committed this "unlawful" act of healing on the Sabbath. However, they could not answer who had done the healing because they did not know. When Jesus' disciples asked the man who healed him, he said it was Jesus. His parents, however, remained silent, for they feared the Jewish leaders. Finally, they said, "He is of age; ask him."

1. The Power of Jesus to Heal: How Jesus was able to perform a miraculous healing on a man born blind and the faith it required

2. The Courage of Jesus' Followers: How the man born blind and his parents displayed courage in following Jesus even when faced with opposition

1. Matthew 17:20 - "He said to them, “Because of your little faith. For truly, I say to you, if you have faith like a grain of mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, ‘Move from here to there,’ and it will move, and nothing will be impossible for you.”

2. John 10:27-28 - "My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand."

John 9:24 Then again called they the man that was blind, and said unto him, Give God the praise: we know that this man is a sinner.

The religious authorities asked the blind man to give God the praise, believing the man Jesus was a sinner.

1: We must recognize the power of God in the work of Jesus, even when those around us do not.

2: We must celebrate the miracles of Jesus, even when others fail to recognize them.

1: Isaiah 29:18-19 - On that day the deaf shall hear the words of a book, and out of their gloom and darkness the eyes of the blind shall see. The meek shall obtain fresh joy in the Lord, and the poor among mankind shall exult in the Holy One of Israel.

2: Matthew 11:5 - The blind receive their sight and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised up, and the poor have good news preached to them.

John 9:25 He answered and said, Whether he be a sinner or no, I know not: one thing I know, that, whereas I was blind, now I see.

A blind man is healed by Jesus and explains that he is not sure if the healer is a sinner or not, but he does know that he used to be blind, but now he can see.

1. The Power of Jesus to Heal and Restore

2. The Blind Man's Testimony of Faith

1. Matthew 9:27-31 - Jesus heals two blind men

2. Psalm 146:8 - The Lord opens the eyes of the blind

John 9:26 Then said they to him again, What did he to thee? how opened he thine eyes?

Healing of Blind Man: Jesus showed his divine power by miraculously healing a blind man.

1. God is capable of doing the impossible

2. Miracles are a reminder of God's power

1. Romans 8:28 - And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.

2. Exodus 15:11 - Who is like you, O Lord, among the gods? Who is like you, majestic in holiness, awesome in glorious deeds, doing wonders?

John 9:27 He answered them, I have told you already, and ye did not hear: wherefore would ye hear it again? will ye also be his disciples?

A man born blind was asked by the Pharisees if he was a disciple of Jesus, to which he replied asking why they would need to hear the answer again if they had already heard it.

1. The Power of Jesus: Despite being born blind and facing ridicule from the Pharisees, this man chose to stand up for his faith in Jesus.

2. Faith in the Face of Adversity: This man's faith in Jesus was unwavering despite the opposition of the Pharisees.

1. Hebrews 11:1 - "Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen."

2. Matthew 16:24 - "Then Jesus told his disciples, “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me."

John 9:28 Then they reviled him, and said, Thou art his disciple; but we are Moses' disciples.

John 9:28 summarizes Jesus' disciples being reviled by other people who claimed to be Moses' disciples.

1. We can learn from Jesus' example of humility and grace when dealing with opposition.

2. Our faith should be commended rather than criticized.

1. Matthew 5:11-12 “Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake. Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you.”

2. James 1:2-4 “My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.”

John 9:29 We know that God spake unto Moses: as for this fellow, we know not from whence he is.

The people of the time questioned who Jesus was because they knew that God spoke to Moses, but they did not know where Jesus came from.

1. Jesus is greater than Moses: God spoke to Moses, but Jesus was a special example of God's power.

2. All are welcome in God's kingdom: No matter where we come from, God welcomes us with open arms.

1. Matthew 11:11-12 "Truly, I say to you, among those born of women there has arisen no one greater than John the Baptist. Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he."

2. Romans 8:38-39 "For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord."

John 9:30 The man answered and said unto them, Why herein is a marvellous thing, that ye know not from whence he is, and yet he hath opened mine eyes.

This passage highlights a miracle in which a man born blind was healed by Jesus. He is amazed that Jesus healed him, even though he did not know his identity.

1: Jesus is a Healer and His healing is available to all, regardless of their identity.

2: Jesus is the source of miraculous healing and those who accept His healing are transformed.

1: Matthew 11:5 - The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is proclaimed to the poor.

2: Isaiah 53:5 - But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed.

John 9:31 Now we know that God heareth not sinners: but if any man be a worshipper of God, and doeth his will, him he heareth.

God listens to those who are true worshippers of Him and obey His will.

1: True Worship: The Heart of Obedience

2: The Power of Worship: How to Hear God's Voice

1: James 4:7-10, Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

2: Colossians 3:17, And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him.

John 9:32 Since the world began was it not heard that any man opened the eyes of one that was born blind.

The passage is about a man who was born blind and his eyes were opened.

1. God's Miracles and Gifts of Grace

2. The Power of Faith

1. Matthew 19:26, "But Jesus looked at them and said to them, “With men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.”

2. Psalm 146:8, “The Lord opens the eyes of the blind; The Lord raises those who are bowed down; The Lord loves the righteous.”

John 9:33 If this man were not of God, he could do nothing.

This verse speaks of Jesus' divine authority and power, affirming that He could only do what He does because He is from God.

1. Jesus: The Source of All Authority and Power

2. The Miraculous Works of Christ: Testimony of His Divinity

1. John 14:10-11 - "Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own authority, but the Father who dwells in me does his works. Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, or else believe on account of the works themselves.

2. Colossians 2:9-10 - For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, and you have been filled in him, who is the head of all rule and authority.

John 9:34 They answered and said unto him, Thou wast altogether born in sins, and dost thou teach us? And they cast him out.

The religious leaders were so full of pride and prejudice that they cast out a blind man just because he taught them something.

1: Pride and Prejudice have no place in the Kingdom of God.

2: The Lord calls us to be humble and open to learning from others.

1: James 4:6: “But he gives more grace. Therefore it says, ‘God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble.’”

2: Luke 18:14: “I tell you, this man went down to his house justified, rather than the other. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted.”

John 9:35 Jesus heard that they had cast him out; and when he had found him, he said unto him, Dost thou believe on the Son of God?

Jesus shows mercy to a man who was cast out by his own people and offers him the chance to believe in Him.

1: Jesus's Mercy is Unconditional

2: Believe in the Son of God

1: Luke 6:36 - "Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful."

2: 1 John 5:10-12 - "Whoever believes in the Son of God has the testimony in himself; whoever does not believe God has made Him a liar, because he has not believed in the testimony that God has given concerning His Son."

John 9:36 He answered and said, Who is he, Lord, that I might believe on him?

John 9:36 summarises the passage as a question posed by the blind man, asking who Jesus is that he may believe in him.

1. The Question of Faith: How do we know we can believe in Jesus?

2. Uncovering the Truth: Seeking out the Promises of a Saviour

1. Romans 10:17 - Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the word of God.

2. 1 John 5:13 - These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life.

John 9:37 And Jesus said unto him, Thou hast both seen him, and it is he that talketh with thee.

This passage reveals that Jesus identified himself to a man born blind, and confirmed his identity as the one speaking to him.

1. The Power of Personal Identity: How Knowing Who We Are Helps Us Overcome Blindness

2. Jesus Reveals His Identity: Recognizing and Embracing Our True Selves

1. Romans 8:37-39 - No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

2. Exodus 33:14 - The Lord replied, “My Presence will go with you, and I will give you rest.”

John 9:38 And he said, Lord, I believe. And he worshipped him.

John demonstrates faith by worshipping Jesus in this verse.

1. The Power of Faith - Exploring the power of faith through the example of John worshipping Jesus.

2. Growing in Faith - Learning how we can grow in faith through the example of John worshipping Jesus.

1. Hebrews 11:1 - "Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen."

2. Romans 10:17 - "So faith comes from what is heard, and what is heard comes through the message about Christ."

John 9:39 And Jesus said, For judgment I am come into this world, that they which see not might see; and that they which see might be made blind.

Jesus came to the world to judge those who are blinded by sin and to open the eyes of those who are "blind".

1: Jesus is the Light of the World.

2: God's Judgment is Just.

1: Isaiah 9:2 - The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light: they that dwell in the land of the shadow of death, upon them hath the light shined.

2: John 12:46 - I am come a light into the world, that whosoever believeth on me should not abide in darkness.

John 9:40 And some of the Pharisees which were with him heard these words, and said unto him, Are we blind also?

Jesus was teaching the Pharisees about spiritual blindness and they reacted by asking if they too were blind.

1. The Danger of Spiritual Blindness

2. A Call to Self-Reflection

1. Isaiah 6:9-10 - Understand with their heart and turn to the Lord that He may heal them.

2. Matthew 13:13-15 - Jesus' parable of the sower and those who have eyes but do not see.

John 9:41 Jesus said unto them, If ye were blind, ye should have no sin: but now ye say, We see; therefore your sin remaineth.

Jesus challenges the Pharisees, who say they can see, by pointing out that if they were

blind, they would have no sin.

1. "The Blindness of Pride" - Exploring how pride can prevent us from seeing the truth, and how humility can help us to grow in our faith.

2. "Seeing with Spiritual Eyes" - Examining the importance of discerning the truth with the eyes of faith, not simply our physical sight.

1. James 4:6 - “God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble.”

2. Proverbs 3:5-6 - “Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.”

John 10 recounts Jesus' metaphor of the Good Shepherd, His discourse about His relationship with His followers, and the continued division over His identity.

1st Paragraph: The chapter begins with Jesus introducing Himself as both the gate for the sheep and the good shepherd. He criticizes those who enter the sheep pen by any other way but the gate as thieves and robbers. The sheep follow Him because they recognize His voice but will never follow a stranger. As a good shepherd, He knows His sheep and lays down his life for them willingly unlike hired hand who abandons sheep at sight of wolf (John 10:1-18).

2nd Paragraph: This teaching caused division among Jews some saying he was demon-possessed mad others questioning how can demon open eyes blind. At time Feast Dedication took place in Jerusalem winter Jesus was walking in temple courts Solomon's Colonnade where Jews gathered around him asked him how long will you keep us in suspense? If you are Messiah tell us plainly.' In response He pointed out that He did tell them but they do not believe works do name Father testify about Him yet they do not believe because they are not his sheep who listen to his voice know them give them eternal life never perish no one snatch them out Father's hand (John 10:19-30).

3rd Paragraph: After this discourse, Jesus claimed oneness with God Father 'I Father are one.' This led Jews pick up stones stone him again blasphemy claiming be God while merely man response pointed out works doing name Father bear witness Him yet if don't believe works least believe miracles so may know understand Father is in me I am in Father leading another unsuccessful attempt arrest Him then withdrew again region across Jordan where John had been baptizing first place many came to him believed there saying 'John performed no sign all that John said about this man was true.' (John 10:31-42).

John 10:1 Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that entereth not by the door into the sheepfold, but climbeth up some other way, the same is a thief and a robber.

Jesus warns against false teachers who try to lead people away from the true faith. 1: We must guard against false teachers and cling to God's Word. 2: We must seek the truth and not be deceived by cunning words. 1: Jeremiah 29:11, "For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope." 2: 1 Peter 5:8, "Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour."

John 10:2 But he that entereth in by the door is the shepherd of the sheep.

The passage talks about the shepherd who enters through the door to look after the sheep.

1. We are called to be faithful shepherds of our flock, protecting them with the same care that a shepherd does his sheep.

2. Following Christ means we must seek to be humble and gentle shepherds, leading the way with the same compassion and understanding that he has.

1. 1 Peter 5:2-3 “Be shepherds of God’s flock that is under your care, watching over them—not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; not pursuing dishonest gain, but eager to serve; not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock.”

2. Psalm 23:1 “The Lord is my shepherd, I lack nothing.”

John 10:3 To him the porter openeth; and the sheep hear his voice: and he calleth his own sheep by name, and leadeth them out.

The Good Shepherd calls His sheep by name and leads them out.

1. The Shepherd Who Knows Us By Name

2. Following the Shepherd's Call

1. Isaiah 40:11 He shall feed his flock like a shepherd: he shall gather the lambs with his arm, and carry them in his bosom, and shall gently lead those that are with young.

2. Matthew 18:12-14 What do you think? If a man has a hundred sheep, and one of them has gone astray, does he not leave the ninety-nine on the mountains and go in search of the one that went astray? And if he finds it, truly, I say to you, he rejoices over it more than over the ninety-nine that never went astray. So it is not the will of my Father who is in heaven that one of these little ones should perish.

John 10:4 And when he putteth forth his own sheep, he goeth before them, and the sheep follow him: for they know his voice.

The passage speaks of how Jesus leads His sheep and they recognize His voice and follow Him.

1: Jesus is the Good Shepherd who Leads and Cares for His sheep

2: The Voice of Jesus is Recognizable and Followed by His Sheep

1: Psalm 23:1, "The Lord is my Shepherd, I shall not want."

2: Matthew 11:28-30, "Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

John 10:5 And a stranger will they not follow, but will flee from him: for they know not the voice of strangers.

People are not likely to follow those they do not know, as they are unfamiliar with their voice.

1. The Power of Familiarity - We are more likely to listen to and follow the people we know than those we don't.

2. The Importance of Knowing God - We should strive to know God more deeply so that we may follow His voice more closely.

1. Acts 2:42 - And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

2. John 8:32 - And you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.

John 10:6 This parable spake Jesus unto them: but they understood not what things they were which he spake unto them.

Jesus gave a parable to the people, but they did not understand what He was saying.

1. The Parable of Jesus: Unveiling God's Word

2. How to Interpret Parables: Understanding the Meaning of Jesus' Words

1. Psalm 119:105-106: "Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path. I have sworn an oath and confirmed it, to keep your righteous rules."

2. Proverbs 2:1-5: "My son, if you receive my words and treasure up my commandments with you, making your ear attentive to wisdom and inclining your heart to understanding; yes, if you call out for insight and raise your voice for understanding, if you seek it like silver and search for it as for hidden treasures, then you will understand the fear of the Lord and find the knowledge of God."

John 10:7 Then said Jesus unto them again, Verily, verily, I say unto you, I am the door of the sheep.

Jesus is the door to salvation for the sheep.

1. Jesus is the Gatekeeper to Eternal Life

2. The Power of Jesus as the Door to Salvation

1. Matthew 7:13-14 “Enter by the narrow gate. For the gate is wide and the way is easy that leads to destruction, and those who enter by it are many. For the gate is narrow and the way is hard that leads to life, and those who find it are few.”

2. 1 Peter 1:3-5 “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.”

John 10:8 All that ever came before me are thieves and robbers: but the sheep did not hear them.

The passage is about how Jesus' sheep did not listen to the thieves and robbers who came before Him.

1: We must be careful to listen only to God's voice and reject all false prophets.

2: We must be aware of who we are listening to and ensure that we are only listening to the one true voice of God.

1: Jeremiah 23:1-4 - "Woe be unto the shepherds that destroy and scatter the sheep of my pasture!"

2: Matthew 7:15-20 - "Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves."

John 10:9 I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture.

The passage from John 10:9 explains that Jesus is the door of salvation, and anyone who enters through Him will have eternal life and all the provision and nourishment they need.

1. Jesus is the Door of Salvation: An Invitation to Eternal Life

2. The Care and Provision of Jesus: Finding Nourishment in Him

1. John 3:16 - For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

2. Romans 10:9 - That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.

John 10:10 The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.

Jesus came to give life abundantly.

1: Jesus came to give us life and joy.

2: Jesus came to bring us peace, hope, and abundance.

1: Isaiah 61:1-2 - The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me to bring good news to the poor; he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound; to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God.

2: Romans 8:11 - If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you.

John 10:11 I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep.

The good shepherd gives his life for the sheep.

1. Jesus as the Good Shepherd: Sacrificial Love

2. The Power of Shepherd-like Love

1. Isaiah 40:11 - He tends his flock like a shepherd: He gathers the lambs in his arms and carries them close to his heart;

2. Romans 5:8 - But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

John 10:12 But he that is an hireling, and not the shepherd, whose own the sheep are not, seeth the wolf coming, and leaveth the sheep, and fleeth: and the wolf catcheth them, and scattereth the sheep.

The hireling is not a true shepherd and will flee when danger comes, leaving the sheep vulnerable to harm.

1: True shepherds will stay and protect their flock, no matter the danger.

2: We must be vigilant in discerning true shepherds from hirelings.

1: Matthew 7:15-20 - Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep’s clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves.

2: Jeremiah 23:1-4 - Woe to the shepherds who destroy and scatter the sheep of my pasture! declares the Lord.

John 10:13 The hireling fleeth, because he is an hireling, and careth not for the sheep.

The hired shepherd does not care for the sheep, fleeing when danger is present.

1: God Calls Us to Care for His Flock

2: Our Duty to Serve and Protect

1: 1 Peter 5:2-3 - "Be shepherds of God's flock that is under your care, watching over them—not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; not pursuing dishonest gain, but eager to serve; not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock."

2: Ezekiel 34:11-12 - “For this is what the Sovereign Lord says: I myself will search and find my sheep. I will be like a shepherd looking for his scattered flock. I will find my sheep and rescue them from all the places where they were scattered on that dark and cloudy day.

John 10:14 I am the good shepherd, and know my sheep, and am known of mine.

The passage is about Jesus being the good shepherd and knowing his sheep, who in turn know him.

1: Jesus is the Good Shepherd and knows us intimately.

2: We can trust in Jesus, the Good Shepherd, to provide for us and guide us.

1: Ezekiel 34:11-16 - God's promise to provide and protect his sheep.

2: Psalm 23 - The Lord is my Shepherd, I shall not want.

John 10:15 As the Father knoweth me, even so know I the Father: and I lay down my life for the sheep.

John 10:15 speaks to the relationship between God the Father and Jesus Christ. They both have perfect mutual knowledge and understanding of each other.

1. The Perfect Bond of Love between the Father and the Son

2. Serving the Sheep through Sacrifice

1. Romans 5:8 - But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

2. John 15:13 - Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.

John 10:16 And other sheep I have, which are not of this fold: them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice; and there shall be one fold, and one shepherd.

This passage speaks of Jesus gathering non-Jewish believers into one fold under His leadership as the one shepherd.

1. The Power of Jesus' Invitation: Understanding the Unity of Believers

2. The Good Shepherd: The Meaning of Jesus' Leadership

1. Ephesians 4:4-6 - There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

2. Psalm 23:1-3 - The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures; he leads me beside still waters; he restores my soul. He leads me in right paths for his name’s sake.

John 10:17 Therefore doth my Father love me, because I lay down my life, that I might take it again.

The passage reveals that Jesus laid down His life out of love for the Father, and He would take it back.

1. The Power of Love: Exploring Jesus' Example of Sacrificial Love

2. The True Meaning of Sacrifice: Understanding the Depths of Jesus' Love

1. Philippians 2:5-8 - Jesus' example of humility and obedience

2. Romans 5:8 - God's love for us in spite of our sinfulness

John 10:18 No man taketh it from me, but I lay it down of myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This commandment have I received of my Father.

John 10:18 emphasizes Jesus's authority and power over his life, given to him by the Father.

1. Jesus: The Unstoppable Power of Authority

2. How Jesus' Self-Sacrifice Reveals His Authority

1. Romans 5:8 - But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

2. Philippians 2:5-8 - Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death— even death on a cross!

John 10:19 There was a division therefore again among the Jews for these sayings.

The Jews were divided in opinion due to Jesus' teachings.

1. Jesus' teachings have the power to both unite and divide.

2. The power of Jesus' words to bring peace and discord.

1. Matthew 10:34-36 "Do not suppose that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I did not come to bring peace, but a sword. For I have come to turn a man against his father, a daughter against her mother..."

2. Hebrews 12:14-15 Make every effort to live in peace with everyone and to be holy; without holiness no one will see the Lord. See to it that no one falls short of the grace of God and that no bitter root grows up to cause trouble and defile many.

John 10:20 And many of them said, He hath a devil, and is mad; why hear ye him?

Jesus' adversaries were questioning his teachings and claiming that he was mad and had a devil.

1: We must be open-minded to the possibilities of new ideas even if we don't understand them.

2: It is wrong to judge others and to make assumptions about their character without evidence.

1: Matthew 7:1-5 - "Judge not, that ye be not judged. For with what judgment ye judge, ye shall be judged: and with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you again."

2: James 1:19 - "Wherefore, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath."

John 10:21 Others said, These are not the words of him that hath a devil. Can a devil open the eyes of the blind?

Jesus' critics questioned His ability to perform miracles, but His followers knew He was not possessed by a devil.

1. The Power of Jesus to Overcome Doubt

2. The Miracles of Jesus: A Sign of His Divinity

1. Isaiah 35:5-6 - Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped.

6 Then shall the lame man leap as an hart, and the tongue of the dumb sing: for in the wilderness shall waters break out, and streams in the desert.

2. Matthew 11:4-5 - Jesus answered and said unto them, Go and shew John again those things which ye do hear and see:

5 The blind receive their sight, and the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, and the poor have the gospel preached to them.

John 10:22 And it was at Jerusalem the feast of the dedication, and it was winter.

During the winter, the Jews were celebrating the Feast of Dedication in Jerusalem.

1. The Importance of Celebrating God's Faithfulness

2. How to Celebrate God's Love in Winter

1. Nehemiah 8:13-18

2. Psalm 105:1-5

John 10:23 And Jesus walked in the temple in Solomon's porch.

John 10:23 tells us that Jesus walked in the temple in Solomon's porch.

1. The significance of Jesus's presence in the temple in Solomon's porch.

2. The importance of Jesus's presence in the temple in Solomon's porch in our lives today.

1. 1 Kings 6:3 - And the porch before the temple of the house, twenty cubits was the

length thereof, according to the breadth of the house; and ten cubits was the breadth thereof before the house.

2. John 4:23 - But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him.

John 10:24 Then came the Jews round about him, and said unto him, How long dost thou make us to doubt? If thou be the Christ, tell us plainly.

Jesus clearly identified himself as the Messiah to the Jews, demanding a response.

1: Everyone must make a decision about Jesus: either believe Him or reject Him.

2: Jesus is the only way to salvation, so we must accept Him as Lord and Savior.

1: Acts 4:12 - And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.

2: Romans 10:9 - That if you confess with your mouth Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.

John 10:25 Jesus answered them, I told you, and ye believed not: the works that I do in my Father's name, they bear witness of me.

Jesus showed them he was the Messiah through his works done in his Father's name.

1. Jesus was the Messiah, shown through His works done in His Father's name.

2. Believe in Jesus as your Lord and Savior, shown through His works done in His Father's name.

1. John 5:36, "But I have a greater witness than John’s: my teachings and my miracles."

2. Isaiah 61:1, "The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is on me, because the Lord has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners."

John 10:26 But ye believe not, because ye are not of my sheep, as I said unto you.

The passage states that those who do not believe are not of Jesus' sheep.

1. The Importance of Believing in Jesus

2. The Power of Jesus' Sheep

1. Romans 10:9 - That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.

2. Matthew 11:28 - Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

John 10:27 My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me:

The passage emphasizes the importance of listening to the voice of Jesus and following His commands.

1. The Power of Listening: Why We Should Follow Jesus

2. The Blessing of Obedience: How Following Jesus Leads to Joy

1. Romans 8:28 - And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.

2. Matthew 6:33 - But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

John 10:28 And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand.

God gives us eternal life and protects us from harm.

1: God's Unfailing Love and Protection

2: The Promise of Eternal Life

1: Romans 8:38-39 - For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

2: Psalm 121:2-3 - My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth. He will not let your foot be moved; he who keeps you will not slumber.

John 10:29 My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand.

God's protection is greater than any danger we face.

1: We can rest assured that no matter the danger we face, God's protection will see us through.

2: God is greater than any danger we may face and will not allow any harm to come to us if we trust in Him.

1: Romans 8:31-39 - No power in this world can separate us from the love of God.

2: Isaiah 41:10 - Do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.

John 10:30 I and my Father are one.

Jesus Christ established His unity with God the Father through His divine nature, making them one.

1: Jesus Christ is God Incarnate, Uniting God the Father and Himself.

2: Jesus Christ is the Bridge between God and Humanity, Uniting Both in Him.

1: Colossians 2:9 - For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily.

2: 2 Corinthians 5:19 - For God was in Christ, reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them...

John 10:31 Then the Jews took up stones again to stone him.

Jesus demonstrates his power over death by speaking to the Jews and threatening them with consequences for their actions.

1: Jesus is the only one who has power over life and death.

2: We should devote our lives to following Jesus, not to harming him.

1: Romans 6:9-11 - For we know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him.

2: John 11:25-26 - Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die.”

John 10:32 Jesus answered them, Many good works have I shewed you from my Father; for which of those works do ye stone me?

Jesus was being persecuted for the good works he had done as a testament to his Father.

1: We should keep doing good works, even when we are persecuted for them, for that is the example Jesus set for us.

2: Persecution should not stop us from living out our faith and doing works to serve and glorify God.

1: Matthew 5:11-12 "Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake. Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you."

2: 1 Peter 4: 12-13 “Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you: But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ’s sufferings; that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy.”

John 10:33 The Jews answered him, saying, For a good work we stone thee not; but for blasphemy; and because that thou, being a man, makest thyself God.

The Jews accused Jesus of blasphemy for claiming to be God.

1: We must understand the power of Jesus' words and the impact they had on those around Him.

2: Jesus exemplifies the power of love and forgiveness, even in the face of false accusations.

1: 1 John 4:8 - "Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love."

2: Matthew 5:44 - "But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you."

John 10:34 Jesus answered them, Is it not written in your law, I said, Ye are gods?

Jesus was affirming his deity by quoting from Psalm 82:6.

1: Jesus is God and should be worshipped and obeyed.

2: We are all made in the image of God and should strive to live holy and Godly lives.

1: Psalm 82:6 - "I said, 'You are “gods”; you are all sons of the Most High.'”

2: John 1:1 - “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.”

John 10:35 If he called them gods, unto whom the word of God came, and the scripture cannot be broken;

The passage discusses how the word of God is unbreakable and that God referred to humans as gods.

1. The Power of the Word of God

2. The Holiness of God's Children

1. Matthew 5:48 - "Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect."

2. Psalm 19:7 - "The law of the Lord is perfect, refreshing the soul."

John 10:36 Say ye of him, whom the Father hath sanctified, and sent into the world, Thou blasphemest; because I said, I am the Son of God?

Jesus is questioning his accusers, asking them why they accuse him of blasphemy when he claims to be the Son of God.

1. The Authority of Jesus: A Reflection on John 10:36

2. The Divine Son of God: How Jesus Defends His Divinity

1. Isaiah 9:6 - For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.

2. Philippians 2:5-8 - Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross.

John 10:37 If I do not the works of my Father, believe me not.

This passage emphasizes the importance of believing in Jesus only if he performs the works of God.

1. The necessity of Jesus showing the works of God for us to believe in him.

2. The power of faith in Jesus and the works of God.

1. Hebrews 11:1 - “Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.”

2. Romans 10:17 - “So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.”

John 10:38 But if I do, though ye believe not me, believe the works: that ye may know, and believe, that the Father is in me, and I in him.

This passage speaks of Jesus’s works and the unity of the Father and the Son.

1. Jesus’s Works: A Sign of Unity in the Father and the Son

2. Believing in Jesus: A Pathway to Knowing the Father

1. John 14:10-11 – “Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father in me: or else believe me for the very works’ sake. Believe me that I am in the Father, and the Father in me: or else believe me for the very works’ sake.”

2. John 17:21 - “That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us.”

John 10:39 Therefore they sought again to take him: but he escaped out of their hand,

The Pharisees attempted to arrest Jesus, but He evaded them and escaped.

1. The Power of Jesus' Love: How Jesus Escaped the Pharisees by His Love for Us

2. God's Protection: Jesus' Escape from the Pharisees as a Symbol of God's Protection

1. Romans 8:31-39 - What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us?

2. Matthew 16:18 - And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

John 10:40 And went away again beyond Jordan into the place where John at first baptized; and there he abode.

John traveled back to the place where John the Baptist originally baptized and stayed there.

1: Jesus showed us the importance of going back to our roots.

2: Jesus demonstrates the power of humility, returning to a place of humble beginnings.

1: 2 Timothy 2:1-2 - "You then, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable people who will also be qualified to teach others."

2: Proverbs 27:17 - "As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another."

John 10:41 And many resorted unto him, and said, John did no miracle: but all things that John spake of this man were true.

John testified to the truth of Jesus' identity and ministry.

1: Jesus is the Son of God and has power to perform miracles.

2: We should listen to testimonies of Jesus from people around us.

1: Matthew 11:2-6 - John's testimony to Jesus' identity and ministry.

2: Luke 7:18-23 - John's testimony to Jesus' power to forgive sins.

John 10:42 And many believed on him there.

John 10:42 summarizes Jesus' ministry in Galilee, where many believed in him.

1: Believing in Jesus brings true freedom.

2: Jesus' ministry brings true joy and peace.

1: Galatians 5:1 - "It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery."

2: Isaiah 9:6-7 - "For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there will be no end."

John 11 narrates the death and resurrection of Lazarus, Jesus' discourse on being the Resurrection and the Life, and the plot to kill Jesus that ensued.

1st Paragraph: The chapter begins with a message to Jesus that His friend Lazarus was sick. However, instead of immediately going to him, Jesus stayed two more days where he was. He then told his disciples that Lazarus had "fallen asleep" (died), but He intended to go wake him up. Despite their misunderstanding and fear of Jewish hostility in Judea, they followed Him back (John 11:1-16).

2nd Paragraph: When they arrived in Bethany, Lazarus had already been in tomb for four days. Martha met Jesus lamenting if He had been there her brother would not have died yet expressing faith God will give whatever asks then Jesus comforted her with revelation 'I am resurrection life whoever believes me though die yet shall live everyone who lives believes me never die.' After asking her belief this statement went on meet Mary who fell at His feet weeping along with Jews who came comfort her moved deeply troubled spirit He wept shortest verse Bible 'Jesus wept.' demonstrating His empathy human sorrow then proceeded tomb asked stone be removed despite Martha's concern about odor because body had been there four days (John 11:17-39).

3rd Paragraph: After praying aloud for benefit crowd so they may believe Father sent Him called out loud voice 'Lazarus come out!' dead man came out hands feet wrapped strips linen cloth around face amazed many Jews put faith Him however some went Pharisees reported what done leading chief priests Pharisees call meeting Sanhedrin express fear Romans take away both place nation if let Him go on like this proposed solution Caiaphas high priest year unknowingly prophesied better one man die people whole nation perish from that day plotted take His life therefore no longer moved about publicly among people Jews withdrew region near desert village called Ephraim continued ministry disciples (John 11:40-54).

John 11:1 Now a certain man was sick, named Lazarus, of Bethany, the town of Mary and her sister Martha.

This passage introduces the story of Lazarus, a man who was sick in the town of Bethany.

1. The Power of Faith: The Story of Lazarus and His Miraculous Restoration

2. Hope in Times of Suffering: Learning from the Faith of Lazarus

1. Hebrews 11:1-3 - Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.

2. Romans 8:18 - For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us.

John 11:2 (It was that Mary which anointed the Lord with ointment, and wiped his feet with her hair, whose brother Lazarus was sick.)

Mary, who had anointed Jesus with ointment and wiped his feet with her hair, had a brother named Lazarus who was sick.

1. Jesus and Compassion

2. The Power of Faith in Healing

1. Matthew 6:14-15, "For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you, but if you do not forgive others their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses."

2. James 5:15-16, "And the prayer of faith will save the one who is sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven."

John 11:3 Therefore his sisters sent unto him, saying, Lord, behold, he whom thou lovest is sick.

Jesus' sisters send him a message informing him that the person he loves is ill.

1. God's Love for Us in the Face of Difficult Times - John 11:3

2. The Power of a Simple Message - John 11:3

1. Romans 8:38-39 - For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

2. 1 Corinthians 13:7 - Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

John 11:4 When Jesus heard that, he said, This sickness is not unto death, but for the glory of God, that the Son of God might be glorified thereby.

Jesus declared that the sickness of Lazarus was not unto death but for the glory of God, so that the Son of God could be glorified.

1. The Glory of God in Difficult Circumstances

2. Jesus' Infinite Compassion and Care

1. Psalm 19:1 - The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork.

2. Romans 8:28 - And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.

John 11:5 Now Jesus loved Martha, and her sister, and Lazarus.

This passage from John 11:5 reveals that Jesus had a special love for Martha, her sister, and Lazarus.

1. The Love of Jesus: How Jesus Showed His Unconditional Affection for Martha, Her Sister, and Lazarus

2. The Power of Love: How Jesus' Love Can Transform Our Lives

1. Matthew 5:43-48 - Jesus teaching to love our enemies

2. 1 Corinthians 13 - The Love Chapter, explaining the characteristics of love

John 11:6 When he had heard therefore that he was sick, he abode two days still in the same place where he was.

Jesus hears that his friend Lazarus is sick and decides to stay where he is for two days.

1. Jesus teaches us that sometimes the best action is to remain patient and trust God's plan.

2. God is always with us, even when we feel like we are alone.

1. Romans 8:28 - ?□nd we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.??

2. Psalm 46:1 - ?□od is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.??

John 11:7 Then after that saith he to his disciples, Let us go into Judaea again.

Jesus tells his disciples to go to Judea again.

1: Putting our faith into action - Jesus' example of faith.

2: Trusting in God's plan - The importance of faith in difficult times.

1: Hebrews 11:1 - "Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen".

2: Isaiah 41:10 - "Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand".

John 11:8 His disciples say unto him, Master, the Jews of late sought to stone thee; and goest thou thither again?

The disciples were worried about Jesus returning to a place where the Jews had recently tried to stone Him.

1: No matter the persecution, Jesus demonstrated a commitment to His mission and trusted in God's protection.

2: We should not be afraid to stand up for what we believe despite opposition.

1: Matthew 5:10-12 - "Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you."

2: 1 Peter 2:21-23 - "For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps. He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth. When he was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but continued entrusting himself to him who judges justly."

John 11:9 Jesus answered, Are there not twelve hours in the day? If any man walk in the day, he stumbleth not, because he seeth the light of this world.

Jesus asks if there are twelve hours in a day and mentions that if anyone walks in the day, they will not stumble because they can see the light of the world.

1. The Power of the Light: How the Sun's Light Guides Us and Protects Us

2. The Power of Twelve: Making the Most of Our Time and Resources

1. Psalm 119:105 - Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path.

2. Ecclesiastes 3:1 - There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens.

John 11:10 But if a man walk in the night, he stumbleth, because there is no light in him.

This passage highlights the importance of having light to navigate life?□ journey.

1. Let Your Light Shine: God?□ call to be a beacon of hope.

2. Brighten Your Path: Finding direction and purpose in life.

1. Psalm 119:105 ?Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path.??

2. Matthew 5:14-16 ?You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.??

John 11:11 These things said he: and after that he saith unto them, Our friend Lazarus sleepeth; but I go, that I may awake him out of sleep.

Jesus tells the disciples that their friend Lazarus is sleeping, but he will go and wake him up.

1. The Hope of Resurrection - Jesus' promise of resurrection from the dead and the hope it brings.

2. Faith in Action - Jesus' demonstration of faith in action through his willingness to go and wake Lazarus.

1. 1 Corinthians 15:51-57 - Paul's explanation of the power of Jesus to bring life from death.

2. Isaiah 26:19 - The promise of resurrection for all believers.

John 11:12 Then said his disciples, Lord, if he sleep, he shall do well.

Jesus' disciples expressed concern that if Lazarus was allowed to sleep he would recover from his illness.

1. Jesus always has the best plan for our lives, even if we don't understand it in the moment.

2. God is sovereign and can use even the most difficult circumstances for good.

1. Romans 8:28 - And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.

2. Jeremiah 29:11 - For I know the plans I have for you,??declares the Lord, ?□lans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.

John 11:13 Howbeit Jesus spake of his death: but they thought that he had spoken of taking of rest in sleep.

The disciples did not understand Jesus' words, believing he was speaking of taking a rest in sleep rather than his death.

1. God's Plans: Learning to Understand and Follow Them

2. Jesus and His Disciples: A Lesson in Submission

1. Isaiah 55:8-9: "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts."

2. Philippians 2:5-8: "Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross."

John 11:14 Then said Jesus unto them plainly, Lazarus is dead.

Jesus informs his disciples that Lazarus is dead.

1: Even in the face of death, Jesus is still our source of hope and peace.

2: We can trust in the Lord, even in times of sorrow and despair.

1: Romans 8:18 - ?□or I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.??

2: Psalm 46:1-2 - ?□od is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

Therefore we will not fear, though the earth be removed, and though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea.??

John 11:15 And I am glad for your sakes that I was not there, to the intent ye may believe; nevertheless let us go unto him.

Jesus is glad that he was not present when Lazarus died, so that the people present may come to believe in him.

1. Finding Faith in Adversity

2. Trusting in the Lord in Difficult Times

1. Romans 10:17 - So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.

2. Psalm 37:3-4 - Trust in the Lord, and do good; dwell in the land and befriend faithfulness. Delight yourself in the Lord, and he will give you the desires of your heart.

John 11:16 Then said Thomas, which is called Didymus, unto his fellowdisciples, Let us also go, that we may die with him.

Thomas and his fellow disciples wanted to join Jesus in death to show their loyalty and support.

1: Be devoted to the cause of Christ, no matter the personal cost.

2: Do not be afraid to stand up for your beliefs.

1: Matthew 10:32-33 ?□herefore whoever confesses Me before men, him I will also confess before My Father who is in heaven. 33 But whoever denies Me before men, him I will also deny before My Father who is in heaven.??

2: John 15:13 ?□reater love has no one than this, than to lay down one?□ life for his friends.??

John 11:17 Then when Jesus came, he found that he had lain in the grave four days already.

Jesus arrived to find that Lazarus had been dead and buried for four days.

1. The Power of Faith: We can trust Jesus even when it looks like all hope is lost.

2. The Power of Prayer: Even when death has taken away our loved ones, Jesus can still bring them back.

1. Isaiah 43:2 ?□hen you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and when you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you.??

2. 2 Corinthians 4:8-9 ?□e are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed.??

John 11:18 Now Bethany was nigh unto Jerusalem, about fifteen furlongs off:

Jesus comforts Mary and Martha after the death of their brother, Lazarus.

1. Jesus is our Comforter in Times of Difficulty

2. The Value of Friendship

1. Isaiah 40:1 - "Comfort, yes, comfort My people," says your God.

2. Proverbs 17:17 - A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for a time of adversity.

John 11:19 And many of the Jews came to Martha and Mary, to comfort them concerning their brother.

Many Jews visited Martha and Mary to console them for the death of their brother.

1. Grieving with Others: How to Comfort Others in Times of Loss

2. The Power of Community in Overcoming Loss

1. Romans 12:15 - Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep.

2. Job 2:11-13 - When Job?□ three friends, Eliphaz the Temanite, Bildad the Shuhite and Zophar the Naamathite, heard about all the troubles that had come upon him, they set out from their homes and met together by agreement to go and sympathize with him and comfort him.

John 11:20 Then Martha, as soon as she heard that Jesus was coming, went and met him: but Mary sat still in the house.

Martha and Mary reacted differently when Jesus came to visit.

1. We can learn from Martha and Mary's example that we should always welcome Jesus in our lives.

2. We should strive to be like Martha and respond to Jesus with joy and enthusiasm.

1. Matthew 11:28-29 ?□ome to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.??

2. Luke 10:38-42 Now as they went on their way, Jesus entered a village. And a woman named Martha welcomed him into her house. And she had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet and listened to his teaching. But Martha was distracted with much serving. And she went up to him and said, ?□ord, do you not care that my sister has left me to serve alone? Tell her then to help me.??But the Lord answered her, ?□artha, Martha, you are anxious and troubled about many things, but one thing is necessary. Mary has chosen the good portion, which will not be taken away from her.??

John 11:21 Then said Martha unto Jesus, Lord, if thou hadst been here, my brother had not died.

Martha expresses her deep grief and disappointment that Jesus wasn't present to heal her brother.

1. Jesus Is Our Only Hope In Times Of Difficulty

2. God's Timing Is Perfect, Even When We Don't Understand It

1. Romans 8:28 - And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.

2. Psalm 46:1-3 - God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore will not we fear, though the earth be removed, and though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea; Though the waters thereof roar and be troubled, though the mountains shake with the swelling thereof.

John 11:22 But I know, that even now, whatsoever thou wilt ask of God, God will give it thee.

Jesus assures Martha that whatever she prays to God for will be given to her.

1. Faith: Believing that God will Fulfill His Promises

2. Hope: Trusting in the Lord in Difficult Situations

1. Matthew 21:22 - And all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive.

2. Jeremiah 29:11 - For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.

John 11:23 Jesus saith unto her, Thy brother shall rise again.

Jesus gives Martha assurance that her brother Lazarus will experience resurrection.

1: Jesus is the source of hope and assurance that death is not the end.

2: Jesus brings life and hope to those who trust in him.

1: Romans 8:11 - ?□nd if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies because of his Spirit who lives in you.??

2: 1 Corinthians 15:20-22 - ?□ut Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the

firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man. For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive.??

John 11:24 Martha saith unto him, I know that he shall rise again in the resurrection at the last day.

Martha professes her faith in the resurrection of Jesus on the last day.

1: Hope in the resurrection of Jesus, that no matter the circumstances, we can trust in the promises of God.

2: Place your trust in the Lord, for He is faithful and will bring about restoration in our lives.

1: 1 Peter 1:3-5 - Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.

2: Romans 8:11 - If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you.

John 11:25 Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live:

Jesus is the source of life and resurrection.

1. We must believe in Jesus to experience life and resurrection.

2. Trusting in Jesus is the key to unlocking life and resurrection.

1. John 3:16 "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."

2. Romans 10:9 "That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved."

John 11:26 And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. Believest thou this?

This passage reveals Jesus' belief that those who have faith in him will never die.

1. The Power of Jesus: How Faith in Him Can Overcome Death

2. The Gift of Eternal Life: Believing in Jesus and Experiencing Immortality

1. Romans 10:9-10 - "That if you confess with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved."

2. 1 Corinthians 15:54-57 - "When the perishable has been clothed with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality, then the saying that is written will come true: 'Death has been swallowed up in victory.' 'Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?' The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ."

John 11:27 She saith unto him, Yea, Lord: I believe that thou art the Christ, the Son of God, which should come into the world.

Jesus encounters Martha in her sorrow after her brother's death. She professes her faith in him as the Son of God.

Martha expresses her faith in Jesus as the Son of God.

1. The Faith of Martha: How to Cultivate an Unwavering Belief in the Lord

2. Comfort in Sorrow: Finding Strength in the Love of Jesus

1. Matthew 11:28 - ?□ome unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.??

2. Romans 10:9-10 - ?□hat if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.??

John 11:28 And when she had so said, she went her way, and called Mary her sister secretly, saying, The Master is come, and calleth for thee.

Jesus had arrived at the home of Mary and Martha and had called for Mary.

1. Jesus calls us in times of despair and provides us with hope.

2. We must answer the call of Jesus and trust in His love and mercy.

1. Isaiah 43:2-3 ?□hen you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you. For I am the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior.??

2. Matthew 11:28 ?□ome to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.??

John 11:29 As soon as she heard that, she arose quickly, and came unto him.

Mary heard that Jesus was coming and she quickly arose and went to meet him.

1. God is always ready to meet us when we seek Him.

2. Taking the initiative to seek God can lead to incredible blessing.

1. Jeremiah 29:13 - "And you will seek me and find me, when you search for me with all your heart."

2. Isaiah 55:6 - "Seek the Lord while he may be found; call upon him while he is near."

John 11:30 Now Jesus was not yet come into the town, but was in that place where Martha met him.

Martha met Jesus in a place outside of the town before He entered.

1. Overcoming Grief: Learning from Martha's Encounter with Jesus

2. Meeting Jesus in Unexpected Places

1. Romans 8:28 - And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.

2. John 11:25-26 - Jesus said to her, ?□ am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this???

John 11:31 The Jews then which were with her in the house, and comforted her, when they saw Mary, that she rose up hastily and went out, followed her, saying, She goeth unto the grave to weep there.

Mary went to the tomb of Lazarus to weep after hearing of his death. Jews who were in the house with her followed her to the grave.

1. God's Comfort in Times of Grief

2. Finding Hope in the Midst of Death

1. Psalm 56:8 - ?□ ou have taken account of my wanderings; put my tears in Your bottle. Are they not in Your book???

2. Isaiah 41:10 - ?□ o not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.??

John 11:32 Then when Mary was come where Jesus was, and saw him, she fell down at his feet, saying unto him, Lord, if thou hadst been here, my brother had not died.

Mary expressed her grief to Jesus for the death of her brother.

1: In times of sorrow, turn to Jesus for comfort.

2: Jesus is the ultimate source of comfort and peace.

1: Isaiah 41:10 - "Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness."

2: Psalm 34:18 - "The LORD is nigh unto them that are of a broken heart; and saveth such as be of a contrite spirit."

John 11:33 When Jesus therefore saw her weeping, and the Jews also weeping which came with her, he groaned in the spirit, and was troubled,

Jesus grieved with those who were mourning the death of Lazarus.

1. God is with us in our sorrows and He understands our pain.

2. Comfort in Christ: Finding strength in times of grief.

1. Romans 12:15 - "Rejoice with those who rejoice; weep with those who weep."

2. Psalm 34:18 - "The Lord is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit."

John 11:34 And said, Where have ye laid him? They said unto him, Lord, come and see.

Jesus showed compassion for the bereaved family of Lazarus by asking for the location of his burial place.

1: We should demonstrate compassion for those in mourning by being willing to listen to and comfort them.

2: We can learn from Jesus' example of how to be compassionate and comforting to those who are grieving.

1: 1 Peter 5:7 - Cast all your anxiety on him, because he cares for you.

2: Romans 12:15 - Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn.

John 11:35 Jesus wept.

Jesus wept over the death of Lazarus, demonstrating the depth of his love and compassion for his friend.

1. The Power of Jesus??Love: A Study on John 11:35

2. Compassion in a Crisis: A Reflection on Jesus??Tears in John 11:35

1. John 3:16 - For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

2. Romans 5:8 - But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

John 11:36 Then said the Jews, Behold how he loved him!

Jesus wept for his dear friend Lazarus. Jesus had been away when Lazarus fell ill, and he arrived after Lazarus had died. Jesus was deeply moved by the death of his friend, and the Jews around him took note of his love and sorrow.

Jesus' love for his friend demonstrated the depth of his compassion and mercy.

1: God's Love is Unconditional

2: Compassion in the Midst of Loss

1: 1 Corinthians 13:4-7 - Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth.

2: Romans 5:8 - But God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

John 11:37 And some of them said, Could not this man, which opened the eyes of the blind, have caused that even this man should not have died?

The people around Lazarus' tomb were confused and asking why Jesus had not healed him, instead of allowing him to die.

1. Jesus is Sovereign: Reflections on the Death of Lazarus

2. Life, Death, and Hope in the Resurrection of Lazarus

1. Romans 8:28 - And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.

2. John 11:25 - Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live.

John 11:38 Jesus therefore again groaning in himself cometh to the grave. It was a cave, and a stone lay upon it.

Jesus visits the grave of Lazarus and is overcome with grief.

1: The Power of Empathy - Jesus demonstrated the power of empathy when He wept for His beloved friend Lazarus.

2: A Life of Compassion - Jesus showed us the power of living a life of compassion by demonstrating His love for Lazarus.

1: Romans 12:15 - Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep.

2: 1 John 4:19-20 - We love because he first loved us. If anyone says, ?□ love God,??and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen.

John 11:39 Jesus said, Take ye away the stone. Martha, the sister of him that was dead, saith unto him, Lord, by this time he stinketh: for he hath been dead four days.

Martha is reminded of Jesus' power to bring life even when death seems certain.

1: In times of grief, Jesus is our source of hope.

2: We can trust Jesus to be faithful even when circumstances seem impossible.

1: Romans 8:28 - And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are called according to his purpose.

2: Isaiah 43:2 - When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee: when thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned; neither shall the flame kindle upon thee.

John 11:40 Jesus saith unto her, Said I not unto thee, that, if thou wouldest believe, thou shouldest see the glory of God?

Jesus reminds Martha of his earlier promise that if she believes she will see the glory of God.

1: Faith brings us closer to the glory of God.

2: Believe and you will see the glory of God.

1: Hebrews 11:1 - "Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen."

2: Romans 10:17 - "So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ."

John 11:41 Then they took away the stone from the place where the dead was laid. And Jesus lifted up his eyes, and said, Father, I thank thee that thou hast heard me.

Jesus gives thanks to God after they remove the stone from the tomb of Lazarus.

1. The Power of Thankfulness: Learning to Give Thanks in Good Times and Bad.

2. Raising Our Eyes Toward Heaven: Learning to Look to the Lord in Times of Trouble.

1. Philippians 4:6-7 - Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.

2. Psalm 118:1-2 - Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever. Let Israel say: ?□ is love endures forever.??

John 11:42 And I knew that thou hearest me always: but because of the people which stand by I said it, that they may believe that thou hast sent me.

Jesus prayed to God and acknowledged that He hears Him always, even though He said it out loud for the people to hear and believe that Jesus was sent by God.

1. Learning to Trust God's Timing

2. The Power of Praise and Worship

1. Hebrews 13:5-6 - "Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee. So that we may boldly say, The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me."

2. Psalm 66:19 - "But verily God hath heard me; he hath attended to the voice of my prayer."

John 11:43 And when he thus had spoken, he cried with a loud voice, Lazarus, come forth.

The passage tells of Jesus calling Lazarus to come out from his tomb.

1. Jesus' power over death and His compassion for those who suffer

2. The importance of faith in Jesus' power

1. Luke 7:14-15 - Jesus raises a widow's son from the dead

2. Romans 6:23 - The power of sin and death is broken through Jesus' resurrection

John 11:44 And he that was dead came forth, bound hand and foot with graveclothes: and his face was bound about with a napkin. Jesus saith unto them, Loose him, and let him go.

The dead man was brought forth from his tomb, bound and covered with graveclothes. Jesus instructed the people to release him.

1. Jesus Gives Life - The example of Lazarus and the power of Jesus to give life.

2. The Power of Jesus - How Jesus has the power to raise the dead and set us free from our bondage.

1. Isaiah 26:19 - ?□our dead shall live; their bodies shall rise. You who dwell in the dust, awake and sing for joy! For your dew is a dew of light, and the earth will give birth to the dead.??

2. Romans 6:4-5 - ?□e were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life. For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his.??

John 11:45 Then many of the Jews which came to Mary, and had seen the things which Jesus did, believed on him.

Many Jews saw the miracles Jesus performed and believed in Him.

1: Believe in Jesus and His miracles.

2: Through faith, we can trust in Jesus' power.

1: Romans 10:9 - If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

2: John 3:16 - For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

John 11:46 But some of them went their ways to the Pharisees, and told them what things Jesus had done.

Some of the people who had seen Jesus' miracles reported them to the Pharisees.

1. Christ's Miracles: An Undeniable Testimony

2. The Power of Witnessing: How Our Stories Can Create Change

1. Acts 4:20, ?□or we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard.??

2. Isaiah 43:10, ?□e are my witnesses, saith the LORD, and my servant whom I have chosen.??

John 11:47 Then gathered the chief priests and the Pharisees a council, and said, What do we? for this man doeth many miracles.

The chief priests and Pharisees convened to discuss Jesus, who had been performing many miracles.

1. A Miracle of Faith - The Story of Jesus and the Chief Priests and Pharisees

2. God's Miracles - How God Works Wonders Through Our Lives

1. Acts 4:13-17 - When the rulers, elders, and scribes were confronted with the healing of the lame man, they were amazed and realized that it was done through the power of Jesus.

2. Matthew 16:21-23 - When Peter confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, Jesus responds with a warning that the enemies of God will try to destroy him.

John 11:48 If we let him thus alone, all men will believe on him: and the Romans shall come and take away both our place and nation.

The chief priests and Pharisees fear that the people will accept Jesus as the Messiah and that the Romans will come to take away their nation.

1. Jesus as the Messiah - Who is He and What Does He Mean to Us?

2. The Fear of Man vs. the Fear of God - What Should Our Motivation Be?

1. John 11:48 - ?□f we let him thus alone, all men will believe on him: and the Romans shall come and take away both our place and nation.??

2. Romans 10:17 - ?□o faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.??

John 11:49 And one of them, named Caiaphas, being the high priest that same year, said unto them, Ye know nothing at all,

Caiaphas warned the people not to interfere with matters beyond their understanding.

1: We should be humble and recognize that there are some things that are beyond our understanding.

2: We should resist the temptation to judge and criticize those whose beliefs or perspectives are different from our own.

1: James 4:11-12 "Do not speak evil against one another, brothers. The one who speaks against a brother or judges his brother, speaks evil against the law and judges the law. But if you judge the law, you are not a doer of the law but a judge.

2: Colossians 2:8 "See to it that no one takes you captive by philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the world, and not according to Christ."

John 11:50 Nor consider that it is expedient for us, that one man should die for the people, and that the whole nation perish not.

One man should die for the people to save the nation.

1. The Power of Sacrifice: A Study Through John 11:50

2. The Cost of Love: Understanding the Greatness of Christ's Sacrifice

1. Romans 5:8 - But God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners.

2. Isaiah 53:5 - But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed.

John 11:51 And this spake he not of himself: but being high priest that year, he prophesied that Jesus should die for that nation;

Jesus' death was foretold by the high priest.

1. Jesus was sent to die for the sins of the nation.

2. Jesus' death was necessary to save us from our sins.

1. Isaiah 53:5-6 - But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.

2. Romans 5:8 - But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

John 11:52 And not for that nation only, but that also he should gather together in one the children of God that were scattered abroad.

This verse speaks of the gathering of the scattered children of God into one nation.

1. ?athering Together in Unity????A on the importance of maintaining unity amongst the people of God.

2. ?he Scattered Children of God????A on the importance of bringing the scattered children of God back together.

1. Ephesians 4:3-7 ???ake every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.??

2. Psalm 133:1 ???ehold, how good and pleasant it is when brothers dwell in unity!??

John 11:53 Then from that day forth they took counsel together for to put him to death.

This passage reveals that the religious leaders of the time conspired to put Jesus to death.

1: We must stand up for justice and not allow ourselves to be swayed by evil intentions.

2: We must be wary of those who are trying to manipulate us with false promises and their own agendas.

1: Proverbs 14:16 - One who is wise is cautious and turns away from evil, but a fool is reckless and careless.

2: Hebrews 10:24-25 - Let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

John 11:54 Jesus therefore walked no more openly among the Jews; but went thence unto a country near to the wilderness, into a city called Ephraim, and there continued with his disciples.

Jesus left Judea and traveled to the nearby city of Ephraim where he stayed with his disciples.

1. Jesus' Journey of Faith: Understanding Jesus' Courage and Perseverance

2. Following Jesus' Example: Taking a Stand for What is Right

1. Acts 5:29 - ?□ut Peter and the apostles answered, ?□e must obey God rather than men.?□□?

2. Hebrews 11:8 - ?□y faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to a place that he was to receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going.??

John 11:55 And the Jews' passover was nigh at hand: and many went out of the country up to Jerusalem before the passover, to purify themselves.

Many Jews traveled to Jerusalem before Passover to purify themselves.

1. The importance of spiritual cleansing and purification before important spiritual events.

2. The significance of Passover and the journey to Jerusalem for Jews.

1. Romans 6:19-22 - For just as you presented your members as slaves to impurity and to lawlessness leading to more lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves to righteousness leading to sanctification.

2. Isaiah 1:16-17 - Wash yourselves; make yourselves clean; remove the evil of your deeds from before my eyes; cease to do evil, learn to do good; seek justice, correct oppression; bring justice to the fatherless, plead the widow's cause.

John 11:56 Then sought they for Jesus, and spake among themselves, as they stood in the temple, What think ye, that he will not come to the feast?

The Jews were discussing Jesus among themselves in the temple, questioning if he would attend the feast.

1: Seek Jesus and ask the tough questions.

2: Do not be afraid to confront what you don't understand.

1: Matthew 7:7-8 - Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you: For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened.

2: Psalm 27:4 - One thing have I desired of the Lord, that will I seek after; that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord, and to inquire in his temple.

John 11:57 Now both the chief priests and the Pharisees had given a commandment, that, if any man knew where he were, he should shew it, that they might take him.

The chief priests and Pharisees had commanded that anyone who knew Jesus' whereabouts should let them know so they could arrest him.

1. God's Plan is Greater Than Our Understanding - Romans 11:33-36

2. God's Protection is Unfailing - Psalm 91:1-2

1. John 7:30 - "Then they sought to take him: but no man laid hands on him, because his hour was not yet come."

2. Matthew 26:53-54 - "Thinkest thou that I cannot now pray to my Father, and he shall presently give me more than twelve legions of angels? But how then shall the scriptures be fulfilled, that thus it must be?"

John 12 recounts Jesus' anointing at Bethany, His triumphal entry into Jerusalem, His prediction of His death, and the continued disbelief of many despite His miracles.

1st Paragraph: The chapter begins with a dinner in Bethany six days before Passover where Lazarus was present with Jesus. During the meal, Mary anointed Jesus' feet with expensive perfume and wiped them with her hair. Judas Iscariot objected to this waste of perfume that could have been sold to benefit the poor, but Jesus defended Mary's action as preparation for his burial (John 12:1-8).

2nd Paragraph: News about raising Lazarus from dead made many Jews go out see both Him Lazarus leading chief priests plot kill Lazarus too because on account him many Jews were going over to Jesus believing in Him. The next day when large crowd had come feast heard that Jesus was coming Jerusalem they took branches palm trees went out meet him crying out 'Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes name Lord even King Israel!' fulfilling prophecy Zechariah riding young donkey yet disciples did not understand these things first only after glorified they remember these things had been written about him done him (John 12:9-16).

3rd Paragraph: Despite performing so many signs in their presence still they did not believe Him fulfilling prophecy Isaiah hardening their hearts. Yet at same time among leading Jews many believed Him but because Pharisees would not openly acknowledge their faith for fear they would be put out synagogue loved human praise more than praise God. Then Jesus cried aloud saying whoever believes in me believes not in me but one who sent me I have come light world so whoever believes me may not remain darkness if anyone hears my words does not keep them I do not judge him for I did not come judge world but save world concluding chapter recounting purpose mission message from Father Himself (John 12:37-50).

John 12:1 Then Jesus six days before the passover came to Bethany, where Lazarus was, which had been dead, whom he raised from the dead.

Jesus visited Bethany six days before the Passover and raised Lazarus from the dead.

1. The Power of Love: How Jesus' Love for Lazarus Transcended Death

2. Jesus as a Miracle Worker: A Study of His Miraculous Power

1. Romans 8:38-39: For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

2. John 11:25-26: Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?”

John 12:2 There they made him a supper; and Martha served: but Lazarus was one of them that sat at the table with him.

Lazarus was among those who shared a meal with Jesus.

1: Jesus shows us that we can find joy and fellowship in the midst of suffering.

2: We can find hope and strength in Jesus even in the most difficult times.

1: James 1:2-4 - Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.

2: Hebrews 13:5 - Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said, “Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you.”

John 12:3 Then took Mary a pound of ointment of spikenard, very costly, and anointed the feet of Jesus, and wiped his feet with her hair: and the house was filled with the odour of the ointment.

Mary showed her love and devotion to Jesus through her costly gift of anointing his feet with spikenard ointment.

1. The Power of Devotion: An Exploration of Mary’s Gift to Jesus

2. Generosity and Love: The Example of Mary

1. Isaiah 1:17 “Learn to do good; seek justice, correct oppression; bring justice to the fatherless, plead the widow's cause.”

2. Romans 12:1-2 “I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.”

John 12:4 Then saith one of his disciples, Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, which should betray him,

Judas Iscariot, one of Jesus' disciples, was revealed to be the one who would betray him.

1. The Betrayal of Judas - An Analysis of the Unfortunate Events Leading Up to Jesus' Crucifixion

2. The Power of Betrayal - How a Single Act Can Change the Course of History

1. Matthew 26:14-16 - The Plot to Betray Jesus

2. Luke 22:47-48 - The Betrayal of Jesus by Judas Iscariot

John 12:5 Why was not this ointment sold for three hundred pence, and given to the poor?

This passage describes the situation in which Mary anoints Jesus' feet with expensive ointment and Jesus responds that it would have been better to give the money to the poor.

1. The importance of taking care of the poor in the eyes of Jesus.

2. The importance of having a generous heart.

1. Matthew 25:40 - “And the King will answer them, ‘Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.’”

2. Proverbs 14:31 - “Whoever oppresses a poor man insults his Maker, but he who is generous to the needy honors him.”

John 12:6 This he said, not that he cared for the poor; but because he was a thief, and had the bag, and bare what was put therein.

John was teaching about the importance of charity when he revealed that the thief who had the bag was only interested in taking for himself.

1. We must give out of love, not out of greed.

2. Beware the temptation of selfishness.

1. Matthew 6:19-21, "Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

2. 1 John 3:17, "But whoever has the world's goods, and sees his brother in need and closes his heart against him, how does the love of God abide in him?"

John 12:7 Then said Jesus, Let her alone: against the day of my burying hath she kept this.

The passage describes Jesus telling people to leave Mary alone as she was preparing for his burial.

1. Jesus' Compassion and Love: Mary's Sacrifice

2. The Power of Preparation: Lessons from Mary

1. Luke 10:38-42 - Mary's Example of Devotion

2. John 11:1-44 - Jesus' Raising of Lazarus

John 12:8 For the poor always ye have with you; but me ye have not always.

This verse emphasizes that the poor will always be with us, but Jesus will not always be with us.

1. Don't Take Jesus for Granted: Living for Jesus Every Day

2. The Power of Generosity: Serving the Poor in the Name of Jesus

1. Matthew 25:31-46 - The Parable of the Sheep and the Goats

2. James 2:14-17 - Faith Without Works is Dead

John 12:9 Much people of the Jews therefore knew that he was there: and they came not for Jesus' sake only, but that they might see Lazarus also, whom he had raised from the dead.

Many of the Jews were aware that Jesus had come to Bethany and that He had raised Lazarus from the dead. They came to see Jesus and Lazarus.

1. The Power of Faith: How Jesus Raised Lazarus from the Dead

2. The Wonders of God: Miracles of Jesus

1. Hebrews 11:1 - Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.

2. Acts 3:1-10 - Now Peter and John were going up to the temple at the hour of prayer, the ninth hour.

John 12:10 But the chief priests consulted that they might put Lazarus also to death;

The chief priests wanted to kill Lazarus.

1: We should not allow anger and envy to control our actions.

2: God's love for us is greater than our desire for revenge.

1: Matthew 5:44 - But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you.

2: Romans 12:19 - Do not take revenge, my dear friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," says the Lord.

John 12:11 Because that by reason of him many of the Jews went away, and believed on Jesus.

This passage reveals that many Jews believed in Jesus after seeing His miracles.

1. The Power of Jesus' Miracles: How Jesus Changed Lives

2. The Impact of Faith: How Belief in Jesus Transforms Lives

1. Romans 10:17 - "So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ."

2. John 16:8-9 - “And when he comes, he will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment: concerning sin, because they do not believe in me.”

John 12:12 On the next day much people that were come to the feast, when they heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem,

The people of Jerusalem eagerly awaited Jesus' arrival.

1: Jesus is the King of Glory and we should be ready to welcome Him into our hearts.

2: Jesus is the only way to salvation and we must open our hearts to receive Him.

1: Psalm 24:7-10, Lift up your heads, O ye gates; and be ye lift up, ye everlasting doors; and the King of glory shall come in.

2: John 3:16-17, For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

John 12:13 Took branches of palm trees, and went forth to meet him, and cried, Hosanna: Blessed is the King of Israel that cometh in the name of the Lord.

This passage recounts Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem when his followers greeted him with the branches of palm trees and cried, "Hosanna! Blessed is the King of Israel that cometh in the name of the Lord!"

1. A Call to Rejoice: Celebrating Jesus' Triumphant Entry into Jerusalem

2. Hosanna! The King of Israel Comes in the Name of the Lord

1. Isaiah 40:9-10 - "O Zion, you who bring good news, get up into the high mountain; O Jerusalem, you who bring good news, lift up your voice with strength; lift it up, be not afraid. Say to the cities of Judah, “Behold your God.”

2. Psalm 118:26 - Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! We bless you from the house of the Lord.

John 12:14 And Jesus, when he had found a young ass, sat thereon; as it is written,

Jesus humbly entered Jerusalem on a donkey. 1: Jesus' humility is an example for us to follow. 2: Jesus' entry into Jerusalem was fulfilling prophecy. 1: Philippians 2:5-11, which speaks to Jesus' humility. 2: Isaiah 62:11, which foretold Jesus' entry into Jerusalem.

John 12:15 Fear not, daughter of Sion: behold, thy King cometh, sitting on an ass's colt.

Jesus is coming to Jerusalem, riding on a donkey's colt.

1. "King Jesus: Riding Into Our Lives"

2. "The Coming of Our King: A Triumphant Entrance"

1. Zechariah 9:9 - “Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your king is coming to you; righteous and having salvation is he, humble and mounted on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.”

2. Isaiah 62:11 - “Behold, the Lord has proclaimed to the end of the earth: Say to the daughter of Zion, ‘Behold, your salvation comes; behold, his reward is with him, and his recompense before him.’”

John 12:16 These things understood not his disciples at the first: but when Jesus was glorified, then remembered they that these things were written of him, and that they had done these things unto him.

Jesus' disciples did not initially understand the significance of Jesus' death, but when Jesus was glorified they realized these events were prophesied and that they had done them to him.

1. The Glory of Jesus: Realizing His Purpose

2. Following Jesus: Understanding His Plan

1. Isaiah 53:4-6 - Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his stripes we are healed.

2. John 14:6 - Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

John 12:17 The people therefore that was with him when he called Lazarus out of his grave, and raised him from the dead, bare record.

The people present at Jesus' miraculous raising of Lazarus from the dead bore witness to the power of God.

1. The Miracle of Life: Rediscovering Jesus' Power to Bring New Life

2. Bearing Witness: How Jesus' Miracles Can Transform Our Lives

1. Romans 8:11 - “But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.”

2. John 11:25-26 - “Jesus said to her, ‘I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die. Do you believe this?’”

John 12:18 For this cause the people also met him, for that they heard that he had done

this miracle.

The people gathered around Jesus because they had heard about the miracle He had performed.

1: God's power is seen in His miracles.

2: Jesus showed His power through His acts of kindness and service.

1: Matthew 5:16 - "Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven."

2: Acts 9:36 - "In Joppa there was a disciple named Tabitha (which, when translated, is Dorcas), who was always doing good and helping the poor."

John 12:19 The Pharisees therefore said among themselves, Perceive ye how ye prevail nothing? behold, the world is gone after him.

The Pharisees failed to prevent Jesus from gaining followers, despite their best efforts.

1. Following God's will, even in the face of opposition, will bring success.

2. We should be willing to stand up for our beliefs in spite of opposition.

1. Philippians 4:13- “I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.”

2. Joshua 1:9 - “Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.”

John 12:20 And there were certain Greeks among them that came up to worship at the feast:

These Greeks were Gentiles who had come to worship God at the Feast of the Passover.

1. We can learn from the example of the Greeks, who despite not being part of God's chosen people, still chose to seek Him out and worship Him.

2. The power of worshiping together is evident in the example of the Greeks, who chose to seek God out in a communal gathering.

1. Romans 10:12 - For there is no difference between Jew and Gentile—the same Lord is Lord of all and richly blesses all who call on him.

2. Hebrews 13:15 - Through Jesus, therefore, let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise—the fruit of lips that openly profess his name.

John 12:21 The same came therefore to Philip, which was of Bethsaida of Galilee, and desired him, saying, Sir, we would see Jesus.

A group of people came to Philip, a resident of Bethsaida in Galilee, and asked to see Jesus.

1. Jesus Is Worth Seeking

2. Encountering Jesus Through Others

1. Matthew 18:20 “For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them.”

2. John 14:9 “Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you so long, and yet you have not known Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; so how can you say, 'Show us the Father'?”

John 12:22 Philip cometh and telleth Andrew: and again Andrew and Philip tell Jesus.

Philip informs Andrew of something, and then Andrew and Philip tell Jesus.

1. The Power of Communication: Communicating the Gospel to Others

2. The Power of Testimony: Sharing Our Faith with Others

1. Philippians 2:12-13 “Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with

fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.”

2. Proverbs 27:17 “Iron sharpens iron, and one man sharpens another.”

John 12:23 And Jesus answered them, saying, The hour is come, that the Son of man should be glorified.

The hour has come for Jesus, the Son of Man, to be glorified.

1: Jesus was glorified in his death and resurrection, and we too can be glorified through Christ.

2: Jesus is the Son of Man, and we should strive to glorify Him in our lives.

1: Romans 6:4-5 - Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.

2: Philippians 2:5-11 - Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.

John 12:24 Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone: but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit.

Jesus teaches that for something to produce much fruit, it must first fall into the ground and die.

1. Knowing When to Let Go: The Power of Sacrifice

2. Investing in the Future: The Benefits of Self-Sacrifice

1. Romans 6:4-11: Our old self died and was buried with Christ, so that we can live for Him who was raised from the dead.

2. Galatians 2:20: I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me.

John 12:25 He that loveth his life shall lose it; and he that hateth his life in this world shall keep it unto life eternal.

He that loves his life will miss out on the eternal life God has promised; but he who hates his life in this world will find eternal life.

1. Loving the World is not Loving Yourself

2. Choosing to Hate the World is Choosing to Love Yourself

1. Matthew 16:24-26 - "Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me. For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it. For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?"

2. 1 John 2:15-17 - "Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever."

John 12:26 If any man serve me, let him follow me; and where I am, there shall also my servant be: if any man serve me, him will my Father honour.

Serving God is a way to bring honour to oneself.

1: Following the example of Jesus leads to Godly honour.

2: Serving God is the greatest service that can be given.

1: Matthew 28:19-20 Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.

2: Philippians 2:5-8 Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.

John 12:27 Now is my soul troubled; and what shall I say? Father, save me from this hour: but for this cause came I unto this hour.

Summarize Passage: Jesus expresses his inner turmoil as He faces His impending death.

1. Learning to Trust in God in Times of Trouble

2. The Strength to Face Our Own Struggles

1. Isaiah 43:2 - When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you.

2. Hebrews 12:2 - Looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

John 12:28 Father, glorify thy name. Then came there a voice from heaven, saying, I have both glorified it, and will glorify it again.

Jesus prays for God to glorify His name, to which God responds that He has done so and will do so again.

1. The Power of Prayer: How Jesus' Request for God's Glorification Shows Us the Power of Prayer

2. The Glory of God: How Jesus' Prayers Demonstrate God's Greatness

1. Isaiah 6:1-3, In the year that King Uzziah died I saw also the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up, and His train filled the temple.

2. Romans 11:33-36, Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and His ways past finding out!

John 12:29 The people therefore, that stood by, and heard it, said that it thundered: others said, An angel spake to him.

People heard a loud noise and were unsure if it was thunder or an angel speaking to Jesus.

1. God Speaks In Ways We Don't Expect

2. The Power of Hearing God's Voice

1. John 14:26 - “But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.”

2. Luke 1:13-14 - “But the angel said to him: ‘Do not be afraid, Zechariah; your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you are to call him John.’”

John 12:30 Jesus answered and said, This voice came not because of me, but for your sakes.

Jesus demonstrated humility by accepting that His voice came not because of Him, but for the sake of others.

1. The Power of Humility: How Jesus Sacrificially Gave of Himself

2. Learning to Serve Others: Following Jesus' Example of Humility

1. Philippians 2:5-7 - “Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men.”

2. Matthew 20:24-28 - “And when the ten heard it, they were indignant at the two brothers. But Jesus called them to him and said, ‘You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them. It shall not be so among you. But whoever would be great among you must be your servant, and whoever would be first among you must be your slave, even as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.’”

John 12:31 Now is the judgment of this world: now shall the prince of this world be cast out.

Jesus declares that the time has come for the world's judgment and for the prince of this world to be cast out.

1. Redemption Through Judgment: How God's Love and Justice Coexist

2. The Reality of Satan and His Defeat Through Jesus

1. Romans 16:20 - "The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet."

2. Ephesians 4:27 - "neither give place to the devil."

John 12:32 And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me.

This passage speaks of the power of Jesus' death on the cross to draw people to Himself.

1. The Power of the Cross: How Jesus' Death Draws All Men to Himself

2. What Does it Mean to be 'Lifted Up'? Understanding the Significance of Jesus' Death

1. Philippians 2:8-11 - Jesus humbled Himself to death on a cross, and God exalted Him in return.

2. Isaiah 53:5 - But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, And by His stripes we are healed.

John 12:33 This he said, signifying what death he should die.

Jesus was referring to his own death when he spoke of what death he should die.

1. Dying to Self: The Example of Jesus

2. Jesus and the Cross: A Call to Sacrifice

1. Philippians 2:5-11

2. Romans 5:6-9

John 12:34 The people answered him, We have heard out of the law that Christ abideth for ever: and how sayest thou, The Son of man must be lifted up? who is this Son of man?

People were confused about Jesus' statement that the Son of Man must be lifted up, and asked who the Son of Man was.

1. Jesus: The Son of Man Who Abides Forever

2. How the Son of Man Must Be Lifted Up

1. Psalm 90:2 - "Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever thou hadst formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, thou art God."

2. John 14:6 - "Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me."

John 12:35 Then Jesus said unto them, Yet a little while is the light with you. Walk while ye have the light, lest darkness come upon you: for he that walketh in darkness knoweth not whither he goeth.

Jesus instructs His disciples to take advantage of the light they have while they have it, and to not walk in darkness, as those who do will not know where they are going.

1. The Power of Light: Taking Advantage of Opportunities

2. Walking in the Light: Avoiding the Darkness

1. Matthew 6:22-23 – “The eye is the lamp of the body. If your eyes are healthy, your whole body will be full of light. But if your eyes are unhealthy, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light within you is darkness, how great is that darkness!”

2. Psalm 119:105 – “Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path.”

John 12:36 While ye have light, believe in the light, that ye may be the children of light. These things spake Jesus, and departed, and did hide himself from them.

Jesus told the people to believe in him while they still had the chance, and then he disappeared from them.

1. Believe in Jesus While You Can - John 12:36

2. Becoming Children of Light - John 12:36

1. Isaiah 49:6 - "And he said, It is a light thing that thou shouldest be my servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob, and to restore the preserved of Israel: I will also give thee for a light to the Gentiles, that thou mayest be my salvation unto the end of the earth."

2. Ephesians 5:8 - "For ye were sometimes darkness, but now are ye light in the Lord: walk as children of light:"

John 12:37 But though he had done so many miracles before them, yet they believed not on him:

The people of Jesus' time had seen him perform many miracles, yet they still did not believe in him.

1. Remember that faith is more than just seeing; it’s believing in what you see.

2. Even if miracles are performed, faith must still be present for true belief.

1. Romans 10:17 - So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

2. Matthew 21:21-22 - Jesus answered and said unto them, Verily I say unto you, If ye have faith, and doubt not, ye shall not only do this which is done to the fig tree, but also if ye shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; it shall be done.

John 12:38 That the saying of Esaias the prophet might be fulfilled, which he spake, Lord, who hath believed our report? and to whom hath the arm of the Lord been revealed?

This passage speaks of how the prophecy of Isaiah was fulfilled and questions who has believed in the Lord's report and to whom has the Lord revealed His power.

1. Faith in the Lord: A Study of John 12:38

2. The Power of Belief: Unveiling the Mystery of John 12:38

1. Isaiah 53:1 - Who hath believed our report? and to whom is the arm of the Lord revealed?

2. Romans 10:16 - But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Esaias saith, Lord, who hath believed our report?

John 12:39 Therefore they could not believe, because that Esaias said again,

The people of Jesus' time were unable to believe in him because they had not read the prophesies of Isaiah.

1: The importance of reading scripture and understanding its teachings.

2: Believing in Jesus despite what the world tells us.

1: Acts 17:11 - Now these Jews were more noble than those in Thessalonica; they received the word with all eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily to see if these things were so.

2: Isaiah 53:1 - Who has believed what he has heard from us? And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed?

John 12:40 He hath blinded their eyes, and hardened their heart; that they should not see with their eyes, nor understand with their heart, and be converted, and I should heal them.

God's judgement on the Israelites for their refusal to repent and accept Jesus as the Messiah has caused their spiritual blindness.

1: God's judgement is real and can cause us to lose sight of the truth.

2: God's judgement, though severe, is also merciful and is an act of love.

1: Isaiah 6:9-10 - And he said, Go, and tell this people, Hear ye indeed, but understand not; and see ye indeed, but perceive not. Make the heart of this people fat, and make their ears heavy, and shut their eyes; lest they see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and understand with their heart, and convert, and be healed.

2: Psalm 119:70 - Their heart is as fat as grease; but I delight in thy law.

John 12:41 These things said Esaias, when he saw his glory, and spake of him.

This passage reveals that when Isaiah saw the glory of Jesus, he spoke of Him.

1. "The Unfathomable Glory of Jesus"

2. "Seeing the Glory of Jesus"

1. Hebrews 1:1-3

2. Isaiah 6:1-7

John 12:42 Nevertheless among the chief rulers also many believed on him; but because of the Pharisees they did not confess him, lest they should be put out of the synagogue:

Many of the leaders believed in Jesus, but they were afraid of being rejected by the Pharisees.

1: Taking a Stand for Jesus: Facing the Fear of Rejection

2: Believing in Jesus: Standing Firm in the Face of Opposition

1: Romans 10:9-10 - "If you declare with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and

are saved."

2: Matthew 10:32-33 - "Whoever acknowledges me before others, I will also acknowledge before my Father in heaven. But whoever disowns me before others, I will disown before my Father in heaven."

John 12:43 For they loved the praise of men more than the praise of God.

People are often more concerned with gaining the approval of others than being approved by God.

1. The Dangers of Seeking Human Approval

2. Seeking God's Approval Above All Else

1. Philippians 3:7-8 - But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ. 8 Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord.

2. Psalm 19:14 - Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight, O Lord, my rock and my redeemer.

John 12:44 Jesus cried and said, He that believeth on me, believeth not on me, but on him that sent me.

Jesus explains that those who have faith in Him do not only have faith in Him, but in God who sent Him.

1. The Power of Faith in Jesus Christ

2. The True Meaning of Believing in Jesus

1. Romans 10:9-10 - "if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved."

2. Philippians 2:5-11 - "Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men."

John 12:45 And he that seeth me seeth him that sent me.

John reminds us that everything we see in Jesus is a reflection of God.

1: Jesus is the perfect reflection of God - John 12:45.

2: Jesus is the image of God - John 12:45.

1: Colossians 1:15 - He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation.

2: Hebrews 1:3 - He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature.

John 12:46 I am come a light into the world, that whosoever believeth on me should not abide in darkness.

This passage speaks of Jesus coming into the world as a source of light so that whoever believes in Him will not remain in darkness.

1. The Light of Christ - Exploring the Meaning of Jesus Coming as a Source of Light

2. The Power of Faith - How Believing in Jesus Can Lead to a New Way of Living

1. Isaiah 9:2 - "The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned."

2. John 8:12 - "Jesus spoke to the people once more and said, “I am the light of the world. If you follow me, you won’t have to walk in darkness, because you will have the light that leads to life.”

John 12:47 And if any man hear my words, and believe not, I judge him not: for I came not to judge the world, but to save the world.

This passage teaches that Jesus did not come to judge the world, but to save it.

1. "Saved by Grace: A Reflection on John 12:47"

2. "The Power of Unconditional Love: Exploring Jesus' Love in John 12:47"

1. Romans 3:23-24 - For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus.

2. John 3:16-17 - For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

John 12:48 He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day.

This passage emphasizes the importance of accepting Jesus' teachings as they will be used to judge us in the last day.

1. The Judgment of God: Accepting Jesus' Teachings as Our Guide

2. The Power of Jesus' Words: Hear and Obey

1. Hebrews 4:12-13 “For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart. And no creature is hidden from his sight, but all are naked and exposed to the eyes of him to whom we must give account.”

2. Romans 2:15-16 “They show that the work of the law is written on their hearts, while their conscience also bears witness, and their conflicting thoughts accuse or even excuse them on that day when, according to my gospel, God judges the secrets of men by Christ Jesus.”

John 12:49 For I have not spoken of myself; but the Father which sent me, he gave me a commandment, what I should say, and what I should speak.

The Father commanded Jesus to speak of what He had been told.

1: God speaks to us through His word and directs us on how to live our lives.

2: We must always be obedient to the Father and do as He has commanded.

1: Romans 12:2 - Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.

2: Proverbs 3:5-6 - Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight.

John 12:50 And I know that his commandment is life everlasting: whatsoever I speak therefore, even as the Father said unto me, so I speak.

Jesus speaks the words that the Father has commanded him to speak, which leads to everlasting life.

1: Living according to the Word of God brings eternal life.

2: Obey Jesus and His Word to experience true and lasting life.

1: Psalm 119:105 - “Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path.”

2: John 14:15 - “If you love me, keep my commands.”

John 13 describes Jesus washing His disciples' feet, His prediction of Judas' betrayal, and His commandment to love one another.

1st Paragraph: The chapter begins with the Last Supper, where Jesus knew that His hour had come to leave this world and go to the Father. During supper, He rose from the table, took off his outer garments, tied a towel around his waist and began to wash the disciples' feet. When He came to Peter, Peter initially refused but relented when Jesus said that unless He washed him he would have no part with Him. After washing their feet he put on his clothes returned table asked them if they understood what he had done pointing out as Lord Teacher washed their feet they also should wash one another's feet setting example for them (John 13:1-17).

2nd Paragraph: After this act of service, Jesus became troubled in spirit testified 'Very truly I tell you one of you is going to betray me.' Disciples looked at each other unsure whom he meant then following Peter's gesture John who was reclining next him asked who it was leading Jesus answer 'It is one whom I will give this piece bread when I have dipped it.' So when dipped piece gave it Judas Iscariot after taking bread Satan entered into him then Jesus told him 'What you are about do quickly.' None those reclining table

understood why said this thinking since Judas had money bag perhaps telling him buy needed festival give something poor then after receiving piece bread went out immediately night (John 13:18-30).

3rd Paragraph: After Judas left, Jesus began speak about glorification God Son Man giving new commandment disciples 'Love each other as I have loved you so you must love each other by this everyone will know that you are my disciples if you love one another.' When Peter asked where going asserted cannot follow now but will follow later leading Peter claim willing lay down life for Him yet predicted denial before rooster crows three times ending chapter (John 13:31-38).

John 13:1 Now before the feast of the passover, when Jesus knew that his hour was come that he should depart out of this world unto the Father, having loved his own which were in the world, he loved them unto the end.

Jesus loved his own to the very end and was preparing to leave this world to go to the Father.

1. Love Unconditionally - The example of Jesus’ love for his own.

2. Living a Life of Sacrifice - Jesus’ willingness to give up his earthly life.

1. Ephesians 5:1-2 “Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.”

2. Romans 12:1 “I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.”

John 13:2 And supper being ended, the devil having now put into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, to betray him;

Jesus shared a final meal with his disciples before his death. Judas Iscariot was prompted by the devil to betray Jesus.

1. The Power of Jesus' Final Meal with His Disciples

2. The Temptation of Judas Iscariot

1. Mark 14:17-21 - Jesus institutes the Lord's Supper

2. Matthew 6:13 - Jesus teaches us to pray, "Lead us not into temptation"

John 13:3 Jesus knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he was come from God, and went to God;

Jesus humbly washed his disciples' feet as an example of servanthood and humility.

1: "Humility Before All: A Study in Servanthood from John 13:3"

2: "The Power of Knowing Our Place: A Study of Jesus' Example in John 13:3"

1: Philippians 2:3-4 - "Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others."

2: James 4:10 - "Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up."

John 13:4 He riseth from supper, and laid aside his garments; and took a towel, and girded himself.

The passage describes Jesus getting up from the supper and laying aside his garments to take a towel and gird himself.

1. Jesus Washing the Disciples Feet: A Model of Humility

2. From Supper to Servant: Jesus' Example of Service

1. Philippians 2:3-4 - Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves.

2. Matthew 25:40 - The King will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.’

John 13:5 After that he poureth water into a bason, and began to wash the disciples' feet, and to wipe them with the towel wherewith he was girded.

Jesus humbled himself by washing the feet of his disciples.

1. The Power of Humbling Yourself

2. Following Christ's Example of Service

1. Philippians 2:3-8

2. Matthew 20:25-28

John 13:6 Then cometh he to Simon Peter: and Peter saith unto him, Lord, dost thou wash my feet?

Jesus humbly and lovingly washing His disciples' feet serves as a reminder that we should humble ourselves and serve others.

1: Jesus' act of humility and love in washing His disciples' feet serves as an example for us to follow and humbly serve others.

2: We should strive to imitate Jesus in His act of humility and love, by humbly serving others in our own lives.

1: Philippians 2:3-4 - "Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others."

2: 1 Peter 5:5-6 - "Clothe yourselves, all of you, with humility toward one another, for “God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.” Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you."

John 13:7 Jesus answered and said unto him, What I do thou knowest not now; but thou shalt know hereafter.

Jesus teaches that there is much to learn and understand that cannot be immediately known.

1. "The Mystery of Jesus: Knowing Now and Knowing Later"

2. "Jesus' Wisdom: Beyond Our Understanding"

1. Proverbs 3:19–20 - “The Lord by wisdom hath founded the earth; by understanding hath he established the heavens. By his knowledge the depths are broken up, and the clouds drop down the dew.”

2. Isaiah 55:8–9 - “For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.”

John 13:8 Peter saith unto him, Thou shalt never wash my feet. Jesus answered him, If I wash thee not, thou hast no part with me.

Peter questioned Jesus' request to wash his feet, but Jesus replied that if Peter did not let Him wash his feet, Peter would have no part in Him.

1. Jesus' Love and Compassion: Unconditional and Unfathomable

2. The Cost of Discipleship: Submitting to the Will of the Lord

1. 1 John 1:7 but if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanseth us from all sin.

2. Matthew 10:38-39 And he that taketh not his cross, and followeth after me, is not worthy of me. He that findeth his life shall lose it: and he that loseth his life for my sake shall find it.

John 13:9 Simon Peter saith unto him, Lord, not my feet only, but also my hands and my head.

John is teaching Peter to serve in humility and love.

1. Serving in Humility and Love

2. Reaching out to Others in Compassion

1. Philippians 2:3-4, “Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.”

2. Luke 10:27, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself.”

John 13:10 Jesus saith to him, He that is washed needeth not save to wash his feet, but is clean every whit: and ye are clean, but not all.

Jesus teaches that even though we are clean, we should still strive to keep our feet clean.

1: Keeping Your Feet Clean

2: Staying Clean in a Dirty World

1: James 4:8 - Draw near to God, and He will draw near to you.

2: 1 John 1:5-9 - This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all.

John 13:11 For he knew who should betray him; therefore said he, Ye are not all clean.

This passage from John 13:11 explains that Jesus knew who would betray him and therefore warned that not all of his disciples were clean.

1. Jesus knew his betrayer: How can we trust God's knowledge and be faithful to Him?

2. Not all are clean: What does it mean to be clean in the eyes of God?

1. Matthew 7:5, "You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your brother's eye."

2. Hebrews 10:22, "Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our

hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water."

John 13:12 So after he had washed their feet, and had taken his garments, and was set down again, he said unto them, Know ye what I have done to you?

Jesus washed the feet of his disciples to show them how to serve one another.

1. Serving Others - John 13:12

2. Putting Others Before Yourself - John 13:12

1. Philippians 2:3-4 - Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves.

2. Matthew 22:39 - Love your neighbor as yourself.

John 13:13 Ye call me Master and Lord: and ye say well; for so I am.

Jesus is referred to as Master and Lord, and He confirms that this is indeed true.

1. The Authority of Jesus: Recognizing the Master and Lord

2. The Confirmation of Jesus: Proclaiming His Identity

1. Matthew 28:18-20 – Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

2. Philippians 2:5-11 – Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death— even death on a cross! Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

John 13:14 If I then, your Lord and Master, have washed your feet; ye also ought to wash one another's feet.

Jesus commands his disciples to serve one another by washing each other's feet.

1. 'The Gift of Servanthood: Following Jesus' Example'

2. 'The Power of Humility: Learning from Jesus'

1. Philippians 2:3-8

2. James 4:10-12

John 13:15 For I have given you an example, that ye should do as I have done to you.

Jesus demonstrated His love for His disciples by washing their feet and commanded them to do the same for each other.

1. Love One Another: A Reflection on Jesus Washing the Disciple's Feet.

2. The Example of Jesus: Learning to Follow His Commandments.

1. Galatians 5:13-14 - "For you have been called to live in freedom, my brothers and sisters. But don’t use your freedom to satisfy your sinful nature. Instead, use your freedom to serve one another in love. For the whole law can be summed up in this one command: “Love your neighbor as yourself.”

2. 1 John 4:7-8 - "Dear friends, let us continue to love one another, for love comes from God. Anyone who loves is a child of God and knows God. But anyone who does not love does not know God, for God is love."

John 13:16 Verily, verily, I say unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord; neither he that is sent greater than he that sent him.

Jesus is highlighting the importance of a servant's loyalty to their master.

1. True Faithfulness: The Example of Jesus as a Servant

2. The Power of Service: Living Out the Example of Jesus.

1. Philippians 2:5-7 - "Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men."

2. 1 Peter 2:21-22 - "For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps. He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth."

John 13:17 If ye know these things, happy are ye if ye do them.

This passage encourages readers to put into practice the things they know to be true, and promises that they will be made happy if they do so.

1. The Joy of Obedience: Learning to Follow God's Ways

2. Knowing and Doing: The Difference That Makes a Difference

1. Deuteronomy 28:1-2: "If you fully obey the Lord your God and carefully follow all his commands I give you today, the Lord your God will set you high above all the nations on earth."

2. James 1:22: "Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says."

John 13:18 I speak not of you all: I know whom I have chosen: but that the scripture may be fulfilled, He that eateth bread with me hath lifted up his heel against me.

Jesus knows who will betray Him, but allows it to happen to fulfill Scripture.

1: Jesus allows us to make our own choices even if they lead to betrayal, but He will still love us unconditionally.

2: We must accept the consequences of our choices, even if it means betrayal, while relying on Jesus to get us through.

1: Romans 8:38-39 "For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord."

2: Isaiah 41:10 "Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand."

John 13:19 Now I tell you before it come, that, when it is come to pass, ye may believe that I am he.

Jesus is telling his disciples that He has foreknowledge of events to come, so that when it happens, they will recognize Him as the Messiah.

1. Jesus is God: He Knows What Will Happen Before It Does

2. Believing in Jesus: Trusting Him to Know What Is Best

1. Isaiah 40:21-31 - The Lord Knows Everything

2. Isaiah 55:8-11 - God's Ways Are Higher Than Our Ways

John 13:20 Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that receiveth whomsoever I send receiveth me; and he that receiveth me receiveth him that sent me.

This passage emphasizes the importance of receiving and welcoming those whom Jesus sends.

1. The Power of Welcoming: Receive Those Jesus Sends

2. The Call to Community: Serving Together As Jesus Did

1. Matthew 28:19-20 - "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you."

2. Hebrews 10:24-25 - "And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near."

John 13:21 When Jesus had thus said, he was troubled in spirit, and testified, and said, Verily, verily, I say unto you, that one of you shall betray me.

Jesus was troubled in spirit and warned His disciples that one of them would betray Him.

1: “God’s Will be Done: Jesus’ Example of Submission”

2: “The Danger of Betrayal: Avoiding Judas’ Example”

1: Luke 22:31-32 – “And the Lord said, ‘Simon, Simon! Indeed, Satan has asked for you, that he may sift you as wheat. But I have prayed for you, that your faith should not fail; and when you have returned to Me, strengthen your brethren.’”

2: Psalm 55:12-14 – “For it is not an enemy who reproaches me; Then I could bear it. Nor is it one who hates me who has exalted himself against me; Then I could hide from him. But it was you, a man my equal, My companion and my acquaintance. We took sweet counsel together, And walked to the house of God in the throng.”

John 13:22 Then the disciples looked one on another, doubting of whom he spake.

The disciples were in confusion and doubt as to whom Jesus was referring.

1: We should be confident in our faith, even when we are in confusion and doubt.

2: We should take time to reflect on our doubts and understand why we feel a certain way before taking action.

1: James 1:5-6 - "If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him. But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea that is driven and tossed by the wind."

2: Matthew 14:22-33 - Jesus walking on the water and Peter walking on the water but beginning to sink due to doubt.

John 13:23 Now there was leaning on Jesus' bosom one of his disciples, whom Jesus loved.

This passage tells us that one of Jesus' disciples was leaning on his chest and Jesus had a special love for him.

1. Love One Another: Our Relationship with Jesus and Each Other

2. The Strength of Jesus' Love for his Disciples

1. 1 John 4:7-12 - Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God.

2. John 15:12-14 - This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends.

John 13:24 Simon Peter therefore beckoned to him, that he should ask who it should be of whom he spake.

Peter signaled to Jesus for Him to indicate which of the disciples He was referring to.

1. "Living a Life of Obedience"

2. "The Power of Nonverbal Communication"

1. Matthew 16:23 - "But he turned, and said unto Peter, Get thee behind me, Satan: thou art an offence unto me: for thou savourest not the things that be of God, but those that be of men."

2. John 21:15-17 - "So when they had dined, Jesus saith to Simon Peter, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me more than these? He saith unto him, Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love thee. He saith unto him, Feed my lambs. He saith to him again the second time, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me? He saith unto him, Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love thee. He saith unto him, Feed my sheep."

John 13:25 He then lying on Jesus' breast saith unto him, Lord, who is it?

Jesus reveals the identity of the betrayer to his disciples:

1: We cannot be sure of anyone's loyalty to us, but Jesus is always faithful and can be trusted to have our best interests in mind.

2: We can find comfort in Jesus during times of uncertainty, as He is always by our side and will never leave us.

1: Matthew 28:20b - "...And, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world."

2: Isaiah 26:3 - "Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee."

John 13:26 Jesus answered, He it is, to whom I shall give a sop, when I have dipped it. And when he had dipped the sop, he gave it to Judas Iscariot, the son of Simon.

Jesus reveals Judas as the betrayer.

1: Jesus’ act of giving the sop to Judas serves as a reminder of the power of forgiveness and grace.

2: We can learn from Jesus’ example that it is important to be humble and kind, even when those around us have wronged us.

1: Matthew 5:44 - But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you.

2: Luke 6:36 - Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

John 13:27 And after the sop Satan entered into him. Then said Jesus unto him, That thou doest, do quickly.

Jesus told Judas Iscariot to do whatever he had to do quickly after Satan entered into him.

1. "The Power of Satan"

2. "The Urgency of Following Jesus"

1. 1 Peter 5:8 - "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour."

2. Ephesians 6:12 - "For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places."

John 13:28 Now no man at the table knew for what intent he spake this unto him.

This passage from John 13:28 describes the disciples' confusion as to why Jesus spoke a certain phrase to Judas.

1. Jesus' cryptic words to Judas can teach us to trust God's plan, even when we don't understand it.

2. Jesus' words to Judas demonstrate how his sacrificial love and grace applied even to the most unlikely of people.

1. Romans 8:28 - "And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose."

2. Ephesians 2:4-5 - "But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;)"

John 13:29 For some of them thought, because Judas had the bag, that Jesus had said unto him, Buy those things that we have need of against the feast; or, that he should give something to the poor.

Some of Jesus' disciples thought that Judas had been instructed by Jesus to buy food and give to the poor for the upcoming feast.

1. The Power of Generosity - How Jesus shows us the importance of giving and living generously.

2. The Cost of Discipleship - How following Jesus requires us to make sacrifices and live differently.

1. Matthew 6:19-21 - "Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

2. Philippians 4:19 - "And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus."

John 13:30 He then having received the sop went immediately out: and it was night.

John 13:30 is a passage illustrating Jesus' ultimate act of humility by washing His disciples' feet.

1. Jesus' Humility: A Model for Us All

2. Trusting in Jesus' Example to Lead Us to True Humility

1. Philippians 2:5-8

2. Romans 12:3-8

John 13:31 Therefore, when he was gone out, Jesus said, Now is the Son of man glorified, and God is glorified in him.

Jesus is glorified and God is glorified in him.

1: We can glorify God by living according to His will and by being a reflection of His love and grace.

2: Jesus is worthy of our honour and praise. He is a model for us to follow.

1: Romans 8:28-30 “And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.”

2: Galatians 5:22-23 “But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness,

goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.”

John 13:32 If God be glorified in him, God shall also glorify him in himself, and shall straightway glorify him.

Jesus tells his disciples that if they glorify God, then God will glorify them in return.

1. The Power of Glorifying God: How Giving God the Glory Can Bring Us Great Rewards

2. Selflessness and Service: How Putting God First in our Lives Brings Us Unconditional Love

1. Isaiah 43:7 - Everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made.

2. Colossians 3:17 - And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

John 13:33 Little children, yet a little while I am with you. Ye shall seek me: and as I said unto the Jews, Whither I go, ye cannot come; so now I say to you.

Jesus tells His disciples that He will soon leave them, but they will not be able to follow Him.

1. The Reality of Jesus' Departure: Learning to Live with His Absence

2. The Certainty of Hope in Jesus: Trusting in His Promise Despite His Leaving

1. Hebrews 13:5 - "Keep your life free from love of money, and be content with what you have, for he has said, “I will never leave you nor forsake you.”

2. John 14:2-3 - “In my Father’s house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also.”

John 13:34 A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another.

The passage emphasizes the importance of loving one another, just as Jesus has loved us.

1: We are called to love one another as Jesus loves us.

2: Let us show our love for one another through our actions.

1: 1 John 4:20-21 – If anyone says, “I love God,” and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen.

2: Galatians 5:13-14 - For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another. For the whole law is fulfilled in one word: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”

John 13:35 By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.

This passage emphasizes the importance of love between fellow Christians, as it is a key indicator of discipleship.

1. "A Love That Unites: Living Out Our Discipleship Through Kindness and Compassion"

2. "The Test of Discipleship: Proving Our Faith Through Love"

1. Galatians 5:22-23 - "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law."

2. 1 John 4:7-8 - "Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love."

John 13:36 Simon Peter said unto him, Lord, whither goest thou? Jesus answered him, Whither I go, thou canst not follow me now; but thou shalt follow me afterwards.

Jesus is telling Peter that he will follow Him later, even though Peter can’t follow Him now.

1: We may not understand the Lord's plan in our lives now, but He still has a plan for us and will guide us in the future.

2: We must trust in the Lord, even when we can't understand what He is doing.

1: Isaiah 55:8-9 “For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.”

2: Proverbs 3:5-6 “Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.”

John 13:37 Peter said unto him, Lord, why cannot I follow thee now? I will lay down my life for thy sake.

Peter expresses his willingness to follow Jesus to the point of death.

1. The Courageous Commitment of Peter: How We Can Follow Jesus Without Reservation

2. How We Are Called to Die to Self and Follow Jesus Unconditionally

1. Mark 8:34-35 - “And calling the crowd to him with his disciples, he said to them, “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake and the gospel’s will save it.”

2. 1 John 2:6 - “Whoever says he abides in him ought to walk in the same way in which he walked.”

John 13:38 Jesus answered him, Wilt thou lay down thy life for my sake? Verily, verily, I say unto thee, The cock shall not crow, till thou hast denied me thrice.

Jesus questions Peter if he will lay down his life for him, and predicts that he will deny him three times before the cock crows.

1. "Laying Down Our Lives for Jesus: A Call to Commitment"

2. "The Power of Denial: Overcoming Fear Through Faith"

1. Matthew 10:32-33 - "Whoever acknowledges me before others, I will also acknowledge before my Father in heaven. But whoever disowns me before others, I will disown before my Father in heaven."

2. Philippians 1:21 - "For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain."

John 14 features Jesus' discourse on the way to the Father, His promise of the Holy Spirit, and His peace He leaves with His disciples.

1st Paragraph: The chapter begins with Jesus comforting his disciples about his impending departure. He assures them that he is going to prepare a place for them in his Father's house and will come back to take them with him. When Thomas expresses confusion about where Jesus is going, Jesus declares, 'I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to Father except through me.' He goes on to explain that anyone who has seen Him has seen Father asking Philip who wanted see Father 'Don't you know me Philip even after I have been among you such long time?' (John 14:1-9).

2nd Paragraph: After this declaration, Jesus promises that whoever believes in Him will do works He has been doing even greater things because He is going to Father promising whatever ask name will do so that Father may be glorified Son then commands if love me keep my commands promising send another Advocate Helper Spirit truth world cannot accept because neither sees Him nor knows Him but they know Him for lives with them will be in them (John 14:10-17).

3rd Paragraph: Then he reassures them saying not leave as orphans come back after little while world no longer see but they see because lives also live day realize am in my Father you are in me I am in you whoever has my commands keeps them loves me loved by my father too love show myself him leading Judas not Iscariot ask why intends show himself only us not world answer 'Anyone loves me obey teaching then my father love us make our home with him anyone does not love me does not obey teaching remember these words spoken while still with you but Advocate Holy Spirit whom father send name teach all things remind everything have said peace give not as world gives do let hearts troubled afraid heard say going come back again reiterating coming departure Prince this world coming yet nothing him concluding chapter (John 14:18-31).

John 14:1 Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me.

This passage encourages us to put our trust and faith in Jesus and God.

1: Relying On God In Times Of Trouble

2: The Power Of Faith In Jesus

1: Romans 8:38-39 - For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

2: Hebrews 11:6 - And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him.

John 14:2 In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.

This passage speaks of God's promise to prepare a place for His children in His Father's house.

1. God's Promise of a Place for His Children: Preparing a Home in Heaven

2. The Kindness of God: A Place for Us in His Father's House

1. Isaiah 43:2 “When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and when you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned; the flames will not set you ablaze.”

2. Romans 8:32 “He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things?”

John 14:3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.

Jesus promises to prepare a place for his disciples and to come again and bring them to Himself.

1: Jesus offers hope and assurance to His disciples, showing them that He will always be with them.

2: Jesus invites us to follow Him and promises to bring us home with Him.

1: Romans 8:38-39 - “For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

2: Psalm 23:4 - “Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.”

John 14:4 And whither I go ye know, and the way ye know.

This passage from John 14:4 speaks of Jesus Christ being the only way to God. 1. Jesus is the only way to God - John 14:4; 2. Finding Salvation through Jesus - John 14:4. 1. Acts 4:12 - Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved; 2. John 10:9 - I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved.

John 14:5 Thomas saith unto him, Lord, we know not whither thou goest; and how can we know the way?

Jesus is asking Thomas to trust Him and follow Him on the journey of life.

1: “The Journey of Faith: Trusting Jesus Through Life’s Uncertainties”

2: “Following Jesus: How to Trust and Follow Him on Life's Journey"

1: Isaiah 30:21 – “Your own ears will hear him. Right behind you a voice will say, “This is the way you should go,” whether to the right or to the left.”

2: Hebrews 11:6 – “Without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.”

John 14:6 Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

Jesus is the only way to the Father.

1. Jesus is the Way: Finding Direction in Life

2. Jesus is the Truth: Living with Integrity

1. Matthew 7:13-14 “Enter by the narrow gate. For the gate is wide and the way is easy that leads to destruction, and those who enter by it are many. For the gate is narrow and the way is hard that leads to life, and those who find it are few.”

2. John 3:16-17 “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.”

John 14:7 If ye had known me, ye should have known my Father also: and from henceforth ye know him, and have seen him.

John 14:7 summarizes God's relationship with mankind, showing that by knowing Jesus, we also know God and have seen Him.

1. Knowing Jesus is Knowing God: The Implications of John 14:7

2. Seeing God Through Jesus: Experiencing the Divine through the Human

1. Colossians 2:9-10 - For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily.

2. Romans 8:14-17 - For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.

John 14:8 Philip saith unto him, Lord, shew us the Father, and it sufficeth us.

Philip expresses his desire to see God the Father, indicating that this would be enough for him.

1. God is Already Enough - How to be Content with What We Have

2. Jesus is the Way to the Father - How to Gain a Closer Relationship with God

1. Deuteronomy 8:3 - “And he humbled you and let you hunger and fed you with manna, which you did not know, nor did your fathers know, that he might make you know that man does not live by bread alone, but man lives by every word that comes from the

mouth of the Lord.”

2. Matthew 6:25-34 - “Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? And which of you by being anxious can add a single hour to his span of life? And why are you anxious about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is alive and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you, O you of little faith? Therefore do not be anxious, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ For the Gentiles seek after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all.”

John 14:9 Jesus saith unto him, Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me, Philip? he that hath seen me hath seen the Father; and how sayest thou then, Shew us the Father?

Jesus is asking Philip why he is asking for the Father to be shown to him since seeing Jesus is like seeing the Father.

1: Jesus is God - Just as Seeing the Father is Seeing Jesus, So Seeing Jesus is Seeing the Father

2: As Jesus is the Revealer of the Father, We Should Look to Jesus for His Guidance

1: John 10:30, "I and my Father are one."

2: Colossians 1:15, "He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation."

John 14:10 Believest thou not that I am in the Father, and the Father in me? the words that I speak unto you I speak not of myself: but the Father that dwelleth in me, he doeth the works.

The Father and the Son have a perfect union, and the words of Jesus come from the Father.

1. The Power of the Father-Son Relationship

2. The Perfect Union of God in Jesus Christ

1. John 17:21-22 - That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me.

2. Colossians 2:9-10 - For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily. And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power.

John 14:11 Believe me that I am in the Father, and the Father in me: or else believe me for the very works' sake.

The passage emphasizes the importance of believing in Jesus for the works he has done.

1: Jesus has done great works for us and we should believe in him because of them.

2: We should have faith in Jesus and accept him as our Lord and Savior because of the wonderful works he has done.

1: Ephesians 2:8-10 - For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.

2: Hebrews 11:1 - Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.

John 14:12 Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father.

Jesus promises that those who believe in Him will do even greater works than He Himself did.

1: Believe in the power of Jesus and the strength of His love to do greater works than even Jesus Himself.

2: Believe in the promise of Jesus that those who have faith in Him will be able to do greater works than He did.

1: Ephesians 3:20 - Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us.

2: Philippians 4:13 - I can do all things through him who strengthens me.

John 14:13 And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son.

Jesus promises that when we pray in His name, He will answer our prayers so that the Father may be glorified.

1. Praying in Jesus' Name: Submitting Our Lives to His Will

2. Relying on Jesus' Promises: Trusting His Word

1. Ephesians 2:18 - For through him we both have access by one Spirit unto the Father.

2. Romans 8:26 - Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.

John 14:14 If ye shall ask any thing in my name, I will do it.

This passage from John 14:14 highlights Jesus' promise to answer prayers when they are made in his name.

1. Jesus is Always There to Answer Our Prayers

2. Praying in Jesus' Name: What Does It Mean?

1. Matthew 7:7-11 - Ask, Seek, Knock

2. James 1:5-8 - Pray in Faith and Receive Wisdom

John 14:15 If ye love me, keep my commandments.

We are reminded in John 14:15 that when we love God, we must keep His commandments.

1: The Love of God and Keeping His Commandments

2: Faithful Love and Obeying the Word of God

1: 1 John 5:3 - For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous.

2: Deuteronomy 6:4-5 - Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God is one Lord: And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might.

John 14:16 And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever;

Jesus promises to send the Holy Spirit as a Comforter to His disciples.

1: The Comfort of the Holy Spirit - John 14:16

2: The Gift of the Holy Spirit - John 14:16

1: Isaiah 66:13 - As a mother comforts her child, so I will comfort you;

2: Romans 15:13 - May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

John 14:17 Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.

The Spirit of truth cannot be received by the world, but believers know the Spirit because He dwells with them and will be in them.

1. God's Presence in Our Lives: Experiencing the Spirit of Truth

2. The World's Rejection of the Spirit of Truth

1. Romans 8:9-11 - "But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of

God dwells in you. Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His. And if Christ is in you, the body is dead because of sin, but the Spirit is life because of righteousness. But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you."

2. 1 Corinthians 2:14 - "But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned."

John 14:18 I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you.

Jesus promised to never leave his disciples alone and that he would come to them.

1: God is always with us, even in our darkest moments.

2: We must remain hopeful and have faith in Jesus' promise of comfort.

1: Isaiah 41:10 - "Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand."

2: Hebrews 13:5 - "Keep your life free from love of money, and be content with what you have, for he has said, “I will never leave you nor forsake you.”

John 14:19 Yet a little while, and the world seeth me no more; but ye see me: because I live, ye shall live also.

Jesus is reassuring his disciples that although the world may not see him, they will still see him, and because of this they will live.

1. "The Gift of Life: Jesus' Promise to His Disciples"

2. "The Unseen Reality: Jesus' Revealing Presence"

1. Romans 6:23 - "For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."

2. 1 John 5:11-12 - "And this is the testimony: God has given us eternal life, and this life is

in his Son. He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life."

John 14:20 At that day ye shall know that I am in my Father, and ye in me, and I in you.

Jesus promises that his followers will know that they are united with him, and he is united with the Father.

1. The Union of God and His People: A Study of John 14:20

2. Experiencing the Reality of United Fellowship with God

1. Philippians 2:5-11 - Have the same mind and attitude that Jesus Christ had.

2. Romans 8:9-17 - The Spirit of God living in us.

John 14:21 He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him.

Jesus promises to show himself to those who love Him and keep His commandments.

1. Loving God and Keeping His Commandments

2. God's Promise to Show Himself to the Faithful

1. Deuteronomy 6:5-7 - Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength

2. 1 John 3:16-17 - We should show love by our actions and not just by words

John 14:22 Judas saith unto him, not Iscariot, Lord, how is it that thou wilt manifest thyself unto us, and not unto the world?

Judas, not Iscariot, asked Jesus how He would reveal Himself to the disciples but not to the world.

1. Jesus Reveals Himself to Those Who Seek Him

2. How to Recognize God's Presence in Our Lives

1. James 4:8 - Draw near to God, and He will draw near to you.

2. Isaiah 55:6 - Seek the Lord while He may be found; call upon Him while He is near.

John 14:23 Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him.

Jesus teaches that if someone loves Him, they will obey His words and His Father and He will come to them and dwell with them.

1. Love the Lord with All Your Heart, Soul, and Strength

2. Obeying the Words of Jesus Brings Us Closer to God

1. Deuteronomy 6:4-5 “Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.

2. John 15:10 “If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commandments and abide in his love.”

John 14:24 He that loveth me not keepeth not my sayings: and the word which ye hear is not mine, but the Father's which sent me.

God's love for us is a result of our obedience to His commands.

1: Love God by Obeying His Commands

2: The Father's Love and Mercy Shown Through His Commands

1: Deuteronomy 6:5 - Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength.

2: James 2:17 - Faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.

John 14:25 These things have I spoken unto you, being yet present with you.

The passage speaks of Jesus speaking to His disciples while He is still present with them.

1. The Power of Presence: Learning to Lean in to the Presence of Jesus.

2. Showing Up: The Importance of Being Present in our Faith Walk.

1. Isaiah 41:10 - “Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.”

2. Matthew 28:20 - “Teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

John 14:26 But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.

The Holy Spirit will help us remember and learn all that Jesus has said.

1: The Holy Spirit: Our Helper and Teacher

2: Trusting in the Holy Spirit's Guidance

1: Isaiah 11:2 - "The Spirit of the LORD will rest on him—the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding, the Spirit of counsel and of might, the Spirit of the knowledge and fear of the LORD."

2: John 16:7-14 - "But very truly I tell you, it is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Advocate will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you. When he comes, he will prove the world to be in the wrong about sin and righteousness and judgment: about sin, because people do not believe in me; about righteousness, because I am going to the Father, where you can see me no longer; and about judgment, because the prince of this world now stands condemned. “I have much more to say to you, more than you can now bear. But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all

the truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come. He will glorify me because it is from me that he will receive what he will make known to you. All that belongs to the Father is mine. That is why I said the Spirit will receive from me what he will make known to you.”"

John 14:27 Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.

Peace is given by God, not by the world.

1: Relying on God for Peace

2: Overcoming Fear and Anxiety Through God's Peace

1: Philippians 4:6-7 - "Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."

2: Isaiah 26:3 - "You will keep in perfect peace those whose minds are steadfast, because they trust in you."

John 14:28 Ye have heard how I said unto you, I go away, and come again unto you. If ye loved me, ye would rejoice, because I said, I go unto the Father: for my Father is greater than I.

John 14:28 is a reminder that Jesus' love for us is so great that He is willing to go away to be with His Father even though He is greater than Jesus.

1. The Greatest Love: Understanding the Depth of Jesus' Sacrifice

2. The Father's Love: Recognizing the Supremacy of God

1. John 15:13, "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends."

2. Romans 8:31-39, "What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us?"

John 14:29 And now I have told you before it come to pass, that, when it is come to pass, ye might believe.

Jesus informs his disciples that he has told them of things that will come to pass, so that when they come to pass they may believe.

1. The Power of Jesus' Prophecy - Exploring how Jesus' prophecies have been fulfilled and how that strengthens our faith.

2. Believe and Receive - Exemplifying how believing in Jesus' words brings us closer to Him.

1. Isaiah 46:10 - Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure.

2. Deuteronomy 18:22 - When a prophet speaketh in the name of the Lord, if the thing follow not, nor come to pass, that is the thing which the Lord hath not spoken, but the prophet hath spoken it presumptuously: thou shalt not be afraid of him.

John 14:30 Hereafter I will not talk much with you: for the prince of this world cometh, and hath nothing in me.

Jesus warns his disciples that the Prince of this world is coming and that he has no power over him.

1. The Power of the Prince of this World and Jesus' Victory Over It

2. Jesus' Strength to Overcome the Temptations of Satan

1. Romans 8:37-39 - No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

2. 1 John 4:4 - Little children, you are from God and have overcome them, for he who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.

John 14:31 But that the world may know that I love the Father; and as the Father gave me commandment, even so I do. Arise, let us go hence.

Jesus is telling his disciples to get up and leave, emphasizing that he is obeying the Father's commandment as a demonstration of his love for him.

1. Jesus' Obedience: A Model for Our Lives

2. Love for the Father: The Greatest Commandment

1. Romans 12:2 - Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.

2. 1 John 5:3 - For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments.

John 15 contains Jesus' teachings about the vine and branches, His commandment to love one another, and a warning about the world's hatred.

1st Paragraph: The chapter begins with Jesus describing Himself as the true vine and His Father as the gardener. He explains that every branch in Him that does not bear fruit is cut off, while every branch that does bear fruit is pruned to be even more fruitful. He urges his disciples to remain in Him as branches cannot bear fruit by themselves but must remain in vine likewise they cannot bear fruit unless they remain in Him for apart from Him they can do nothing if anyone does not remain in him like branch thrown away withers such branches picked up thrown into fire burned if remain in him words remain can ask whatever wish will done glorifying Father by bearing much fruit showing disciples (John 15:1-8).

2nd Paragraph: After this metaphor, Jesus commands them to continue in His love just as He has kept His Father's commands remains in His love. He tells them these things so that His joy may be complete in them and their joy may be complete. Then he gives them a new commandment 'Love each other as I have loved you greater love has no one than this lay down one's life for friends.' He calls them friends instead of servants because servant does not know his master's business but he has made known everything heard from his Father chosen out world appointed go bear fruit that lasts so whatever ask Father name give commanding again 'This is my command Love each other.' (John 15:9-17).

3rd Paragraph: Then he warns them about world’s hatred saying if world hates remember hated before if belonged world would love own but because do not belong have been chosen out of world reason it hates do not have servant greater than master if persecuted also persecute also keep word kept mine they will treat this way because of name they do not know one who sent me if had not come spoken would no sin now no

excuse sin whoever hates me hates my father well if had not done among works no else did would guilty sin now seen hated both me father fulfilling word written law 'They hated me without reason.' When Advocate comes whom will send from Father Spirit truth goes out from Father comes testify about when come testify well because been with beginning ending chapter (John 15:18-27).

John 15:1 I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman.

The passage is about Jesus being the true vine and God being the husbandman.

1. God is the Gardener Who Cares for Us - John 15:1

2. The Vine of Jesus: Our Source of Life - John 15:1

1. Isaiah 5:1-7 - God is the Vinedresser who cares for His vineyard

2. Psalm 80:8-19 - God as the Shepherd who cares for his flock

John 15:2 Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit.

God prunes us to make us produce more fruit.

1: Jesus is the Vine, We are the Branches - John 15:2

2: The Cutting Away of Unfruitfulness - John 15:2

1: Galatians 5:22-23 - But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.

2: Romans 8:28 - And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.

John 15:3 Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you.

This passage speaks of the cleansing power of God's word.

1. The Cleansing Power of the Word of God

2. How to Receive a Cleansing from God

1. Ephesians 5:26 - "that he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word"

2. Psalm 119:9 - "Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? by taking heed thereto according to thy word."

John 15:4 Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me.

Abiding in Jesus is essential in order to bear fruit.

1. Abide in Christ for Abundant Fruitfulness

2. Relying on Jesus for Fulfillment

1. Colossians 2:6-7 - "So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness."

2. Galatians 5:22-23 - "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things, there is no law."

John 15:5 I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.

The passage is a reminder that our life without God is fruitless and we can do nothing without Him.

1. "Abide in Christ: Reaping the Benefits of Abiding in Him"

2. "The Power of Abiding: Cultivating a Life of Fruitfulness"

1. Romans 8:28-30 - And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose. For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren. Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified.

2. Colossians 1:27-29 - To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory: Whom we preach, warning every man, and teaching every man in all wisdom; that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus: Whereunto I also labour, striving according to his working, which worketh in me mightily.

John 15:6 If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned.

John 15:6 teaches that those who do not abide in Jesus will be thrown away and destroyed.

1: Abide in Jesus to be Saved.

2: Remain in Christ to be Protected.

1: 1 John 4:16 - And we have known and believed the love that God hath to us. God is love; and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him.

2: Matthew 11:28-30 - Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.

John 15:7 If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.

Abiding in Christ and allowing His words to abide in us will result in our prayers being answered.

1: Abiding in Christ is the Key to Answered Prayers

2: Allow God's Words to Direct Your Prayers

1: James 4:2-3 “You do not have because you do not ask. You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, to spend it on your passions.”

2: Matthew 6:7-8 “And when you pray, do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do, for they think that they will be heard for their many words. Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him.”

John 15:8 Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples.

Jesus teaches that bearing much fruit is how disciples of Christ glorify the Father.

1. "Living a Fruitful Life: Bearing Much Fruit as Disciples of Christ"

2. "The Power of Bearing Fruit: Glorifying the Father through Discipleship"

1. Galatians 5:22-23 - "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law."

2. Matthew 7:16-17 - "You will recognize them by their fruits. Are grapes gathered from thornbushes, or figs from thistles? So, every healthy tree bears good fruit, but the diseased tree bears bad fruit."

John 15:9 As the Father hath loved me, so have I loved you: continue ye in my love.

This verse encourages us to remain in the love of Jesus by following the example of God's love for Him.

1: We are called to model our lives after God's love for Jesus.

2: We are called to continue in Jesus' love, just as God has loved Him.

1: 1 John 4:19 - We love Him, because He first loved us.

2: Romans 5:5 - And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us.

John 15:10 If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love.

John 15:10 encourages us to keep the commandments of God to remain in His love.

1. The Power of Obedience: Keeping God's Commandments

2. Abiding in God's Love Through Obedience

1. Matthew 7:24-27 - Everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock.

2. Romans 6:16-17 - Don’t you know that when you offer yourselves to someone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one you obey—whether you are slaves to sin, which leads to death, or to obedience, which leads to righteousness?

John 15:11 These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full.

Jesus spoke to His disciples so that they could experience joy and have it fulfilled.

1. The Joy of Abiding in Jesus

2. Fulfilling Joy through Jesus

1. Philippians 4:4-7 - Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice!

2. James 1:2-4 - Count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience.

John 15:12 This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you.

This passage emphasizes the importance of loving others the way Jesus has loved us.

1: We can all learn from Jesus' example of unconditional, sacrificial love for others.

2: Our love for one another should be rooted in our love for God.

1: 1 John 4:7-12 - Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God.

2: Romans 13:8-10 - Owe no one anything, except to love each other, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law.

John 15:13 Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.

This verse speaks about the greatest act of love, which is to lay down one's life for their friends.

1. The Power of Love: How to Show Self-Sacrificing Love to Others

2. The Ultimate Act of Friendship: What It Means To Lay Down One's Life For Others

1. Romans 5:8 – But God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

2. 1 John 3:16 – By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers.

John 15:14 Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you.

This passage speaks of the importance of obedience to God's commands in order to be His friend.

1: Obedience Brings Friendship - John 15:14

2: A Friend of God - John 15:14

1: James 2:17-18 - "Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone. Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: shew me thy faith without thy works, and I will shew thee my faith by my works."

2: 1 John 2:3-4 - "And hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep his commandments. He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him."

John 15:15 Henceforth I call you not servants; for the servant knoweth not what his lord doeth: but I have called you friends; for all things that I have heard of my Father I have made known unto you.

Jesus declares that his followers are no longer considered servants but friends, as he has revealed to them all that the Father has told him.

1. The Grace of Friendship: Jesus' Radical Change in His Relationship with His Followers

2. Jesus: A Friend Who Reveals All Things from the Father

1. James 2:23 - “And the Scripture was fulfilled that says, ‘Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness,’ and he was called a friend of God.”

2. Proverbs 18:24 - “A man of many companions may come to ruin, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother.”

John 15:16 Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you.

John 15:16 reflects the importance of being chosen by God and the responsibility to produce lasting fruit.

1: God Has Chosen Us and We Must Bear Fruit

2: The Power of Being Chosen by God

1: Matthew 7:15-20 - Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep’s clothing, but

inwardly are ravenous wolves.

2: Romans 8:28-30 - And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.

John 15:17 These things I command you, that ye love one another.

This verse encourages us to love one another as Jesus has loved us.

One: Love One Another as Jesus Loves Us

Two: Our Call to Love as Christ Loves

One: 1 John 4:7-12 - Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God.

Two: Romans 13:8-10 - Owe no one anything, except to love each other, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law.

John 15:18 If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you.

This passage emphasizes that when we are persecuted for our faith, we should not take it personally, as Jesus himself was persecuted before us.

1: God uses our suffering to bring us closer to Him.

2: We should not be surprised when the world hates us, as it hated Jesus before us.

1: Romans 8:17-18 - And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together.

2: James 1:2-4 - My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.

John 15:19 If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not

of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you.

Jesus tells his followers that because they are not of the world, the world will hate them.

1: God calls us to be different and to stand apart from the world.

2: Our identity in Christ makes us targets of the world's hatred.

1: Romans 12:2 "Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect."

2: 1 John 2:15-17 "Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world—the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride of life—is not from the Father but is from the world. And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever."

John 15:20 Remember the word that I said unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord. If they have persecuted me, they will also persecute you; if they have kept my saying, they will keep yours also.

Jesus reminds his disciples that if He was persecuted, they too will be persecuted. He encourages them to remain faithful in their beliefs.

1. Do Not Be Discouraged in the Face of Persecution

2. Stand Firm and Remain Faithful in the Face of Adversity

1. Matthew 5:11-12 - “Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

2. 2 Timothy 3:12 - “Indeed, all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted.”

John 15:21 But all these things will they do unto you for my name's sake, because they know not him that sent me.

People will do things to those who follow Jesus for his namesake, even though they do not know the Father who sent him.

1. The Power of Jesus' Name: Understanding the Impact of Following Jesus

2. Knowing the Father: The Importance of Knowing God

1. Philippians 2:9-10 - "Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth."

2. Ephesians 1:3-6 - "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love he predestined us for adoption as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved."

John 15:22 If I had not come and spoken unto them, they had not had sin: but now they have no cloak for their sin.

Sin is inevitable, but Jesus provides an opportunity for forgiveness.

1: Jesus is our cloak of forgiveness for our sins.

2: We have no excuse for our sins, but Jesus offers us a way out.

1: Romans 3:23-24 - For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.

2: 1 John 1:9 - If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

John 15:23 He that hateth me hateth my Father also.

The passage reveals that those who hate Jesus also hate God the Father.

1: God's Love Is Unconditional - Despite our hatred of him, God continues to love us.

2: Hatred of Jesus Is Hatred of God - We must be careful of our attitudes towards Jesus because our attitude towards him reflects our attitude towards God.

1: Romans 5:8 - But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

2: 1 John 4:20 - Whoever claims to love God yet hates a brother or sister is a liar. For whoever does not love their brother and sister, whom they have seen, cannot love God, whom they have not seen.

John 15:24 If I had not done among them the works which none other man did, they had not had sin: but now have they both seen and hated both me and my Father.

This passage speaks about the works of Jesus that were so extraordinary that people chose to reject Him and His Father despite having seen them.

1: Jesus was unique and did works that no other man had done. Though people saw these works, they chose to reject Him and His Father.

2: Jesus was a man of extraordinary works. Despite seeing these works, people chose to hate Him and His Father.

1: Isaiah 53:3 He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not.

2: Matthew 13:54-58 And when he was come into his own country, he taught them in their synagogue, insomuch that they were astonished, and said, Whence hath this man this wisdom, and these mighty works? Is not this the carpenter's son? is not his mother called Mary? and his brethren, James, and Joses, and Simon, and Judas? And his sisters, are they not all with us? Whence then hath this man all these things? And they were offended in him. But Jesus said unto them, A prophet is not without honour, save in his own country, and in his own house.

John 15:25 But this cometh to pass, that the word might be fulfilled that is written in their law, They hated me without a cause.

This passage reveals that Jesus' enemies hated Him even when He had done nothing

wrong, fulfilling a prophecy written in their law.

1. God's Plan is Perfect and Nothing Can Stop It

2. The Unfairness of Hatred

1. Isaiah 53:3 - He was despised and rejected by mankind, a man of suffering, and familiar with pain.

2. 1 Peter 2:23 - When they hurled their insults at him, he did not retaliate; when he suffered, he made no threats. Instead, he entrusted himself to him who judges justly.

John 15:26 But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, he shall testify of me:

The Comforter, sent from the Father, will testify of Jesus.

1. The Power of the Holy Spirit: A Guide to the Testimony of Jesus

2. The Promise of the Holy Spirit: Receiving the Comforter

1. Romans 8:15-17 - For you did not receive a spirit that makes you a slave again to fear, but you received the Spirit of sonship. And by him we cry, “Abba, Father.” The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God’s children.

2. Acts 2:1-4 - When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.

John 15:27 And ye also shall bear witness, because ye have been with me from the beginning.

This passage describes Jesus' command to his disciples to be witnesses of his teachings and actions, as they were with him from the start.

1. Bearing Witness: Living a Life of Testimony

2. The Call of Discipleship: Answering Jesus' Call

1. Acts 1:8 - "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

2. 1 Peter 3:15 - "But in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect."

John 16 discusses Jesus' further teaching on the work of the Holy Spirit, His prediction of His death and resurrection, and His promise to overcome the world.

1st Paragraph: The chapter begins with Jesus warning his disciples about coming persecutions. He tells them these things so they will not fall away when time comes they will be put out synagogues indeed time is coming when anyone kills you will think they are offering service to God. He explains that He has told them this so that when their time comes they will remember what he warned them about. He did not tell them this from beginning because was with them but now going him who sent him yet none asks where are you going? Because said these things filled sorrow then reassures saying it is good he is going away unless goes away Advocate not come if go send him (John 16:1-7).

2nd Paragraph: When Spirit truth comes will guide into all truth not speak on own authority whatever hears speak tell what yet come glorify by taking from what mine making known because all Father has belongs thus everything mine belongs Father's therefore said takes from makes known. After this, Jesus uses figurative language saying 'In little while you see me no more then after little while see me.' Some disciples did not understand this leading Jesus explain grief turn joy like woman giving birth once child born forgets anguish because joy child born into world so too disciples grieve but see again rejoice no one take away joy (John 16:8-22).

3rd Paragraph: Then he tells them that in that day they will no longer ask him anything assuring 'Very truly I tell you my Father give whatever ask name.' Until now have asked nothing name ask receive joy complete though been using figurative language time coming say plainly about Father day ask name assure does love personally shown world loved father loved world father loves even before foundation world also tells disciples trouble peace take heart overcome world ending chapter providing reassurance face impending trials tribulations (John 16:23-33).

John 16:1 These things have I spoken unto you, that ye should not be offended.

This passage encourages believers to not let themselves be discouraged, no matter the circumstances.

1: "Overcoming Offenses - How to Keep Your Faith Strong in the Face of Adversity"

2: "Do Not be Offended - Maintaining Your Spiritual Resilience"

1: Romans 12:19 - Do not take revenge, my dear friends, but leave room for God’s wrath, for it is written: “It is mine to avenge; I will repay,” says the Lord.

2: 1 Peter 5:7 - Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.

John 16:2 They shall put you out of the synagogues: yea, the time cometh, that whosoever killeth you will think that he doeth God service.

This passage highlights the danger and persecution that Jesus' followers will face, warning them that those who kill them will think that they are doing God's service.

1: The Persecution We Face: How to Respond with Faith and Courage

2: Standing Firm in the Face of Opposition: Learning from Jesus' Example

1: Daniel 3:17-18 - “If it be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver us out of thine hand, O king. But if not, be it known unto thee, O king, that we will not serve thy gods, nor worship the golden image which thou hast set up.”

2: Acts 5:29 - “Then Peter and the other apostles answered and said, We ought to obey God rather than men.”

John 16:3 And these things will they do unto you, because they have not known the Father, nor me.

New Line Jesus warns his disciples that they will be persecuted because of their faith in Him and the Father.

1. The Persecution of Believers: Standing Firm in the Face of Adversity

2. Resilience in the Face of Opposition: God's Strength in Suffering

1. Romans 8:37-39 - “No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

2. Philippians 4:13 - “I can do all this through him who gives me strength.”

John 16:4 But these things have I told you, that when the time shall come, ye may remember that I told you of them. And these things I said not unto you at the beginning, because I was with you.

Jesus told the disciples of His upcoming death and resurrection but did not tell them at the beginning of His ministry because He was still with them.

1. Remembering Jesus' Words: Looking to John 16:4 for Strength and Guidance.

2. The Power of the Resurrection: Finding Hope in Jesus' Promise.

1. Luke 24:6-8: He is not here, but is risen: remember how he spake unto you when he was yet in Galilee.

2. 1 Corinthians 15:20-22: But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept.

John 16:5 But now I go my way to him that sent me; and none of you asketh me, Whither goest thou?

The disciples did not question Jesus about his departure.

1. Don't Take Things for Granted - We are often so quick to take for granted the people and things in our lives, but this is something that we should constantly strive to be aware of.

2. Asking the Right Questions - We should be mindful of the questions we ask, and strive

to ensure that our questions are meaningful and effective.

1. Colossians 4:6 - “Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person.”

2. Proverbs 15:23 - “To make an apt answer is a joy to a man, and a word in season, how good it is!”

John 16:6 But because I have said these things unto you, sorrow hath filled your heart.

John 16:6 is about Jesus informing his disciples that sorrow has filled their hearts.

1: Even in times of sadness, we can draw strength and comfort from Jesus.

2: Jesus understands our sorrows and is with us even in our darkest moments.

1: Psalm 34:18 - The Lord is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit.

2: Isaiah 41:10 - So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.

John 16:7 Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you.

The Comforter will come when Jesus leaves.

1: Through Jesus's sacrifice, He brings us the Holy Spirit, a Comforter who is ever with us.

2: Jesus leaving is not a bad thing, it is a blessing, because through it we receive the Holy Spirit, the Comforter.

1: Isaiah 9:6 - For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

2: Romans 8:26-27 - Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. And he who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

John 16:8 And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment:

The passage states that when the Holy Spirit comes, He will reprove the world of sin, righteousness, and judgment.

1: The Power of the Holy Spirit in our Lives

2: God's Unwavering Righteousness and Judgment

1: Isaiah 30:21 - "Whether you turn to the right or to the left, your ears will hear a voice behind you, saying, “This is the way; walk in it.”

2: Psalm 139:7-10 - “Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence? If I go up to the heavens, you are there; if I make my bed in the depths, you are there. If I rise on the wings of the dawn, if I settle on the far side of the sea, even there your hand will guide me, your right hand will hold me fast.”

John 16:9 Of sin, because they believe not on me;

John 16:9 summarizes the importance of faith in Jesus Christ.

1: Have faith and believe in Jesus Christ.

2: Believe in Jesus Christ and be saved.

1: Romans 10:9-10 "That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation."

2: Ephesians 2:8-9 "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast."

John 16:10 Of righteousness, because I go to my Father, and ye see me no more;

The passage talks about Jesus going to the Father and his followers not seeing him anymore.

1. Jesus' Return to the Father: A Faithful Follower's Perspective

2. Jesus' Departure: A Call to Righteousness

1. John 14:1-3 - "Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also."

2. Matthew 6:33 - "But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you."

John 16:11 Of judgment, because the prince of this world is judged.

The passage in John 16:11 discusses the judgment of the prince of this world.

1. The Power of God's Judgment on the Prince of this World

2. How We Can Stand Against the Prince of this World Through Faith in God's Judgment

1. 2 Corinthians 4:4 - In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.

2. Ephesians 6:12 - For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.

John 16:12 I have yet many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now.

Jesus tells His disciples that He has more to say to them, but they are not yet ready to

hear it.

1. Taking The Time To Grow: Preparing Our Hearts To Receive God's Word

2. Steadfast In The Faith: Learning To Endure Until We Receive God's Promises

1. Ephesians 3:14-19 - Paul's Prayer For The Church

2. James 1:2-4 - Finding Joy In Trials And Tribulations

John 16:13 Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come.

The Spirit of Truth will guide us into all truth and will show us things to come.

1. The Power of the Holy Spirit in Our Lives

2. Following the Spirit's Guidance

1. Romans 8:14 - For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.

2. Matthew 16:17 - And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven.

John 16:14 He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall shew it unto you.

The passage reveals that Jesus’ disciples will receive knowledge from Him that will glorify Him.

1: We can glorify Jesus by receiving knowledge from Him and sharing it with others.

2: Through Jesus we can receive knowledge that will bring Him glory.

1: Isaiah 11:2 - “And the spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord;”

2: Proverbs 2:6 - “For the Lord gives wisdom; from his mouth come knowledge and understanding.”

John 16:15 All things that the Father hath are mine: therefore said I, that he shall take of mine, and shall shew it unto you.

God has given His followers the gift of understanding His teachings.

1: The Blessings of Knowing Christ's Teachings

2: The Joy of Sharing Christ's Teachings

1: Colossians 2:3 In whom are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.

2: James 1:5 If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him.

John 16:16 A little while, and ye shall not see me: and again, a little while, and ye shall see me, because I go to the Father.

Jesus announces to his disciples that he will be going away for a short period of time, but they will see him again soon.

1: God never leaves us alone. Although Jesus was leaving the disciples, he promised that he would return and be with them again.

2: We must be patient in times of difficulty. Jesus promised the disciples that although they were struggling, it would not be forever and they would see him again soon.

1: Romans 8:38-39 - For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

2: Hebrews 13:5-6 - Keep your life free from love of money, and be content with what you

have, for he has said, “I will never leave you nor forsake you.” So we can confidently say, “The Lord is my helper; I will not fear; what can man do to me?”

John 16:17 Then said some of his disciples among themselves, What is this that he saith unto us, A little while, and ye shall not see me: and again, a little while, and ye shall see me: and, Because I go to the Father?

Some of Jesus' disciples were confused by his statement that they would not see him for a little while, but then would see him again.

1. The Absence of Jesus: Finding Strength in the Wait

2. The Promise of Jesus: Trusting in His Return

1. Romans 8:25 - "But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience."

2. Hebrews 10:35-36 - "Therefore do not cast away your confidence, which has great reward. For you have need of endurance, so that after you have done the will of God, you may receive the promise."

John 16:18 They said therefore, What is this that he saith, A little while? we cannot tell what he saith.

Jesus is talking about his death and resurrection to his disciples, but they do not understand his words.

1. The Mystery of the Cross: Understanding Jesus' Teachings on the Resurrection

2. The Power of Faith: Believing in Jesus' Promise of Eternal Life

1. Romans 5:8 - But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

2. Philippians 3:10-11 - I want to know Christ—yes, to know the power of his resurrection and participation in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, and so, somehow, attaining to the resurrection from the dead.

John 16:19 Now Jesus knew that they were desirous to ask him, and said unto them, Do

ye enquire among yourselves of that I said, A little while, and ye shall not see me: and again, a little while, and ye shall see me?

Jesus knew that his disciples were confused by his statement that he would be leaving them soon, so he asked them if they were questioning his words.

1. Jesus knew that his disciples would struggle with his departure, yet he still chose to leave them in order to send the Holy Spirit.

2. Jesus knew his disciples would be confused by his words, yet he still chose to trust them with the truth.

1. John 14:16-17 - “And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever; Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.”

2. Isaiah 11:2-3 - “And the spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord; And shall make him of quick understanding in the fear of the Lord: and he shall not judge after the sight of his eyes, neither reprove after the hearing of his ears.”

John 16:20 Verily, verily, I say unto you, That ye shall weep and lament, but the world shall rejoice: and ye shall be sorrowful, but your sorrow shall be turned into joy.

This passage reminds us that while we may experience difficulty and sorrow in this life, God can turn it into joy.

1. Finding Joy Through Sorrow - How to find true joy through faith in God, even in the midst of suffering.

2. Rejoicing in the Lord - Understanding the joy that comes from trusting in God and putting our faith in Him.

1. Romans 8:28 - And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.

2. Isaiah 61:3 - To appoint unto them that mourn in Zion, to give unto them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; that they might be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, that he might be

glorified.

John 16:21 A woman when she is in travail hath sorrow, because her hour is come: but as soon as she is delivered of the child, she remembereth no more the anguish, for joy that a man is born into the world.

A woman experiences pain and sorrow during childbirth but joy when a child is born.

1. The Joy of Becoming a Parent

2. The Pain of Childbirth and the Reward of New Life

1. Psalm 127:3: "Behold, children are a heritage from the Lord, the fruit of the womb a reward."

2. Romans 8:18-25: "For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us."

John 16:22 And ye now therefore have sorrow: but I will see you again, and your heart shall rejoice, and your joy no man taketh from you.

God promises us joy that no one can take away.

1: Let us not allow our joy to be taken away by sorrow and instead, look to God for joy and assurance.

2: God's joy is an everlasting joy that no one can take away – let us trust in Him and find joy in Him.

1: Psalm 16:11 - You make known to me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

2: Romans 15:13 - May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.

John 16:23 And in that day ye shall ask me nothing. Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall ask the Father in my name, he will give it you.

Jesus promises that if we ask the Father in His name, He will grant us whatever we ask.

1. The Power of Asking in Jesus' Name

2. Faith in the Promises of Jesus

1. Matthew 7:7-11 - "Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you."

2. Ephesians 3:20-21 - "Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen."

John 16:24 Hitherto have ye asked nothing in my name: ask, and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full.

This passage encourages believers to ask God for what they need in Jesus' name, knowing that they will receive it and be filled with joy.

1: God is always ready to hear us and grant our requests.

2: When we ask in Jesus' name, we can have confidence that our joy will be made complete.

1: Philippians 4:6-7 - Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

2: James 4:2-3 - You do not have because you do not ask God. When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures.

John 16:25 These things have I spoken unto you in proverbs: but the time cometh, when I shall no more speak unto you in proverbs, but I shall shew you plainly of the Father.

Jesus promised to reveal more of His Father's plan to His disciples.

1: God loves us enough to reveal a plan for our lives.

2: We can trust that God will fulfill His promises.

1: Proverbs 3:5-6 - Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.

2: Jeremiah 29:11 - For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.

John 16:26 At that day ye shall ask in my name: and I say not unto you, that I will pray the Father for you:

In John 16:26, Jesus promises that the disciples will be able to ask in His name and He will not have to pray to the Father for them.

1. Jesus is the Intercessor: Understanding the Power of Jesus' Name

2. Relying on God's Provision Through Prayer

1. Philippians 4:6-7 - Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.

2. Hebrews 7:25 - Therefore he is able to save completely those who come to God through him, because he always lives to intercede for them.

John 16:27 For the Father himself loveth you, because ye have loved me, and have believed that I came out from God.

God loves us because we have loved and believed in Him.

1. Believing in God's Love - John 16:27

2. Rejoicing in God's Love - John 16:27

1. 1 John 4:10 - "In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins."

2. Romans 5:8 - "But God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us."

John 16:28 I came forth from the Father, and am come into the world: again, I leave the world, and go to the Father.

This passage reveals Jesus' understanding that he had come from the Father and had come into the world, and that he would soon leave the world and return to the Father.

1. "The Joy of Knowing Jesus"

2. "Living a Life of Devotion to the Father"

1. Philippians 2:5-10

2. Hebrews 12:2-3

John 16:29 His disciples said unto him, Lo, now speakest thou plainly, and speakest no proverb.

The disciples realized that Jesus was no longer speaking in parables, but was being straightforward in his teachings.

1. Jesus is Our Guide to Truth: Understanding the Clear Teachings of Christ

2. Parables of Jesus: Uncovering the Hidden Meaning in His Parables

1. Proverbs 8:6-9 - Listen, for I have insightful things to say; I open my lips to speak what is right. My mouth speaks what is true, for my lips detest wickedness. All the words of my mouth are just; none of them is crooked or perverse.

2. John 1:1-5 - In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

John 16:30 Now are we sure that thou knowest all things, and needest not that any man should ask thee: by this we believe that thou camest forth from God.

Jesus' disciples affirmed their belief that Jesus came from God by recognizing his omniscience.

1. The Omniscience of Jesus: Our Faith in God Confirmed

2. Trusting Our Savior: The Power of Faith in Jesus

1. Hebrews 11:1 - Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.

2. Romans 10:9-10 - That if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved.

John 16:31 Jesus answered them, Do ye now believe?

John 16:31 summarizes the passage of Jesus asking the disciples if they now believe.

1. Do We Believe What Jesus Teaches?

2. Having Faith in Times of Trouble

1. Matthew 17:20 - "He said to them, “Because of your little faith. For truly, I say to you, if you have faith like a grain of mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, ‘Move from here to there,’ and it will move, and nothing will be impossible for you.”

2. Philippians 4:13 - "I can do all things through him who strengthens me."

John 16:32 Behold, the hour cometh, yea, is now come, that ye shall be scattered, every man to his own, and shall leave me alone: and yet I am not alone, because the Father is with me.

The hour of Jesus' suffering has come, but He is comforted by the presence of the Father.

1: In times of difficulty, we can take comfort in the fact that God is always with us.

2: Never take God's presence for granted; He is always there when we need Him most.

1: Psalm 46:1 - God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

2: Hebrews 13:5-6 - Keep your life free from love of money, and be content with what you have, for he has said, “I will never leave you nor forsake you.”

John 16:33 These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.

Peace in Jesus Christ: In the world, we will have tribulation, but Jesus has overcome the world and with Him we can have peace.

1. Rejoice in the Lord - Finding Joy in Times of Trouble

2. Overcoming the World - Taking Comfort in Jesus Christ's Victory

1. Romans 15:13 - Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

2. Philippians 4:6-7 - Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

John 17 records Jesus' High Priestly Prayer, in which He prays for Himself, His disciples, and all believers.

1st Paragraph: The chapter begins with Jesus praying to the Father after His last supper with the disciples. He acknowledges that the hour has come for Him to be glorified so that He may glorify the Father. He defines eternal life as knowing the only true God and Jesus Christ whom God has sent. Jesus declares that he has brought glory to Father on earth by finishing work given Him to do now asks Father glorify Him in presence with glory had before world began (John 17:1-5).

2nd Paragraph: After this, Jesus prays specifically for his disciples. He acknowledges that they belong to God but have been given to Him and they have obeyed God's word. They know everything comes from God accepted words given them know truly came from sent into world prays not for world but those given him because they are his all he has is theirs and what is theirs is his glory shown through them no longer in world while they are still in world coming asks Father protect them by power of name so that they may be one as They are one during time kept them protected none lost except one doomed destruction fulfilled scripture (John 17:6-12).

3rd Paragraph: Then he continues pray not asking take out of world but keep evil one sanctify truth word truth just as sent into world also sent into world sanctifies himself so too may be truly sanctified finally extends prayer beyond immediate circle disciples praying also those who believe through their message all may be one just as Father is in him him in Father so too may be in us so that world may believe you have sent me gives them glory gave can be one as we are— I am them you me—so they brought complete unity let world know you sent love me love put within concluding chapter high priestly prayer where intercedes behalf both present future followers (John 17:13-26).

John 17:1 These words spake Jesus, and lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said, Father, the hour is come; glorify thy Son, that thy Son also may glorify thee:

Jesus asks his Father to glorify him so that he may glorify his Father.

1. The power of prayer in Jesus' life

2. The importance of glorifying God in our lives

1. Philippians 2:5-11 - Jesus humbles himself and is exalted by God

2. Matthew 5:16 - Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven

John 17:2 As thou hast given him power over all flesh, that he should give eternal life to as many as thou hast given him.

Jesus prayed for the eternal life of those God had given Him.

1: We are blessed with eternal life through Jesus Christ.

2: God's grace provides us with eternal life through Jesus.

1: John 10:27-28, "My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me: And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand."

2: Romans 6:23, "For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."

John 17:3 And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent.

This passage speaks of the importance of knowing the only true God and Jesus Christ, and that knowledge grants eternal life.

1. Knowing God and Jesus is the Key to Eternal Life

2. Don't Lose Sight of What Matters Most

1. Matthew 22:37-39 “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”

2. 1 John 5:11-12 “And this is the testimony, that God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life.”

John 17:4 I have glorified thee on the earth: I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do.

Jesus has completed the work that God has given him to do on earth.

1. Jesus: The Perfect Model for Obedience

2. The Power of God's Work Through Jesus

1. Ephesians 2:10 - For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

2. Philippians 2:5-8 - In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death—even death on a cross!

John 17:5 And now, O Father, glorify thou me with thine own self with the glory which I had with thee before the world was.

John is praying to God to be glorified with the same glory that he had before the world was.

1: We are all called to be glorified in the eyes of God, just as Jesus was.

2: Jesus has been glorified before the world was, and it is our duty to also strive for that same glory.

1: Romans 8:30 - And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also glorified.

2: Colossians 3:17 - And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

John 17:6 I have manifested thy name unto the men which thou gavest me out of the world: thine they were, and thou gavest them me; and they have kept thy word.

Jesus revealed the Father's name to those God gave him out of the world, who were God's and whom God gave to Jesus. They kept his word.

1. The Power of Jesus in Revealing God's Name

2. God's Unwavering Faith in His People

1. Romans 8:31-39 - What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us?

2. 1 John 2:15-17 - Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

John 17:7 Now they have known that all things whatsoever thou hast given me are of thee.

Jesus acknowledges that all the things that God has given him are from God.

1. The Power of Knowing God: Understanding Our Place in His Plan

2. Reaching Out to a Lost World: What God Has Called Us to Do

1. Psalm 8:3-4 - When I consider thy heavens, the work of thy fingers, the moon and the stars, which thou hast ordained; 4 What is man, that thou art mindful of him? and the son of man, that thou visitest him?

2. Ephesians 1:11-12 - In him also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will, 12 that we who first trusted in Christ should be to the praise of his glory.

John 17:8 For I have given unto them the words which thou gavest me; and they have received them, and have known surely that I came out from thee, and they have believed that thou didst send me.

This passage emphasizes the importance of Jesus' words, which were gifted to his followers by God.

1: Jesus' words are a powerful gift from God that can bring us closer to Him.

2: We must take Jesus' words seriously and use them to build our faith.

1: 2 Timothy 3:16-17 - All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right.

2: Psalm 119:105 - Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path.

John 17:9 I pray for them: I pray not for the world, but for them which thou hast given

me; for they are thine.

This passage reveals Jesus' love for his followers and his special prayer for them.

1: Jesus' Love for His Followers - John 17:9

2: The Power of Prayer - John 17:9

1: Romans 8:38-39 - For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

2: 1 John 4:19 - We love because he first loved us.

John 17:10 And all mine are thine, and thine are mine; and I am glorified in them.

Jesus proclaims that his followers are glorified in Him and that all His possessions are His followers' and vice versa.

1. Glorifying Jesus Through Our Possessions

2. Jesus is Glorified in Us

1. Matthew 6:19-21 - Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

2. 1 Timothy 6:17-19 - Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life.

John 17:11 And now I am no more in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to thee. Holy Father, keep through thine own name those whom thou hast given me, that they may be one, as we are.

New Line Jesus prayed to God for the protection of his disciples and for them to remain united just as he and God were one.

1. The Power of Unity - How Jesus' prayer for unity between believers can lead to great strength and power in the church.

2. The Protection of God - Understanding God’s protection for us and how we can trust in His provision.

1. Ephesians 4:3-6 - Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.

2. Romans 8:28 - And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.

John 17:12 While I was with them in the world, I kept them in thy name: those that thou gavest me I have kept, and none of them is lost, but the son of perdition; that the scripture might be fulfilled.

Jesus kept his disciples safe in God's name while he was with them in the world, except for the son of perdition, fulfilling scripture.

1. The Promise of Protection: The Power of God to Keep Us Safe

2. The Fulfillment of Prophecy: How God's Word is Accomplished

1. Hebrews 13:5-6 "Keep your life free from love of money, and be content with what you have, for he has said, “I will never leave you nor forsake you.”

2. Romans 8:28-39 "And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose."

John 17:13 And now come I to thee; and these things I speak in the world, that they might have my joy fulfilled in themselves.

Jesus speaks to his followers in the world in order to bring them joy.

1. The Joy of Jesus: Experiencing His Presence in the World

2. Jesus: The Source of True Joy

1. Philippians 4:4-7 - Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

2. John 15:11 - These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.

John 17:14 I have given them thy word; and the world hath hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world.

The world hates those who are not of the world, even as Jesus is not of the world.

1. The world may hate us, but our faith in Jesus will protect us.

2. We must be in the world, but not of it.

1. 1 John 4:4–5 - Greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world.

2. Romans 12:2 - Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind.

John 17:15 I pray not that thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that thou shouldest keep them from the evil.

This verse from John 17:15 speaks to God's protection of His people from evil.

1. "The Lord's Protection: Relying on God's Strength in a World of Evil"

2. "The Promise of Protection: Finding Strength in God's Word in Troubled Times"

1. Psalm 91:9-10 - "Because thou hast made the Lord, which is my refuge, even the most High, thy habitation; There shall no evil befall thee, neither shall any plague come nigh thy dwelling."

2. Romans 8:28 - "And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose."

John 17:16 They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world.

Jesus prays that his disciples will not be part of the world, just as he is not part of the world.

1. How Jesus's Prayers Can Guide Us Away From Worldly Temptations

2. Taking Up Our Cross and Following Jesus to a Life of Holiness

1. Matthew 16:24-26 - Jesus tells his disciples that they must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow him.

2. Romans 12:2 - Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind.

John 17:17 Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.

This verse emphasizes the importance and power of truth and God's Word.

1: The Power of God's Word

2: The Sanctifying Nature of Truth

1: Psalm 119:160 "Thy word is true from the beginning: and every one of thy righteous judgments endureth for ever."

2: Proverbs 12:17 "He that speaketh truth sheweth forth righteousness: but a false witness deceit."

John 17:18 As thou hast sent me into the world, even so have I also sent them into the world.

Jesus sends out his disciples into the world to do the same mission he was sent to do.

1. The World is Waiting: How Jesus' Mission Can Inspire Our Own

2. Sent to Serve: The Power of Jesus' Call to Action

1. Matthew 28:19-20 - "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

2. Acts 1:8 - "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

John 17:19 And for their sakes I sanctify myself, that they also might be sanctified through the truth.

Jesus sanctifies himself so that others may also be sanctified through truth.

1. "Sanctification Through Truth"

2. "The Power of Self-Sacrifice"

1. Ephesians 5:26-27 so that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word

2. 1 Peter 3:15 but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you.

John 17:20 Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word;

The passage speaks of Jesus praying for those who believe in him through the testimony of the disciples.

1: The Power of Testimony - Jesus prayed for those who would come to believe in him through the disciples' testimony.

2: Have Faith in God’s Promises - Jesus prayed for believers who would come to him through the words of his disciples, showing God’s faithfulness to his promises.

1: John 3:16-17 - For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

2: Romans 10:17 - So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

John 17:21 That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me.

The passage speaks of unity and how it allows the world to believe in Jesus.

1. The Power of Unity: How Our Oneness Can Show the World God's Love

2. The Strength Found in Togetherness: How We Can Demonstrate Our Faith Through Our Community

1. 1 John 4:19 - We love because he first loved us.

2. Ephesians 4:3-6 - Making every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.

John 17:22 And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one:

Jesus prayed to God that his followers may be as unified as he and God are.

1. The Importance of Unity in Christ

2. The Power of Jesus' Prayer

1. Ephesians 4:3 - Endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

2. Romans 15:5-6 - Now the God of patience and consolation grant you to be likeminded one toward another according to Christ Jesus: That ye may with one mind and one mouth glorify God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

John 17:23 I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know that thou hast sent me, and hast loved them, as thou hast loved me.

God's love for us is perfect and complete, and He desires to unite us in perfect unity.

1. Love Unites: Exploring God's Perfect Love for His People.

2. Perfect Unity: Experiencing God's Love through Relationship.

1. 1 John 4:7-12

2. Galatians 3:26-28

John 17:24 Father, I will that they also, whom thou hast given me, be with me where I am; that they may behold my glory, which thou hast given me: for thou lovedst me before the foundation of the world.

Jesus prays to the Father that those he has been given may be with him in Heaven, so that they can witness the glory the Father has granted him.

1. God's Love Endures Throughout Time

2. The Value of Belonging to the Kingdom of Heaven

1. John 3:16 - For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

2. Ephesians 2:4-5 - But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;)

John 17:25 O righteous Father, the world hath not known thee: but I have known thee, and these have known that thou hast sent me.

This passage speaks of Jesus' intimate knowledge of his Father and his followers' understanding of his mission.

1. The Unfathomable Love of the Father

2. Knowing the Father Through Jesus

1. Philippians 3:8-11 - Knowing Christ and the power of his resurrection, the fellowship of his sufferings and being conformed to his death

2. 1 John 4:7-12 - God's love being perfected in us and believing in the name of His Son Jesus Christ

John 17:26 And I have declared unto them thy name, and will declare it: that the love wherewith thou hast loved me may be in them, and I in them.

The love of God should be shared among believers to bring them closer to Him.

1. The Power of Love: How to Share God's Love with Others

2. Abiding in His Love: Experiencing the Fullness of God's Love

1. 1 John 4:7-21

2. Romans 5:1-11

John 18 recounts Jesus' arrest in the Garden of Gethsemane, His trial before the high priest and Pilate, and Peter's denial.

1st Paragraph: The chapter begins with Jesus and His disciples crossing the Kidron Valley to a garden where Judas knew they would be because Jesus often met there with his disciples. Judas came to the garden leading a detachment of soldiers and some officials from chief priests Pharisees carrying torches lanterns weapons. When they arrived, Jesus knowing all that was about to happen went out asked them whom they were looking for answered 'Jesus of Nazareth.' When He replied 'I am he,' they drew back fell ground then

asked again who were looking for gave same answer adding 'If you are looking for me let these men go' fulfilling his own words none lost (John 18:1-9).

2nd Paragraph: After this, Simon Peter drew his sword struck high priest's servant cutting off right ear but Jesus commanded him put sword away saying 'Shall I not drink cup Father has given me?' Then soldiers arrested Jesus led him first Annas father-in-law Caiaphas high priest that year who had advised Jewish leaders better one man die people while being questioned by Annas about his disciples teaching responded openly world always taught synagogues temples where Jews come together said nothing secret why question me ask those heard what said to them know what I said prompting one official slap him asking if this way answers high priest but Jesus replied if spoken wrongly testify wrong but right why strike me? Then Annas sent him bound Caiaphas high priest (John 18:10-24).

3rd Paragraph: Meanwhile, as this was happening, Peter was waiting outside in the courtyard where a servant girl recognized him as a disciple of Jesus. However, Peter denied it saying he wasn't. This denial happened two more times even after being recognized by a relative of Malchus whose ear Peter had cut off after third denial rooster crowed just as predicted meanwhile Jews brought Jesus from Caiaphas governor's headquarters Pilate early morning did not enter headquarters avoid ceremonial defilement able eat Passover so Pilate came out asked accusation against man found guilty deserving death handed over then when Pilate offered release prisoner Passover chose Barabbas rather than ending chapter (John 18:25-40).

John 18:1 When Jesus had spoken these words, he went forth with his disciples over the brook Cedron, where was a garden, into the which he entered, and his disciples.

Jesus and his disciples went to a garden across the brook Cedron.

1: The importance of walking with Jesus, following his steps and the power of companionship.

2: Jesus' humility and how it can be an example for us.

1: Matthew 11:28-30 - Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.

2: Philippians 2:5-8 - Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to

the point of death, even death on a cross.

John 18:2 And Judas also, which betrayed him, knew the place: for Jesus ofttimes resorted thither with his disciples.

Judas was familiar with the location of Jesus' last supper because Jesus had been there with his disciples multiple times.

1. It is important to stay true to the same places and habits that bring us closer to God.

2. Judas' betrayal of Jesus was made possible by familiarity with Jesus' habits.

1. John 18:2

2. Matthew 26:47-50; Judas betrayed Jesus with a kiss after identifying him to the guards.

John 18:3 Judas then, having received a band of men and officers from the chief priests and Pharisees, cometh thither with lanterns and torches and weapons.

Judas, having been sent by the chief priests and Pharisees, arrived to arrest Jesus with a group of men, torches, and weapons.

1. We must remain faithful to our calling despite trials and tribulations - John 18:3

2. Jesus is our ultimate example of strength and courage when faced with persecution - John 18:3

1. John 16:33 - ?□ have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world.??

2. Romans 8:31 - ?□hat then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us???

John 18:4 Jesus therefore, knowing all things that should come upon him, went forth, and said unto them, Whom seek ye?

Jesus courageously faced his arrest and asked the crowd "Whom seek ye?"

1. Jesus showed great courage in the face of adversity.

2. We can learn from Jesus' example of bravery and trust in God.

1. Isaiah 41:10 - "Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand."

2. Hebrews 13:5-6 - "Keep your life free from love of money, and be content with what you have, for he has said, ?I will never leave you nor forsake you.??So we can confidently say, ?The Lord is my helper; I will not fear; what can man do to me???

John 18:5 They answered him, Jesus of Nazareth. Jesus saith unto them, I am he. And Judas also, which betrayed him, stood with them.

This passage from John 18:5 reveals that it was Jesus of Nazareth whom the authorities had come to capture and that Judas was also with them.

1: Jesus is the only one we can rely on for salvation and Judas was a reminder of our own personal betrayals.

2: Jesus remained true to his mission despite the betrayal of those closest to him.

1: Isaiah 53:5-6 "But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed. We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to our own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all."

2: Matthew 26:47-50 "While he was still speaking, Judas, one of the Twelve, arrived. With him was a large crowd armed with swords and clubs, sent from the chief priests and the elders of the people. Now the betrayer had arranged a signal with them: ?The one I kiss is the man; arrest him.??Going at once to Jesus, Judas said, ?Greetings, Rabbi!??and kissed him. Jesus replied, ?Do what you came for, friend.??Then the men stepped forward, seized Jesus and arrested him."

John 18:6 As soon then as he had said unto them, I am he, they went backward, and fell to the ground.

Jesus declared himself to the group of people who were trying to take him, and they were so overwhelmed with fear that they fell to the ground.

1. Jesus' authority and power are beyond our understanding and should cause us to be in awe of Him.

2. Our reaction to Jesus should be one of reverence and submission.

1. Isaiah 6:1-5 - Isaiah's vision of the Lord's glory and power.

2. Revelation 1:17-18 - The glorified Jesus and the response of John the Apostle.

John 18:7 Then asked he them again, Whom seek ye? And they said, Jesus of Nazareth.

The Roman soldiers asked the disciples whom they were looking for, and the disciples replied that they were looking for Jesus of Nazareth.

1. "God's Plan for Us: Trusting in Jesus"

2. "The Power of Faith: Jesus of Nazareth"

1. Philippians 2:5-11

2. Matthew 11:28-30

John 18:8 Jesus answered, I have told you that I am he: if therefore ye seek me, let these go their way:

Jesus shows his power and love by protecting his disciples.

1: Jesus demonstrates the power of true love when we are willing to make sacrifices for others.

2: Jesus reveals the strength of his character by protecting those who are close to him.

1: Mark 12:30-31 - "And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this is the first commandment. And the second is like, namely this, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. There is none other commandment greater than these."

2: Romans 12:10 - "Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another."

John 18:9 That the saying might be fulfilled, which he spake, Of them which thou gavest me have I lost none.

Jesus states that none of the followers given to him by God have been lost.

1. The Power of God's Protection in Our Lives

2. Keeping Faith in Troubled Times

1. Romans 8:38-39 ???□or I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.??

2. Psalm 91:14-16 ???□ecause he holds fast to me in love, I will deliver him; I will protect him, because he knows my name. When he calls to me, I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble; I will rescue him and honor him. With long life I will satisfy him and show him my salvation.??

John 18:10 Then Simon Peter having a sword drew it, and smote the high priest's servant, and cut off his right ear. The servant's name was Malchus.

Simon Peter drew a sword and cut off the high priest's servant's right ear. The servant's name was Malchus.

1. Jesus teaches us that violence is not the answer.

2. God calls us to put aside our own needs and put the needs of others first.

1. Matthew 5:38-39 "You have heard that it was said, 'An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.' But I say to you, Do not resist the one who is evil. But if anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to him the other also."

2. Romans 12:17-19 "Repay no one evil for evil, but give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all. If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, 'Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord.'"

John 18:11 Then said Jesus unto Peter, Put up thy sword into the sheath: the cup which my Father hath given me, shall I not drink it?

The passage emphasizes Jesus' willingness to go through with the Father's plan for him, despite facing possible death.

1: Jesus showed courage and obedience to God's will, even in the face of death.

2: Jesus trusted God's plan more than his own instincts.

1: Matthew 26:39 - And he went a little further, and fell on his face, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt.

2: Philippians 2:8 - And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.

John 18:12 Then the band and the captain and officers of the Jews took Jesus, and bound him,

Jesus was arrested and bound by the Jewish leaders.

1. The Power of Submission: Learning from Jesus's Response to His Arrest

2. The Role of Authority: When Should We Obey and When Should We Resist?

1. Matthew 26:47-56 ??Jesus' arrest and Peter's denial

2. Philippians 2:5-11 ??Jesus' humble obedience to God's will

John 18:13 And led him away to Annas first; for he was father in law to Caiaphas, which

was the high priest that same year.

Jesus was taken to Annas, the father-in-law of Caiaphas, who served as the high priest that year.

1. Jesus: A Model of Humility and Obedience

2. The Power of Faith in the Face of Authority

1. Philippians 2:8 - "And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross."

2. Hebrews 11:1 - "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen."

John 18:14 Now Caiaphas was he, which gave counsel to the Jews, that it was expedient that one man should die for the people.

Caiaphas gave counsel to the Jews that it was necessary for one man to die for the people.

1: Jesus willingly laid down His life for us to be saved from our sins.

2: We must be willing to sacrifice for the benefit of others, as Jesus did for us.

1: Philippians 2:5-8 - "Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross."

2: Romans 5:8 - "But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us."

John 18:15 And Simon Peter followed Jesus, and so did another disciple: that disciple was known unto the high priest, and went in with Jesus into the palace of the high priest.

John 18 is an account of Jesus' arrest and interrogation by the high priest. Peter and

another disciple followed Jesus into the palace of the high priest.

1. Following Jesus even in difficult circumstances.

2. The courage of Peter to follow Jesus even when facing danger.

1. Matthew 10:28 - "And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell."

2. Hebrews 13:5-6 - "Keep your life free from love of money, and be content with what you have, for he has said, ?□ will never leave you nor forsake you.??So we can confidently say, ?□ he Lord is my helper; I will not fear; what can man do to me???

John 18:16 But Peter stood at the door without. Then went out that other disciple, which was known unto the high priest, and spake unto her that kept the door, and brought in Peter.

Peter's faithfulness and courage in the face of adversity.

1: We can learn from Peter's example of faithfulness and courage in the face of adversity.

2: We can take comfort in knowing that God will be with us, even in trying times, just as He was with Peter.

Romans 8:35-39 - Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword?

Psalm 27:1 - The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

John 18:17 Then saith the damsel that kept the door unto Peter, Art not thou also one of this man's disciples? He saith, I am not.

A damsel asked Peter if he was a disciple of Jesus, and he denied it.

1. The importance of standing firm in faith even when faced with difficult circumstances.

2. The power of confession in our walk with Christ.

1. Matthew 10:32-33 - "Whoever acknowledges me before others, I will also acknowledge before my Father in heaven. But whoever disowns me before others, I will disown before my Father in heaven."

2. Romans 10:9-10 - "If you declare with your mouth, ?esus is Lord,??and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved."

John 18:18 And the servants and officers stood there, who had made a fire of coals; for it was cold: and they warmed themselves: and Peter stood with them, and warmed himself.

This passage describes how Peter and the servants and officers of the High Priest stood around a fire of coals to keep warm on a cold night.

1. How our actions can reflect the warmth of Jesus' love.

2. The importance of taking care of our physical needs.

1. Matthew 25:35-36 - "For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in"

2. James 2:14-17 - "What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save them? Suppose a brother or a sister is without clothes and daily food. If one of you says to them, ?o in peace; keep warm and well fed,??but does nothing about their physical needs, what good is it?"

John 18:19 The high priest then asked Jesus of his disciples, and of his doctrine.

Jesus was questioned by the high priest about his disciples and teaching.

1. The Example of Jesus's Obedience to Authority

2. Jesus' Teachings and How They Impact Our Lives

1. Matthew 22:16 - "And they sent out unto him their disciples with the Herodians,

saying, Master, we know that thou art true, and teachest the way of God in truth, neither carest thou for any man: for thou regardest not the person of men."

2. Philippians 2:1-11 - "If there be therefore any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any bowels and mercies, Fulfil ye my joy, that ye be likeminded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind. Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves. Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others. Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross."

John 18:20 Jesus answered him, I spake openly to the world; I ever taught in the synagogue, and in the temple, whither the Jews always resort; and in secret have I said nothing.

Jesus spoke publicly and openly about his teachings in the synagogue and temple, but he said nothing in secret.

1. The Power of Openness: The Example of Jesus

2. The Impact of Jesus' Teachings: How We Can Apply His Words To Our Lives

1. John 3:16-17 - For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

2. Matthew 5:13-14 - Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be salted? it is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men.

John 18:21 Why askest thou me? ask them which heard me, what I have said unto them: behold, they know what I said.

Jesus questions the authorities on his identity and directs them to those who heard him speak.

1: We should be mindful of how we respond to authority and always use God's guidance.

2: We should be willing to let God's Word speak for us and not give into the fear of man.

1: Ephesians 6:5-7 - "Servants, be obedient to them that are your masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in singleness of your heart, as unto Christ; Not with eyeservice, as menpleasers; but as the servants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart; With good will doing service, as to the Lord, and not to men."

2: Proverbs 3:5-6 - "Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths."

John 18:22 And when he had thus spoken, one of the officers which stood by struck Jesus with the palm of his hand, saying, Answerest thou the high priest so?

The officer struck Jesus for answering the high priest in a way that he was not pleased with.

1: We should never resort to violence, even when provoked, but instead always handle difficult conversations with grace, humility and kindness.

2: Jesus showed us an example of how to handle difficult conversations, even when we are in the wrong, by responding with grace and humility.

1: Ephesians 4:29 - "Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers."

2: Matthew 5:38-42 - "Ye have heard that it hath been said, An eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth: But I say unto you, That ye resist not evil: but whosoever shall smite thee on thy right cheek, turn to him the other also...That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven...Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you."

John 18:23 Jesus answered him, If I have spoken evil, bear witness of the evil: but if well, why smitest thou me?

This passage highlights Jesus' peaceful response to violence, despite being wrongly accused.

1: In times of injustice, we must remain peaceful and trust in God to defend us.

2: Do not resort to violence, even if it seems like the easier option, but rely on the power of God instead.

1: Matthew 5:38-39 "You have heard that it was said, 'An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.' But I say to you, do not resist the one who is evil. But if anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to him the other also."

2: James 1:19-20 "Know this, my beloved brothers: let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger; for the anger of man does not produce the righteousness of God."

John 18:24 Now Annas had sent him bound unto Caiaphas the high priest.

Annas sent Jesus to Caiaphas the high priest.

1. How the Power of Authority is Used in Unfortunate Circumstances

2. The Endurance of Jesus in the Face of Adversity

1. Acts 4:23-28 - Peter and John before the Sanhedrin

2. Mark 15:1-5 - Jesus before Pilate

John 18:25 And Simon Peter stood and warmed himself. They said therefore unto him, Art not thou also one of his disciples? He denied it, and said, I am not.

Simon Peter denied being one of Jesus' disciples when confronted by people.

1. The Strength of Faith: How Peter Stood Firm in the Face of Persecution

2. When Tested, Will You Deny Jesus?

1. Matthew 26:69-75 (Peter denies knowing Jesus three times)

2. Luke 22:31-34 (Jesus tells Peter he will deny Him)

John 18:26 One of the servants of the high priest, being his kinsman whose ear Peter cut off, saith, Did not I see thee in the garden with him?

A servant of the high priest, who happened to be related to him, noticed Peter in the garden with Jesus.

1. The Power of Witness: Examining the Role of Peter in John 18:26

2. Learning from Peter's Mistakes: A Study of John 18:26

1. Luke 22:54-62 ??Jesus' Arrest in the Garden of Gethsemane

2. Matthew 26:57-68 ??Jesus' Appearance Before Caiaphas and the Council

John 18:27 Peter then denied again: and immediately the cock crew.

Jesus was falsely accused by the Jewish leaders and was brought before Pilate. Peter, one of Jesus' disciples, followed Him and attempted to defend Him, but instead denied Him three times before the cock crowed.

1: We must always remain faithful to Christ, despite our own fears and weaknesses.

2: Our faithfulness to Christ will be tested, but we must remain steadfast.

1: 1 Corinthians 10:13 - No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.

2: Matthew 26:33-35 - Peter answered him, ?□hough they all fall away because of you, I will never fall away.??Jesus said to him, ?□ruly, I tell you, this very night, before the rooster crows, you will deny me three times.??Peter said to him, ?□ven if I must die with you, I will not deny you!??And all the disciples said the same.

John 18:28 Then led they Jesus from Caiaphas unto the hall of judgment: and it was early; and they themselves went not into the judgment hall, lest they should be defiled; but that they might eat the passover.

Jesus was brought from Caiaphas to the hall of judgment early in the morning, and the

Jews did not enter the hall so they could remain ritually clean to eat the Passover.

1. The Sacrifice of Jesus: A Study of John 18:28

2. The Holiness of God: The Importance of Ritual Cleanliness

1. Exodus 12:15-20 - The instructions for celebrating the Passover

2. Leviticus 11:44-45 - The laws regarding ritual cleanliness

John 18:29 Pilate then went out unto them, and said, What accusation bring ye against this man?

Pilate questions Jesus' accusers.

1. Jesus Is Worthy of Our Adoration - John 18:29

2. Questions of Worth - John 18:29

1. 1 Peter 2:22 - "He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth."

2. Psalm 34:15 - "The eyes of the LORD are on the righteous and his ears are attentive to their cry."

John 18:30 They answered and said unto him, If he were not a malefactor, we would not have delivered him up unto thee.

This passage speaks of the Jewish leaders refusing to accept Jesus as the Messiah because they believed he was a criminal.

1. True faith requires us to accept Jesus despite our own doubts and preconceptions.

2. We can learn from the Jewish leaders to not judge someone before we understand who they truly are.

1. Luke 6:37-40 - ?□o not judge, and you will not be judged. Do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven. Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.??

2. Romans 12:1-2 - ?□herefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God?□ mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God?□his is your true and proper worship. Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God?□ will is?□is good, pleasing and perfect will.??

John 18:31 Then said Pilate unto them, Take ye him, and judge him according to your law. The Jews therefore said unto him, It is not lawful for us to put any man to death:

This passage emphasizes the Jewish law that does not allow them to put any man to death.

1: The Power of Forgiveness - We must learn to forgive and be willing to show mercy, even in the face of those who have wronged us.

2: The Necessity of Mercy - We must recognize that mercy is not only an act of love, but a necessary component of justice.

1: Matthew 5:7 - ?□lessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy??

2: Ephesians 4:32 ???□e kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.??

John 18:32 That the saying of Jesus might be fulfilled, which he spake, signifying what death he should die.

Jesus predicted His own death and this prophecy was fulfilled when He was crucified.

1. The Power of Predictions: How Jesus Fulfilled His Own Prophecy

2. The Meaning of Jesus' Death: How His Crucifixion Fulfilled His Own Prophecy

1. Isaiah 53:5-6 - But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are

healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.

2. Matthew 26:39 - And he went a little farther, and fell on his face, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt.

John 18:33 Then Pilate entered into the judgment hall again, and called Jesus, and said unto him, Art thou the King of the Jews?

Pilate questions Jesus if He is the King of the Jews.

1: Jesus, our King, is our ultimate source of truth and justice.

2: Following Jesus' example of humility, trust in God to restore justice.

1: John 8:32 - ?nd you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.??

2: Isaiah 9:6-7 - ?or to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end.??

John 18:34 Jesus answered him, Sayest thou this thing of thyself, or did others tell it thee of me?

Jesus challenges Pilate's authority by questioning his claim.

1: We should examine and challenge the authority of those in power to ensure that truth is upheld.

2: We must always be aware of ulterior motives in the words and actions of those in positions of authority.

1: Proverbs 14:15-16 - ?he simple believes everything, but the prudent gives thought to his steps. One who is wise is cautious and turns away from evil, but a fool is reckless and careless.??

2: Colossians 1:9-10 - ?□or this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you. We continually ask God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all the wisdom and understanding that the Spirit gives, so that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God.??

John 18:35 Pilate answered, Am I a Jew? Thine own nation and the chief priests have delivered thee unto me: what hast thou done?

Pilate questioned Jesus about the charges brought against him by the Jewish leaders.

1: Jesus faced false accusations and unjust persecution, but he continued to trust in God's plan.

2: We can learn from Jesus??example of standing firm in faith even when facing persecution.

1: Isaiah 53:7 - He was oppressed and afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth; he was led like a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before its shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth.

2: Psalm 27:14 - Wait for the Lord; be strong and take heart and wait for the Lord.

John 18:36 Jesus answered, My kingdom is not of this world: if my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight, that I should not be delivered to the Jews: but now is my kingdom not from hence.

Jesus explains that his kingdom is not part of this world, and that his servants will not fight against the Jews to prevent his being handed over to them.

1. The Kingdom of Jesus: Understanding Our Lord's Divine Authority

2. Living in the Kingdom of Jesus: What Does It Mean to Follow Him?

1. Colossians 1:13-14 - For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

14. Hebrews 12:28 - Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken,

let us be thankful, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe.

John 18:37 Pilate therefore said unto him, Art thou a king then? Jesus answered, Thou sayest that I am a king. To this end was I born, and for this cause came I into the world, that I should bear witness unto the truth. Every one that is of the truth heareth my voice.

The passage reveals Jesus' declaration that he is a King, and that he was born to bear witness to the truth.

1: Jesus is the King of Truth

2: Bearing Witness to the Truth

1: John 14:6 - Jesus said to him, ?□ am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.

2: Ephesians 4:15 - But, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head?□hrist.

John 18:38 Pilate saith unto him, What is truth? And when he had said this, he went out again unto the Jews, and saith unto them, I find in him no fault at all.

Pilate finds no fault in Jesus but still questions the truth of his claims.

1: In Jesus, we find truth and salvation.

2: God's truth will always prevail despite the doubts of others.

1: John 14:6 - Jesus said to him, ?□ am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

2: Psalm 119:142 - Your righteousness is an everlasting righteousness, and your law is the truth.

John 18:39 But ye have a custom, that I should release unto you one at the passover: will ye therefore that I release unto you the King of the Jews?

Pilate asked the crowd if they wanted him to release Jesus, the King of the Jews, in accordance with the Jewish custom of releasing a prisoner during the Passover.

1. How Jesus' Release During the Passover Points to His Power as King of the Jews

2. The Importance of Following Jewish Custom: Examining the Story of Jesus' Release During Passover

1. Isaiah 53:7, "He was oppressed and afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth; he was led like a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before its shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth."

2. John 19:1, "Then Pilate took Jesus and had him flogged."

John 18:40 Then cried they all again, saying, Not this man, but Barabbas. Now Barabbas was a robber.

Passage The people demanded Barabbas to be released instead of Jesus, even though Barabbas was a robber.

1. Accepting Grace Instead of Condemnation: Understanding the Choice of Barabbas and Jesus

2. The Mercy and Grace of Jesus: The Release of Barabbas Instead of Jesus

1. Romans 5:8 - But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

2. Isaiah 53:5-6 - But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed. We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to our own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

John 19 recounts Jesus' trial before Pilate, His crucifixion, death, and burial.

1st Paragraph: The chapter begins with Pilate taking Jesus and having him flogged. The soldiers twisted together a crown of thorns and put it on his head. They clothed him in a purple robe and went up to him again and again, saying, "Hail, king of the Jews!" And they slapped him in the face. Despite this abuse, when Pilate presents Jesus to the crowd

declaring 'Here is the man!' they demand crucifixion Pilate insists found no basis charge against but Jews declare law must die claimed be Son God hearing this Pilate even more afraid tried set free but Jewish leaders insisted anyone who sets himself up as king opposes Caesar (John 19:1-12).

2nd Paragraph: After this declaration by Jewish leaders, Pilate brought Jesus out sat down judgment seat place known Stone Pavement (in Aramaic Gabbatha). It was day of Preparation Passover sixth hour said Jews 'Here is your King' but they shouted 'Away with him! Crucify him!' To which Pilate asked 'Shall I crucify your King?' Chief priests answered 'We have no king but Caesar.' Finally handed over them be crucified took place called Skull (Golgotha) there nailed cross along two others one either side Jesus middle above head notice read 'Jesus Nazareth King Jews' written Hebrew Latin Greek chief priests protested wording but Pilate answered what written written (John 19:13-22).

3rd Paragraph: As Jesus hung on cross soldiers divided clothes casting lots fulfill scripture while standing by cross mother mother's sister Mary wife Clopas Mary Magdalene seeing mother disciple loved said woman here son disciple here mother from time disciple took into home after knowing everything now finished fulfill scripture said thirst given wine vinegar soaked sponge hyssop lifted mouth received drink said finished bowed head gave spirit since day preparation bodies left crosses Sabbath approaching asked legs broken bodies taken down soldiers did so thieves either side found already dead did not break legs instead pierced side spear bringing sudden flow blood water these things happened so that scripture would be fulfilled not one his bones will be broken another says will look one they have pierced later Joseph Arimathea asked permission take body which granted Nicodemus brought mixture myrrh aloes about hundred pounds weight took body wrapped strips linen spices manner Jewish burial custom at place where crucified garden new tomb one yet been laid because Jewish day Preparation tomb nearby laid there ending chapter (John 19:23-42).

John 19:1 Then Pilate therefore took Jesus, and scourged him.

Pilate scourged Jesus.

1: Jesus endured unimaginable suffering for our salvation.

2: The power of Jesus' love demonstrated by his willingness to take suffering upon himself.

1: Isaiah 53:5 - "But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed."

2: 1 Peter 2:24 - "He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed."

John 19:2 And the soldiers platted a crown of thorns, and put it on his head, and they put on him a purple robe,

This passage describes the soldiers crowning Jesus with a crown of thorns and a purple robe.

1. The Crown of Thorns: A Symbol of Humility and Suffering

2. Wearing the Robe of Righteousness: An Example to Follow

1. Philippians 2:5-8 - “Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.”

2. Romans 5:8 - “But God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”

John 19:3 And said, Hail, King of the Jews! and they smote him with their hands.

Pilate asked the crowd whether or not to release Jesus, and they shouted for him to be crucified. Pilate then mocked Jesus by saying "Hail, King of the Jews!" and the crowd struck him with their hands.

1. The Suffering and Sacrifice of Jesus

2. The Power of the Crowd

1. Isaiah 53:7-8 He was oppressed and afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth; he was led like a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before its shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth.

2. Matthew 26:67-68 Then they spit in his face and struck him with their fists. Others slapped him and said, “Prophesy to us, Messiah. Who hit you?”

John 19:4 Pilate therefore went forth again, and saith unto them, Behold, I bring him forth to you, that ye may know that I find no fault in him.

Pilate, after finding no fault in Jesus, brings him out to the crowd so that they too may know of his innocence.

1. The Innocence of Jesus: How Pilate's Actions Speak Louder Than Words

2. The Power of Discernment: Pilate's Ability to Recognize Innocence

1. Isaiah 53:9 - He was assigned a grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death, though he had done no violence, nor was any deceit in his mouth.

2. Matthew 27:11-14 - Jesus stood before the governor, and the governor asked him, “Are you the King of the Jews?” Jesus said, “You have said so.” But when he was accused by the chief priests and elders, he gave no answer. Then Pilate said to him, “Do you not hear how many things they testify against you?” But he gave him no answer, not even to a single charge, so that the governor was greatly amazed.

John 19:5 Then came Jesus forth, wearing the crown of thorns, and the purple robe. And Pilate saith unto them, Behold the man!

The passage tells of Jesus being presented before Pilate wearing a crown of thorns and a purple robe.

1. "The Humiliation of Christ: Embracing the Suffering of Jesus"

2. "The Majesty of Christ: A King Among Men"

1. Isaiah 53:3-5 - He is despised and rejected by men, a Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. And we hid, as it were, our faces from Him; He was despised, and we did not esteem Him.

4. Philippians 2:5-8 - Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross.

John 19:6 When the chief priests therefore and officers saw him, they cried out, saying, Crucify him, crucify him. Pilate saith unto them, Take ye him, and crucify him: for I find no fault in him.

The chief priests and officers demanded Jesus' crucifixion, but Pilate found no fault in him.

1. The Innocent Jesus: Reflections on the Suffering of an Innocent Man

2. Finding Fault in Jesus: Examining the Chief Priest's Demand for Crucifixion

1. Isaiah 53:4-5 - Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.

2. Romans 5:8 - But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

John 19:7 The Jews answered him, We have a law, and by our law he ought to die, because he made himself the Son of God.

The Jews declared that Jesus should die in accordance with their law, as He had declared Himself to be the Son of God.

1. Rejecting Jesus' Divinity: The Consequences of Unbelief

2. The Power of Faith: Believing in Jesus as the Son of God

1. Isaiah 53:3-6 - He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief; and as one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not.

2. John 3:16-17 - For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

John 19:8 When Pilate therefore heard that saying, he was the more afraid;

Pilate was deeply troubled by Jesus' words.

1. Fear of the Unknown: An Exploration of Jesus' Words to Pilate

2. The Power of Faith: Understanding Pilate's Response to Jesus

Cross-

1. Matthew 27:22-26 - Pilate's encounter with Jesus before the crucifixion

2. Hebrews 11:1-3 - The faith of those who have gone before us

John 19:9 And went again into the judgment hall, and saith unto Jesus, Whence art thou? But Jesus gave him no answer.

Pilate asked Jesus where he was from, but Jesus did not answer.

1. The Power of Silence - Exploring the significance of Jesus' silence in the face of Pilate's question.

2. Faith in the Face of Adversity - Examining the strength of Jesus' faith in the face of questioning from Pilate.

1. Proverbs 17:28 - Even a fool who keeps silent is considered wise; when he closes his lips, he is deemed intelligent.

2. Matthew 27:12-14 - When he was accused by the chief priests and the elders, he gave no answer. Then Pilate asked him, "Don't you hear the testimony they are bringing against you?" But Jesus made no reply, not even to a single charge—to the great amazement of the governor.

John 19:10 Then saith Pilate unto him, Speakest thou not unto me? knowest thou not that I have power to crucify thee, and have power to release thee?

Pilate questions Jesus, asking if he is aware of the power Pilate has to either crucify or release him.

1. The Power of Choice: A Study of How Jesus Responded to Pilate's Question

2. True Strength: Examining Jesus' Response to Pilate in the Face of Great Adversity

1. Matthew 27:11-26 - Pilate's interaction with the chief priests and the crowd, as well as his decision to crucify Jesus.

2. Philippians 2:5-8 - Jesus' attitude of humility and obedience in the face of suffering.

John 19:11 Jesus answered, Thou couldest have no power at all against me, except it were given thee from above: therefore he that delivered me unto thee hath the greater sin.

Jesus demonstrates that God's sovereignty is greater than earthly power.

1. God is Always in Control

2. The Sinfulness of Betrayal

1. Romans 13:1, "Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God."

2. Proverbs 17:15, "He that justifieth the wicked, and he that condemneth the just, even they both are abomination to the LORD."

John 19:12 And from thenceforth Pilate sought to release him: but the Jews cried out, saying, If thou let this man go, thou art not Caesar's friend: whosoever maketh himself a king speaketh against Caesar.

The Jews were trying to pressure Pilate into sentencing Jesus to death, claiming that if he released Him, he would not be a friend of Caesar.

1. We should always strive to be loyal to those in authority, no matter the cost.

2. We should recognize the power of peer pressure and how it can influence our decisions.

1. Romans 13:1-7 - Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God.

2. Proverbs 29:25 - The fear of man bringeth a snare: but whoso putteth his trust in the Lord shall be safe.

John 19:13 When Pilate therefore heard that saying, he brought Jesus forth, and sat down in the judgment seat in a place that is called the Pavement, but in the Hebrew, Gabbatha.

Jesus is brought before Pilate and seated in the judgment seat on Gabbatha.

1: Why Jesus is the Righteous Judge

2: The Power of Pilate's Authority

1: Ephesians 2:2-3 in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience

2: Isaiah 53:5 But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.

John 19:14 And it was the preparation of the passover, and about the sixth hour: and he saith unto the Jews, Behold your King!

On the day of Preparation for the Passover, Jesus declared to the Jews that He was their King.

1. The King of Kings: Jesus the Messiah

2. He is Risen: Jesus’ Resurrection and His Kingship

1. Isaiah 9:6-7 - For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The

mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.

2. Revelation 19:16 - And he hath on his vesture and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS.

John 19:15 But they cried out, Away with him, away with him, crucify him. Pilate saith unto them, Shall I crucify your King? The chief priests answered, We have no king but Caesar.

The chief priests refused to accept Jesus as their King and instead declared they only had Caesar as their ruler.

1. "The Danger of Rejecting Jesus as King"

2. "The Cost of Rejecting Jesus' Authority"

1. Matthew 27:22-23 - "And they had then a notable prisoner, called Barabbas. Therefore when they were gathered together, Pilate said unto them, Whom will ye that I release unto you? Barabbas, or Jesus which is called Christ?"

2. John 18:33-38 - "Then Pilate entered into the judgment hall again, and called Jesus, and said unto him, Art thou the King of the Jews? Jesus answered him, Sayest thou this thing of thyself, or did others tell it thee of me? Pilate answered, Am I a Jew? Thine own nation and the chief priests have delivered thee unto me: what hast thou done?"

John 19:16 Then delivered he him therefore unto them to be crucified. And they took Jesus, and led him away.

The Roman soldiers took Jesus away to be crucified after Pilate had delivered him to them.

1. The Power of Surrender: Learning to Let Go and Follow Jesus

2. The Price of Redemption: The Cost of Following Jesus

1. Matthew 16:24-25 - Then Jesus said to his disciples, "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will find it.

2. Philippians 2:8 - And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death—even death on a cross!

John 19:17 And he bearing his cross went forth into a place called the place of a skull, which is called in the Hebrew Golgotha:

The passage is about Jesus carrying His cross to a place called Golgotha.

1. The Cross: A Symbol of Strength and Victory

2. The Power of Surrendering Our Lives to God

1. Isaiah 53:4-5 - Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his stripes we are healed.

2. Philippians 2:8 - And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

John 19:18 Where they crucified him, and two other with him, on either side one, and Jesus in the midst.

Jesus was crucified between two criminals at Golgotha.

1. The Sacrifice of Jesus: A Model of Selflessness

2. The Crucifixion of Jesus: God's Expression of Love

1. Ephesians 5:2: "And walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweetsmelling savour."

2. Isaiah 53:4-5: "Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed."

John 19:19 And Pilate wrote a title, and put it on the cross. And the writing was, JESUS OF NAZARETH THE KING OF THE JEWS.

The Pilate wrote a title that said "Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews" and placed it on the cross.

1: The power of Pilate's words show us that the truth of Jesus' identity is meant to be proclaimed.

2: Jesus was not just a man, but a king and it is important to recognize and honor that.

1: Isaiah 9:6-7 - For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

2: Philippians 2:9-11 - Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

John 19:20 This title then read many of the Jews: for the place where Jesus was crucified was nigh to the city: and it was written in Hebrew, and Greek, and Latin.

This passage tells of the title written above Jesus' cross which was written in Hebrew, Greek, and Latin, and was read by many of the Jews.

1. The Cross of Jesus: A Sign of God's Love

2. The Cross of Jesus: A Sign of Salvation for All People

1. Romans 5:8 - But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

2. Galatians 3:13 - Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us, for it is written: “Cursed is everyone who is hung on a pole.”

John 19:21 Then said the chief priests of the Jews to Pilate, Write not, The King of the Jews; but that he said, I am King of the Jews.

The chief priests of the Jews asked Pilate not to write "The King of the Jews" on a sign for Jesus, but rather that Jesus said "I am King of the Jews".

1. Jesus' Kingship: The Ultimate Authority

2. Our Response to Jesus' Kingship: Submission and Obedience

1. Psalm 2:10-12 - “Now therefore, O kings, be wise; be warned, O rulers of the earth. Serve the Lord with fear, and rejoice with trembling. Kiss the Son, lest he be angry, and you perish in the way, for his wrath is quickly kindled. Blessed are all who take refuge in him.”

2. Daniel 4:34-35 - “At the end of the days I, Nebuchadnezzar, lifted my eyes to heaven, and my reason returned to me, and I blessed the Most High, and praised and honored him who lives forever, for his dominion is an everlasting dominion, and his kingdom endures from generation to generation; all the inhabitants of the earth are accounted as nothing, and he does according to his will among the host of heaven and among the inhabitants of the earth; and none can stay his hand or say to him, ‘What have you done?’”

John 19:22 Pilate answered, What I have written I have written.

This passage reveals Pilate's decision to stand firm in his writing and not be swayed by the people's requests.

1. "The Power of Standing Firm in Your Beliefs"

2. "How to Remain Steadfast in Your Convictions"

1. Romans 5:3-5 - "Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. And hope does not put us to shame, because God’s love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us."

2. 2 Timothy 1:7 - "For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind."

John 19:23 Then the soldiers, when they had crucified Jesus, took his garments, and

made four parts, to every soldier a part; and also his coat: now the coat was without seam, woven from the top throughout.

The soldiers divided Jesus' clothing among themselves after crucifying him. His coat was without a seam, woven from the top down.

1. The Power of Humility: Jesus' humbly submitting to death on the cross demonstrated his great power and love for us.

2. The Riches of Sacrifice: Jesus' sacrifice of his clothing to the soldiers shows us the power of sacrificing for others.

1. Philippians 2:8 - "And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death—even death on a cross!"

2. Matthew 5:40 - "And if anyone wants to sue you and take your tunic, let him have your cloak also."

John 19:24 They said therefore among themselves, Let us not rend it, but cast lots for it, whose it shall be: that the scripture might be fulfilled, which saith, They parted my raiment among them, and for my vesture they did cast lots. These things therefore the soldiers did.

The soldiers at the crucifixion of Jesus decided to cast lots for his clothing, so that the Scripture would be fulfilled.

1. God's Perfect Plan: Learning to Trust in His Sovereignty

2. Fulfilling Your Part in God's Story

1. Isaiah 53:12 Therefore will I divide him a portion with the great, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong; because he hath poured out his soul unto death: and he was numbered with the transgressors; and he bare the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.

2. Psalm 22:18 They part my garments among them, and cast lots upon my vesture.

John 19:25 Now there stood by the cross of Jesus his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Cleophas, and Mary Magdalene.

At the cross of Jesus, his mother Mary, his mother's sister Mary the wife of Cleophas, and Mary Magdalene stood by him.

1. The Faithfulness of Mary and the Women at the Cross

2. The Strength of Family in Times of Difficulty

1. Romans 8:28 - "And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose."

2. Psalm 34:19 - "A righteous man may have many troubles, but the LORD delivers him from them all."

John 19:26 When Jesus therefore saw his mother, and the disciple standing by, whom he loved, he saith unto his mother, Woman, behold thy son!

Jesus, while on the cross, looked at his mother and the disciple he loved and said to his mother, "Woman, behold thy son!"

1. The Love of Christ: How Jesus Showed His Love for His Mother and Disciple

2. The Power of Jesus' Words: How Jesus' Final Words Spoke Volumes

1. Matthew 10:37, “He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me; and he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me.”

2. John 15:13, “Greater love has no one than this, that one lay down his life for his friends.”

John 19:27 Then saith he to the disciple, Behold thy mother! And from that hour that disciple took her unto his own home.

Jesus entrusts his mother into the care of one of his disciples, who takes her home with him.

1. The Power of Entrusting: Learning to Trust in Jesus

2. The Greatest Gift of Love: Caring for the Ones We Love

1. John 15:13 - "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends."

2. Galatians 6:2 - "Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ."

John 19:28 After this, Jesus knowing that all things were now accomplished, that the scripture might be fulfilled, saith, I thirst.

Jesus acknowledges his thirst and states that the scripture may be fulfilled.

1. The Power of Fulfilling God's Plan: A Study of Jesus in John 19:28

2. The Sacrifice of Christ: An Examination of Jesus' Thirst in John 19:28

1. Psalm 22:15 - “My strength is dried up like a potsherd, and my tongue cleaves to my jaws; you lay me in the dust of death.”

2. Isaiah 53:7 - “He was oppressed and afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth; he was led like a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before its shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth.”

John 19:29 Now there was set a vessel full of vinegar: and they filled a spunge with vinegar, and put it upon hyssop, and put it to his mouth.

Jesus was offered vinegar on a sponge while on the cross.

1. The Sacrifice of Jesus and His Compassion for Humanity

2. Jesus' Death and Our Salvation

1. Isaiah 53:4-5 - “Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his stripes we are healed.”

2. Philippians 2:8 - "And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross."

John 19:30 When Jesus therefore had received the vinegar, he said, It is finished: and he bowed his head, and gave up the ghost.

It is finished: Jesus completed the work He was sent to do before giving up His life.

1. The Power of Jesus' Words: How Jesus' Last Words Changed Everything

2. The Significance of Jesus' Death: Understanding the Depth of Jesus' Sacrifice

1. Isaiah 53:5-12

2. Colossians 1:15-20

John 19:31 The Jews therefore, because it was the preparation, that the bodies should not remain upon the cross on the sabbath day, (for that sabbath day was an high day,) besought Pilate that their legs might be broken, and that they might be taken away.

The Jews asked Pilate to break the legs of the crucified so that the bodies would not remain on the cross on the Sabbath day.

1. Jesus' death on the cross was not only a sign of His great sacrifice, but a reminder of the importance of observing God's commands.

2. In the midst of suffering and death, Jesus' followers still sought to honor God's law.

1. Hebrews 4:14-16 - Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has gone through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess. 15 For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet he did not sin. 16 Let us then approach God’s throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.

2. Matthew 5:17-19 - “Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. 18 For truly I tell you, until heaven and

earth disappear, not the smallest letter, not the least stroke of a pen, will by any means disappear from the Law until everything is accomplished. 19 Therefore anyone who sets aside one of the least of these commands and teaches others accordingly will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever practices and teaches these commands will be called great in the kingdom of heaven.

John 19:32 Then came the soldiers, and brake the legs of the first, and of the other which was crucified with him.

John 19 talks about the crucifixion of Jesus and the soldiers breaking the legs of the two men crucified with Him.

1. The Power of Sacrifice: Learning from Jesus' Example

2. The Strength of Love: How Jesus Showed Unconditional Commitment

1. Philippians 2:5-11 - Jesus' selfless attitude of humility and obedience.

2. Romans 5:6-8 - Jesus' willingness to lay down His life for others.

John 19:33 But when they came to Jesus, and saw that he was dead already, they brake not his legs:

The soldiers did not break Jesus's legs when they found out he was already dead.

1. The Power of Jesus' Sacrifice: How Jesus' Death Changed Everything

2. The Mercy of God: How Jesus' Death Demonstrated God's Grace

1. Isaiah 53:5 - "But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed."

2. Hebrews 9:22 - "Indeed, under the law almost everything is purified with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins."

John 19:34 But one of the soldiers with a spear pierced his side, and forthwith came there out blood and water.

This passage in John 19:34 describes how one of the soldiers pierced Jesus' side with a spear, and blood and water came out.

1. The Sacrifice of Jesus: His Death and Its Significance

2. The Uniqueness of Jesus: His Crucifixion and Its Power

1. Isaiah 53:4-5 - Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his stripes we are healed.

2. Ephesians 2:13-16 - But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. For he himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility by abolishing the law of commandments expressed in ordinances, that he might create in himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace, and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby killing the hostility.

John 19:35 And he that saw it bare record, and his record is true: and he knoweth that he saith true, that ye might believe.

This verse emphasizes the importance of faith in Jesus Christ's testimony.

1: The Recount of Jesus's Testimony - The importance of faith in Jesus Christ's words and mission.

2: The Witness of Jesus's Testimony - The power of belief in Jesus Christ's truth.

1: Hebrews 11:1 - "Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen."

2: Romans 10:17 - "So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ."

John 19:36 For these things were done, that the scripture should be fulfilled, A bone of him shall not be broken.

This passage explains that Jesus' bones were not broken in fulfillment of scripture.

1. Jesus' fulfillment of scripture proves His obedience to God's will.

2. Jesus' perfect sacrifice demonstrates His love for us.

1. Isaiah 53:5 - "But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed."

2. Psalm 34:20 - "He keeps all his bones; not one of them is broken."

John 19:37 And again another scripture saith, They shall look on him whom they pierced.

John 19:37 tells us that those who have pierced Jesus will look to Him.

1. "The Piercing of Jesus - A Call to Repentance"

2. "Jesus - The Ultimate Sacrifice"

1. Isaiah 53:5 - "But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed."

2. Ezekiel 39:25 - "Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD; Now will I bring again the captivity of Jacob, and have mercy upon the whole house of Israel, and will be jealous for my holy name."

John 19:38 And after this Joseph of Arimathaea, being a disciple of Jesus, but secretly for fear of the Jews, besought Pilate that he might take away the body of Jesus: and Pilate gave him leave. He came therefore, and took the body of Jesus.

Joseph of Arimathaea, a disciple of Jesus, asked Pilate for permission to take away the body of Jesus after his death. Pilate granted the request, and Joseph took the body of Jesus away.

1. The True Devotion of a Disciple: The Story of Joseph of Arimathaea

2. Overcoming Fear and Doing What is Right: Joseph of Arimathaea

1. Matthew 16:24-26 - “Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me. For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it. For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?”

2. John 15:13 - “Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.”

John 19:39 And there came also Nicodemus, which at the first came to Jesus by night, and brought a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about an hundred pound weight.

Nicodemus visited Jesus and brought a hundred pounds of myrrh and aloes.

1. The Gift of Nicodemus: A Lesson in Generosity

2. Taking a Stand: Nicodemus and His Support of Jesus

1. John 12:42-43 - "Nevertheless among the chief rulers also many believed on him; but because of the Pharisees they did not confess him, lest they should be put out of the synagogue: For they loved the praise of men more than the praise of God."

2. Matthew 6:19-21 - "Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also."

John 19:40 Then took they the body of Jesus, and wound it in linen clothes with the spices, as the manner of the Jews is to bury.

The Jews wound Jesus' body in linen clothes with spices as was their custom for burying.

1. We can learn from Jesus' example of humbly accepting death and burial according to the customs of his people.

2. The importance of honoring the customs and traditions of our ancestors.

1. Matthew 27:59-60 - When Joseph had taken the body, he wrapped it in a clean linen cloth, and laid it in his own new tomb which he had hewn out in the rock; and he rolled a large stone against the entrance of the tomb and went away.

2. 2 Chronicles 16:14 - They buried him in his own tomb, which he had cut out in the city of David. They laid him on a bier covered with cloths and made an immense fire in his honor.

John 19:41 Now in the place where he was crucified there was a garden; and in the garden a new sepulchre, wherein was never man yet laid.

This passage from John 19:41 describes the location of Jesus' crucifixion, a garden with a new sepulchre that had never been used before.

1. The Garden of Death: The Symbolism of Jesus' Crucifixion

2. Ascending to New Life: The Significance of the New Sepulchre

1. Isaiah 53:9 - And he made his grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death; because he had done no violence, neither was any deceit in his mouth.

2. Luke 23:50-53 - Now there was a man named Joseph, from the Jewish town of Arimathea. He was a member of the council, a good and righteous man, who had not consented to their decision and action; and he was looking for the kingdom of God. This man went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Then he took it down and wrapped it in a linen shroud and laid him in a tomb cut in stone, where no one had ever yet been laid.

John 19:42 There laid they Jesus therefore because of the Jews' preparation day; for the sepulchre was nigh at hand.

Jesus was buried in a tomb near Jerusalem on the day of preparation for the Jewish Passover.

1. The Importance of Jesus' Burial

2. The Significance of the Jewish Preparation Day

1. Matthew 27:57-60 (Jesus is laid in the tomb of Joseph of Arimathea)

2. Luke 23:50-56 (The events of the preparation day and the burial of Jesus)

John 20 recounts the discovery of Jesus' empty tomb, His appearances to Mary Magdalene and His disciples, and Thomas' doubt and subsequent belief.

1st Paragraph: The chapter begins with Mary Magdalene visiting the tomb early on the first day of the week while it was still dark. She saw that the stone had been removed from the entrance of the tomb. She ran to Simon Peter and John, telling them that they have taken Lord out of tomb we don't know where they have put him. So Peter John ran to tomb found linen cloths lying there but body then John also went in saw believed although did not understand from Scripture Jesus had rise dead disciples went back home but Mary stood outside crying as she wept bent over looked into saw two angels in white where Jesus' body had been (John 20:1-12).

2nd Paragraph: As she turned around, she saw Jesus standing there, but did not recognize Him at first thinking He was gardener asked Him if he knew where they had put Jesus' body. When He called her by name 'Mary,' she recognized Him and tried to cling to Him but He told her not hold on because he has not yet ascended Father go tell brothers going ascend Father your Father God your God so Mary Magdalene went disciples news seen Lord given these messages later evening same day when doors locked fear Jews came stood among them said Peace be with you showed hands side Disciples overjoyed see Lord again said Peace be with you as Father has sent me I am sending you breathed on them receive Holy Spirit anyone sins forgive forgiven sins retain retained (John 20:13-23).

3rd Paragraph: However, Thomas one twelve was not with them when Jesus came so other disciples told him 'We have seen Lord.' But he declared unless sees nail marks hands puts finger where nails were puts hand into side will believe week later disciples were house again Thomas was with them though doors locked Jesus came stood among them said 'Peace be with you!' Then said Thomas put finger here see hands reach out hand put into side stop doubting believe Thomas answered him 'My Lord my God!' Then Jesus told him 'Because you have seen me believed blessed those who have not seen yet believed.' John concludes chapter stating many other signs performed presence his disciples are written this book these are written that you may believe that Jesus is Messiah Son God by believing may have life his name (John 20:24-31).

John 20:1 The first day of the week cometh Mary Magdalene early, when it was yet dark, unto the sepulchre, and seeth the stone taken away from the sepulchre.

The stone of the sepulchre was taken away on the first day of the week.

1. The Stone of the Sepulchre and Jesus’ Resurrection: The Significance of the First Day of the Week

2. Mary Magdalene’s Faithful Journey to the Sepulchre

1. Matthew 28:1-10 - The account of Jesus’ resurrection on the first day of the week

2. Luke 24:1-12 - The account of the women’s visit to the sepulchre and their discovery of the empty tomb.

John 20:2 Then she runneth, and cometh to Simon Peter, and to the other disciple, whom Jesus loved, and saith unto them, They have taken away the LORD out of the sepulchre, and we know not where they have laid him.

Mary Magdalene runs to Simon Peter and the other disciple, John, to tell them that Jesus has been taken out of the tomb and the location of his body is unknown.

1. Jesus' death and resurrection serves as a reminder of God's power over death

2. The importance of having faith in God's plans for our lives

1. John 11:25-26 - Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die.

2. Isaiah 43:2 - When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you.

John 20:3 Peter therefore went forth, and that other disciple, and came to the sepulchre.

The two disciples, Peter and the other disciple, went to the sepulchre.

1: We should have faith to follow Jesus wherever He leads.

2: We should follow Jesus with courage, even in difficult times.

1: Hebrews 11:1, "Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen."

2: Matthew 28:20, "teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

John 20:4 So they ran both together: and the other disciple did outrun Peter, and came first to the sepulchre.

The other disciple ran to the sepulchre before Peter.

1. The Power of Perseverance: How to Outrun Your Fears

2. The Importance of Haste: Achieving Goals with Urgency

1. Isaiah 40:31 - "But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint."

2. Philippians 3:13-14 - "Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before. I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus."

John 20:5 And he stooping down, and looking in, saw the linen clothes lying; yet went he not in.

Mary Magdalene discovers that Jesus' tomb is empty and, although she peers inside, she does not enter.

1. Never forget the power of Jesus' resurrection - John 20:5

2. The courage of Mary Magdalene - John 20:5

1. Luke 24:12 - But Peter arose, and ran unto the sepulchre; and stooping down, he beheld the linen clothes laid by themselves, and departed, wondering in himself at that which was come to pass.

2. John 11:25 - Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live.

John 20:6 Then cometh Simon Peter following him, and went into the sepulchre, and seeth the linen clothes lie,

Simon Peter followed Jesus to the tomb and found the linen clothes lying there.

1. Jesus' Resurrection and the Power of Faith

2. Following Jesus and the Strength of Obedience

1. Romans 8:28 - And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.

2. John 21:18 - Then Jesus said, “Feed my lambs.”

John 20:7 And the napkin, that was about his head, not lying with the linen clothes, but wrapped together in a place by itself.

Mary Magdalene discovers that Jesus' body is no longer in the tomb, and she finds his burial cloths neatly folded in a separate place.

1. Jesus' Resurrection: An Unmistakable Sign of His Divinity

2. The Resurrection of Jesus: A Sign of God's Unfailing Love

1. Matthew 28:5-6 - The angel proclaims Jesus' resurrection to the women at the tomb.

2. Isaiah 25:8 - God will swallow up death in victory.

John 20:8 Then went in also that other disciple, which came first to the sepulchre, and he saw, and believed.

The other disciple who arrived at the tomb first, entered and believed what he saw.

1. The power of faith in Jesus Christ

2. The importance of witnessing a miracle

1. Romans 10:17 - So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.

2. John 11:25-26 - Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die.”

John 20:9 For as yet they knew not the scripture, that he must rise again from the dead.

The disciples did not yet understand the scripture that Jesus would rise from the dead.

1. "Hope in the Resurrection"

2. "The Power of the Word of God"

1. Romans 10:17 - So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.

2. 1 Corinthians 15:20-22 - But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive.

John 20:10 Then the disciples went away again unto their own home.

The disciples left for their own homes after seeing the resurrected Jesus.

1. God's faithfulness will never fail us even when things seem to be at their darkest.

2. The power of Jesus' resurrection should encourage us to live faithfully in response.

1. Psalm 91:2 - "I will say of the Lord, He is my refuge and my fortress: my God; in him will I trust."

2. Romans 6:4-5 - "Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life."

John 20:11 But Mary stood without at the sepulchre weeping: and as she wept, she stooped down, and looked into the sepulchre,

Mary's response to Jesus' resurrection was one of sorrow and grief.

1: We need to remember that there is a time to mourn and a time to rejoice.

2: Martha and Mary both grieved in different ways for Jesus, and we can learn from them how to express our grief.

1: Romans 12:15 - Rejoice with them that do rejoice, and weep with them that weep.

2: John 11:35 - Jesus wept.

John 20:12 And seeth two angels in white sitting, the one at the head, and the other at the feet, where the body of Jesus had lain.

The body of Jesus had been attended to by two angels in white, one at the head and one at the feet.

1. The Comfort of Angels: How God’s Messengers Provide Protection and Peace

2. The Promise of Eternal Life: How Jesus’ Death and Resurrection Offer Hope and Comfort

1. Matthew 28:2-6 - The angel who rolled away the stone from Jesus’ tomb

2. Hebrews 1:14 - Angels as ministering spirits sent to serve those who will inherit salvation.

John 20:13 And they say unto her, Woman, why weepest thou? She saith unto them, Because they have taken away my LORD, and I know not where they have laid him.

Mary Magdalene is found weeping outside the tomb of Jesus. The disciples ask her why she is crying and she tells them that Jesus has been taken away and she does not know where they have laid him.

1. Living in Faith in Difficult Times - A study of Mary Magdalene's courage in the face of tragedy.

2. The Power of Hope in Times of Despair - How Mary Magdalene's faith in Christ sustained her in the face of great loss.

1. Romans 8:28 - And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.

2. 1 Peter 5:7 - Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you.

John 20:14 And when she had thus said, she turned herself back, and saw Jesus standing, and knew not that it was Jesus.

Mary Magdalene goes to the tomb of Jesus on Easter Sunday and finds it empty. She turns away in grief, but then turns back and sees Jesus standing there, though she does not recognize him.

1. Trust in God's plan, even when it is not clear.

2. Even in the darkest of times, look for the light of hope.

1. Romans 8:18: “For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us.”

2. Psalm 34:18: “The Lord is near to the brokenhearted and saves the crushed in spirit.”

John 20:15 Jesus saith unto her, Woman, why weepest thou? whom seekest thou? She, supposing him to be the gardener, saith unto him, Sir, if thou have borne him hence, tell me where thou hast laid him, and I will take him away.

Mary Magdalene mistakes Jesus as the gardener and expresses her sorrow in the hopes of finding Jesus.

1. Jesus understands our grief and sorrow, and is there to comfort us during difficult times.

2. We must recognize Jesus in all of our encounters and trust his guidance.

1. Isaiah 41:10 - "fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand."

2. Isaiah 40:11 - "He will tend his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms; he will carry them in his bosom, and gently lead those that are with young."

John 20:16 Jesus saith unto her, Mary. She turned herself, and saith unto him, Rabboni; which is to say, Master.

Mary's joyous reunion with Jesus: Mary recognizes the resurrected Jesus and calls him Master.

1. The Joy of Christ's Resurrection: Recognizing and Rejoicing in Our Savior

2. Experiencing the Master: Knowing the Love of Jesus in Our Lives

1. Romans 6:4-5 - “Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.”

2. Psalm 54:4 - “Behold, God is my helper; The Lord is with those who uphold my life.”

John 20:17 Jesus saith unto her, Touch me not; for I am not yet ascended to my Father: but go to my brethren, and say unto them, I ascend unto my Father, and your Father; and to my God, and your God.

Jesus instructs Mary to let go of Him and to go and tell His disciples that He has ascended to His Father in Heaven.

1: We should trust in Jesus and His promises, for He will always ascend to His Father in Heaven.

2: Jesus has given us a mission to share His good news with others, just as He instructed

Mary to do.

1: Philippians 3:20-21 - For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself.

2: Matthew 28:19-20 - Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.

John 20:18 Mary Magdalene came and told the disciples that she had seen the LORD, and that he had spoken these things unto her.

Mary Magdalene announces to the disciples that she has seen the risen Jesus.

1: The Resurrection of Jesus - John 20:18

2: The Power of Jesus' Presence - John 20:18

1: Romans 6:9 - For we know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him.

2: Acts 2:24 - But God raised him from the dead, releasing him from the agony of death, because it was impossible for death to keep its hold on him.

John 20:19 Then the same day at evening, being the first day of the week, when the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled for fear of the Jews, came Jesus and stood in the midst, and saith unto them, Peace be unto you.

On the first day of the week, the disciples were gathered in fear of the Jews when Jesus appeared and said "Peace be unto you".

1. The Peace of Christ in the Midst of Fear

2. The Assurance of Jesus's Presence

1. Isaiah 9:6 - For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.

2. Hebrews 13:5 - Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.

John 20:20 And when he had so said, he shewed unto them his hands and his side. Then were the disciples glad, when they saw the LORD.

Jesus showed the disciples his hands and side, and the disciples were overjoyed upon seeing Him.

1. Jesus Is Alive - The Miraculous Resurrection of Our Savior

2. Rejoice in the Lord - Finding Joy through Knowing Jesus

1. Luke 24:39 – “See my hands and my feet, that it is I myself. Touch me, and see. For a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have.”

2. 1 Peter 1:8 – “Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory.”

John 20:21 Then said Jesus to them again, Peace be unto you: as my Father hath sent me, even so send I you.

Jesus commissioned the disciples to continue his ministry and spread peace.

1: Jesus left us a legacy of peace and hope, and we are called to carry it forward.

2: We are commissioned to continue Jesus' ministry and bring peace to the world.

1: John 14:27 - “Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.”

2: Matthew 28:19-20 - “Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all

things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.”

John 20:22 And when he had said this, he breathed on them, and saith unto them, Receive ye the Holy Ghost:

Jesus breathes on the disciples and gives them the Holy Spirit.

1. The Power of the Breath of God

2. Receive, Believe and Rejoice in the Holy Spirit

1. Acts 2:1-4 - The Coming of the Holy Spirit

2. Ezekiel 37:1-14 - The Valley of Dry Bones and the Breath of God

John 20:23 Whose soever sins ye remit, they are remitted unto them; and whose soever sins ye retain, they are retained.

Jesus gives his disciples authority to forgive or retain sins.

1. The Power of Forgiveness: How Jesus Empowers Us to Forgive

2. The Authority of the Church: How We Are Called to Retain Sin

1. Luke 6:37: "Judge not, and you will not be judged; condemn not, and you will not be condemned; forgive, and you will be forgiven"

2. Matthew 18:18: "Truly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.”

John 20:24 But Thomas, one of the twelve, called Didymus, was not with them when Jesus came.

The disciples witnessed the resurrected Jesus, except for Thomas.

1. The Power of Faith: How to Believe Without Seeing

2. The Rewards of Patience: The Joy of Being Present

1. Hebrews 11:1 - Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.

2. 1 Thessalonians 5:18 - Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

John 20:25 The other disciples therefore said unto him, We have seen the LORD. But he said unto them, Except I shall see in his hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and thrust my hand into his side, I will not believe.

The other disciples tell Thomas that they have seen the Lord, but Thomas insists that he will not believe until he has seen the physical proof of the wounds of Jesus.

1. Believing is Seeing: Increasing Our Faith Through Doubt

2. Doubt and Faith: What We Can Learn from Thomas

1. Psalm 37:5 - Commit thy way unto the LORD; trust also in him; and he shall bring it to pass.

2. Romans 10:17 - So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

John 20:26 And after eight days again his disciples were within, and Thomas with them: then came Jesus, the doors being shut, and stood in the midst, and said, Peace be unto you.

Jesus appeared to his disciples eight days after his resurrection, when the doors were shut. He greeted them with peace.

1. The Power of Faith: Jesus' Appearance to His Disciples

2. The Peace of the Risen Lord: Jesus' Greeting to His Disciples

1. Romans 5:1-2 - Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand.

2. Hebrews 13:20 - Now may the God of peace, who through the blood of the eternal covenant brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, equip you with everything good for doing his will.

John 20:27 Then saith he to Thomas, Reach hither thy finger, and behold my hands; and reach hither thy hand, and thrust it into my side: and be not faithless, but believing.

Jesus offered Thomas the opportunity to prove his resurrection by touching his wounds. He encouraged Thomas to have faith.

1. "The Evidence of Faith"

2. "The Power of Doubt"

1. Hebrews 11:1 - "Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen."

2. Romans 10:17 - "So faith comes from what is heard, and what is heard comes through the message about Christ."

John 20:28 And Thomas answered and said unto him, My LORD and my God.

The passage reveals Thomas' recognition of Jesus as his Lord and God.

1. Recognizing Jesus as Our Lord and God

2. Learning from Thomas' Faith in Jesus

1. Philippians 2:5-11 - Have the same mindset as Jesus Christ

2. Romans 10:9-10 - Confessing with your mouth and believing in your heart that Jesus is Lord and God.

John 20:29 Jesus saith unto him, Thomas, because thou hast seen me, thou hast believed: blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed.

Believers who have not seen Jesus are still blessed.

1: We serve a God of faith, not sight.

2: Seeing is not a prerequisite for faith in Jesus.

1: Hebrews 11:1 - Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.

2: Matthew 17:20 - He said to them, “Because of your little faith. For truly, I say to you, if you have faith like a grain of mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, ‘Move from here to there,’ and it will move, and nothing will be impossible for you.”

John 20:30 And many other signs truly did Jesus in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book:

John's Gospel records many miraculous signs of Jesus' power and authority.

1. Jesus' Power and Authority: A Sign of the Kingdom of Heaven

2. A Call to Believe in the Miracles of Jesus

1. Matthew 11:2-5 - Jesus sends the disciples out to perform miracles

2. Psalm 103:1-5 - Praise for the Lord's miracles and power

John 20:31 But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name.

This passage emphasizes the importance of having faith in Jesus Christ as the Son of God in order to have life through his name.

1. The Power of Faith: How Trusting in Jesus Brings Eternal Life

2. The Grace of Salvation: How Believe in Christ Brings Abundant Life

1. Romans 10:9-10: "If you declare with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved."

2. Ephesians 2:8: "For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God"

John 21 recounts the third appearance of Jesus to His disciples after His resurrection, a miraculous catch of fish, and His conversation with Peter.

1st Paragraph: The chapter begins with Jesus appearing again to his disciples by the Sea of Galilee. Simon Peter, Thomas (also known as Didymus), Nathanael from Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two other disciples were together. Peter decided to go fishing but that night they caught nothing. Early in the morning, Jesus stood on the shore but disciples did not realize it was Him. He called out asking if they had any fish they answered no then He told them to throw their net on right side boat will find some when did were unable catch because large number fish realizing it was Lord Peter jumped into water others followed boat dragging net full fish (John 21:1-8).

2nd Paragraph: When they landed, they saw a fire of burning coals there with fish on it and some bread. Jesus asked them to bring some of the fish they had just caught so Simon Peter climbed back into boat dragged net ashore full large fish even though many net was not torn then invited them come eat none dared ask who he knew was Lord served bread gave them also this third time appeared disciples after raised dead (John 21:9-14).

3rd Paragraph: After breakfast, Jesus asked Simon Peter three times if he loved Him more than these others do which each time responded yes know love you each time instructed him 'Feed my lambs' 'Take care my sheep' 'Feed my sheep.' Then predicted by what kind death would glorify God saying when younger dressed went wanted but when older someone else dress lead where do not want go this he said indicate kind death would glorify God after said Follow me Turning around saw disciple whom loved following one who leaned back against him supper asked Lord going betray him asked what about him Jesus replied If want remain alive until return what is that you must follow me because this rumor spread among brothers disciple would not die but Jesus did not say that he would not die; He only said 'If I want him remain alive until I return what is that you?' John concludes chapter stating disciple testifying these things wrote them know his testimony true also many other things Jesus did every one written suppose even whole world would have room books written (John 21:15-25).

John 21:1 After these things Jesus shewed himself again to the disciples at the sea of Tiberias; and on this wise shewed he himself.

Jesus revealed Himself to the disciples at the Sea of Tiberias.

1. Jesus Reveals His Presence in Our Lives

2. The Importance of Following Jesus' Example

1. Isaiah 43:2 - When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you.

2. Matthew 5:14-16 - You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.

John 21:2 There were together Simon Peter, and Thomas called Didymus, and Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, and the sons of Zebedee, and two other of his disciples.

John is telling his audience about the presence of Simon Peter, Thomas, Nathanael, the sons of Zebedee, and two other disciples.

1. Jesus's disciples were devoted to him, and followed him even when faced with uncertainty and doubt.

2. Jesus's disciples were willing to be counted among him, and shared in his ministry.

1. Luke 5:11 - "And when they had brought their boats to land, they left everything and followed Him."

2. Matthew 10:37-39 - "He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me. He who finds his life will lose it, and he who loses his life for My sake will find it."

John 21:3 Simon Peter saith unto them, I go a fishing. They say unto him, We also go with thee. They went forth, and entered into a ship immediately; and that night they caught

nothing.

John and his disciples went fishing and caught nothing.

1: God may test us at times, but He still provides us with abundant blessings.

2: Even in moments of failure, God is with us and will provide.

1: Mathew 6:26 - Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them.

2: Psalm 121:1-2 - I lift up my eyes to the hills. From where does my help come? My help comes from the LORD, who made heaven and earth.

John 21:4 But when the morning was now come, Jesus stood on the shore: but the disciples knew not that it was Jesus.

The disciples were fishing in the morning when Jesus came to the shore, but they did not recognize Him.

1. Jesus is Always There for Us - Even When We Don't Recognize Him

2. We Are Not Alone - Jesus is Always Present in Our Lives

1. Luke 24:13-35 - The Road to Emmaus

2. John 20:19-29 - Jesus Appears to the Disciples After His Resurrection

John 21:5 Then Jesus saith unto them, Children, have ye any meat? They answered him, No.

Jesus asked the disciples if they had anything to eat.

1. The Power of Jesus' Love: Even in moments of hunger, Jesus showed his love for the disciples.

2. Provision in Times of Need: Jesus provided for the disciples when they had nothing.

1. Matthew 14:19-20 - And he commanded the multitude to sit down on the grass, and took the five loaves, and the two fishes, and looking up to heaven, he blessed, and brake, and gave the loaves to his disciples, and the disciples to the multitude.

2. Philippians 4:19 - But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

John 21:6 And he said unto them, Cast the net on the right side of the ship, and ye shall find. They cast therefore, and now they were not able to draw it for the multitude of fishes.

Jesus tells the disciples to cast their net on the right side of the ship and they catch a lot of fish.

1. The Power of Obedience - obeying God's commands brings abundance

2. The Provision of God - God abundantly provides for those who follow Him

1. Isaiah 55:10-11 - ?□or as the rain and the snow come down from heaven and do not return there but water the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, 11 so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

2. James 1:22-25 - But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. 23 For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks intently at his natural face in a mirror. 24 For he looks at himself and goes away and at once forgets what he was like. 25 But the one who looks into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and perseveres, being no hearer who forgets but a doer who acts, he will be blessed in his doing.

John 21:7 Therefore that disciple whom Jesus loved saith unto Peter, It is the Lord. Now when Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he girt his fisher's coat unto him, (for he was naked,) and did cast himself into the sea.

The beloved disciple recognized that it was Jesus, and Peter, upon hearing this, put on his coat and jumped into the sea to meet Jesus.

1. The power of faith demonstrated by Peter's courageous action of leaping into the sea to meet Jesus.

2. The love of Jesus demonstrated by the beloved disciple's recognition of Him.

1. Romans 8:38-39 - "For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord."

2. 1 John 4:19 - "We love because he first loved us."

John 21:8 And the other disciples came in a little ship; (for they were not far from land, but as it were two hundred cubits,) dragging the net with fishes.

The other disciples arrived in a small boat and were able to catch a large amount of fish in their net.

1. God Provides: Even in the midst of daunting tasks, God will provide the resources and guidance necessary to achieve success.

2. Invest in Others: Even when we do not have the capacity to accomplish a task on our own, God can use us to empower and invest in others to help us reach our goals.

1. Matthew 14:22-33 - Jesus walking on the water and calming the storm.

2. Matthew 19:26 - Jesus' teaching that with God, all things are possible.

John 21:9 As soon then as they were come to land, they saw a fire of coals there, and fish laid thereon, and bread.

Jesus appeared to the disciples and provided them with a meal of fish and bread cooking on a fire of coals.

1. Jesus is always there in our times of need.

2. God provides for us, even when we feel we have nothing.

1. Philippians 4:19 - And my God will supply all your needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus.

2. Psalm 34:10 - The young lions lack and suffer hunger; But those who seek the Lord shall not lack any good thing.

John 21:10 Jesus saith unto them, Bring of the fish which ye have now caught.

Jesus asked the disciples to bring the fish they had caught.

1: Jesus reminds us to be grateful and share our bounty with others.

2: Even in the midst of a difficult task, Jesus can provide us with a blessing.

1: Acts 4:32-35 - All the believers were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common.

2: 1 Timothy 6:17-19 - Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment.

John 21:11 Simon Peter went up, and drew the net to land full of great fishes, an hundred and fifty and three: and for all there were so many, yet was not the net broken.

Jesus provided an abundant catch of fish for the disciples and demonstrated his power over the natural world.

1: Jesus is the provider of abundance and his power is greater than any natural force.

2: We must learn to trust in the Lord for our needs and believe in his power.

1: Matthew 6:25-34 - Jesus encourages us not to worry and trust in God for our needs.

2: Psalm 23:1 - The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.

John 21:12 Jesus saith unto them, Come and dine. And none of the disciples durst ask

him, Who art thou? knowing that it was the Lord.

Jesus invited the disciples to dine with him and they recognized him without asking.

1. Jesus' invitation to dine is a reminder of his presence and love.

2. Jesus is always accessible to his followers, even in times of uncertainty.

1. 1 John 4:16 - And we have known and believed the love that God hath to us. God is love; and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him.

2. Luke 24:30-31 - And it came to pass, as he sat at meat with them, he took bread, and blessed it, and brake, and gave to them. And their eyes were opened, and they knew him; and he vanished out of their sight.

John 21:13 Jesus then cometh, and taketh bread, and giveth them, and fish likewise.

Jesus provides for the disciples' physical and spiritual needs.

1: Jesus is the Provider of all our Needs

2: Jesus Cares for His Disciples

1: Matthew 6:25-34 - Jesus teaches us not to worry and trust God to provide our needs.

2: Philippians 4:19 - God will supply all our needs according to His riches.

John 21:14 This is now the third time that Jesus shewed himself to his disciples, after that he was risen from the dead.

Jesus appeared to his disciples three times after his resurrection from the dead.

1. Jesus is Alive: Experiencing the Reality of the Resurrection

2. Jesus is the Way: Following His Path of Love

1. 1 Corinthians 15:3-8; For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, and then to the Twelve. After that, he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers and sisters at the same time, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep. Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles.

2. Matthew 28:5-7; The angel said to the women, ?□o not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples: ?□e has risen from the dead and is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him.??Now I have told you.??

John 21:15 So when they had dined, Jesus saith to Simon Peter, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me more than these? He saith unto him, Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love thee. He saith unto him, Feed my lambs.

Jesus teaches us the importance of loving Him and caring for others.

1: We must love the Lord above all else, and our love for Him will lead us to love and care for others.

2: We can show our love for Jesus by humbly caring for those around us.

1: 1 John 4:19-21 - We love because he first loved us. If anyone says, ?□ love God,??and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen. And this commandment we have from him: whoever loves God must also love his brother.

2: Matthew 22:39 - You shall love your neighbor as yourself.

John 21:16 He saith to him again the second time, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me? He saith unto him, Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love thee. He saith unto him, Feed my sheep.

Jesus reminds Peter of his love for him and commands him to care for the flock.

1: God calls us to love Him and to serve His people.

2: We are called to go out and serve those in need.

1: 1 John 4:19??1 - We love because he first loved us.

2: Matthew 28:16-20 - Go and make disciples of all nations.

John 21:17 He saith unto him the third time, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me? Peter was grieved because he said unto him the third time, Lovest thou me? And he said unto him, Lord, thou knowest all things; thou knowest that I love thee. Jesus saith unto him, Feed my sheep.

The passage conveys Jesus' call to Peter to care for His sheep and that Jesus is aware of Peter's love for Him.

1. "Love the Lord with All Your Heart" - A on the importance of loving the Lord, and how Peter's example can help guide us.

2. "Obedience and Love" - A on how Peter's obedience to Jesus' call, even when it was difficult, is a model for us to follow.

1. John 3:16 - For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

2. 1 John 4:7-8 - Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God. He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love.

John 21:18 Verily, verily, I say unto thee, When thou wast young, thou girdedst thyself, and walkedst whither thou wouldest: but when thou shalt be old, thou shalt stretch forth thy hands, and another shall gird thee, and carry thee whither thou wouldest not.

Jesus predicts the death of Peter at the hands of another.

1. How to Accept God's Will in Difficult Situations

2. The Rewards of Humility and Obedience

1. Matthew 10:39 - He that findeth his life shall lose it: and he that loseth his life for my

sake shall find it.

2. Philippians 2:7-8 - But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.

John 21:19 This spake he, signifying by what death he should glorify God. And when he had spoken this, he saith unto him, Follow me.

Jesus showed that he was willing to give his life to glorify God. He then asked Peter to follow him.

1. Jesus' Sacrifice - The Ultimate Example of Selflessness

2. Following Jesus - The Path to True Fulfillment

1. Romans 5:8 - But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

2. Philippians 2:5-8 - In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death??even death on a cross!

John 21:20 Then Peter, turning about, seeth the disciple whom Jesus loved following; which also leaned on his breast at supper, and said, Lord, which is he that betrayeth thee?

Peter recognizes the disciple whom Jesus loved.:

1: The importance of recognizing Jesus' followers.

2: Cultivating a relationship with Jesus that is like the one the disciple whom Jesus loved had with Him.

1: Matthew 17:1-9 ??Peter, James, and John's experience with Jesus on the mount of transfiguration.

2: John 13:21-30 ??Jesus' conversation with the disciples at the Last Supper.

John 21:21 Peter seeing him saith to Jesus, Lord, and what shall this man do?

Jesus' conversation with Peter in John 21:21 reveals His love, care, and concern for His disciples.

1: God's Love for His Disciples - John 21:21

2: God's Care and Concern for His Children - John 21:21

1: Romans 8:38-39 - For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

2: 1 Corinthians 13:4-7 - Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

John 21:22 Jesus saith unto him, If I will that he tarry till I come, what is that to thee? follow thou me.

Jesus encourages Peter to focus on his own mission rather than worrying about others.

1. Jesus' Message of Individual Focus: Living for the Lord and Ourselves

2. Following God's Will: Listening to and Obeying His Commandments

1. Matthew 6:31-34 - "Therefore do not be anxious, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For the Gentiles seek after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.

2. Philippians 4:6 - Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.

John 21:23 Then went this saying abroad among the brethren, that that disciple should not die: yet Jesus said not unto him, He shall not die; but, If I will that he tarry till I come, what is that to thee?

This passage shows Jesus and the disciple discussing the disciple's future, with Jesus emphasizing that his will is the only one that matters.

1. The Sovereignty of God in our Lives - how God's will is the only one that matters and how we should trust Him above all.

2. The Power of Prayer - how praying to God can lead us to understanding His will and trusting Him.

1. Isaiah 55:8-9 - For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.

2. Philippians 4:6-7 - Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

John 21:24 This is the disciple which testifieth of these things, and wrote these things: and we know that his testimony is true.

This passage affirms the truthfulness of the author's testimony.

1. The Power of Authentic Testimonies

2. The Authority of Written Truth

1. 2 Corinthians 1:12-14 - "For our boast is this, the testimony of our conscience, that we behaved in the world with simplicity and godly sincerity, not by earthly wisdom but by the grace of God, and supremely so toward you. For we write none other things unto you, than what ye read or acknowledge; and I trust ye shall acknowledge even to the end; As also ye have acknowledged us in part, that we are your rejoicing, even as ye also are ours in the day of the Lord Jesus."

2. Hebrews 11:1 - "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen."

John 21:25 And there are also many other things which Jesus did, the which, if they should be written every one, I suppose that even the world itself could not contain the books that should be written. Amen.

Jesus' ministry was so extensive and miraculous that it could never be recorded in its entirety.

1. The Miraculous Ministry of Jesus Christ

2. The Extent of Jesus' Ministry

1. Luke 5:17-26 - Jesus' healing of a paralyzed man

2. Matthew 14:1-14 - Jesus' feeding of the five thousand

Acts 1 recounts Jesus' final instructions to His disciples, His ascension into heaven, and the selection of Matthias to replace Judas Iscariot.

1st Paragraph: The chapter begins with Luke addressing Theophilus, recapping the life and teachings of Jesus Christ up until his ascension. After his suffering and death, Jesus presented himself alive to his apostles over a period of forty days, speaking about the kingdom of God. During one occasion while eating with them, he instructed them not to leave Jerusalem but wait for Father's promise which heard from me John baptized water but few days baptized Holy Spirit asked if time restore kingdom Israel answered not times dates Father set own authority but receive power when Holy Spirit comes be witnesses Jerusalem Judea Samaria ends earth (Acts 1:1-8).

2nd Paragraph: After saying this, as they were watching, He was lifted up and a cloud took Him out of their sight. While they were gazing into heaven as He went away suddenly two men in white clothes stood by them who said 'Men Galilee why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus who has been taken up from you into heaven will come in same way as you saw him go into heaven.' Then returned Jerusalem Mount called Olivet near city Sabbath day's journey away when arrived went upstairs room staying Peter John James Andrew Philip Thomas Bartholomew Matthew James son Alphaeus Simon Zealot Judas son James all joined together constantly in prayer along women Mary mother Jesus brothers (Acts 1:9-14).

3rd Paragraph: In those days Peter stood among believers group numbering about hundred twenty addressed regarding need replace Judas Iscariot who had betrayed Lord gone own place quoted Psalms let residence become desolate no one live it May another take his place leadership proposed two men Joseph called Barsabbas also known Justus

Matthias prayed Lord heart everyone show which one chosen then cast lots lot fell Matthias so added eleven apostles (Acts 1:15-26).

Acts 1:1 The former treatise have I made, O Theophilus, of all that Jesus began both to do and teach,

The author is writing a treatise to Theophilus about the teachings and works of Jesus.

1. "The Teachings and Works of Jesus"

2. "The Power of Jesus' Example"

1. Matthew 5:16 - "Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven."

2. John 13:17 - "Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them."

Acts 1:2 Until the day in which he was taken up, after that he through the Holy Ghost had given commandments unto the apostles whom he had chosen:

Jesus Christ gave his chosen apostles commandments through the Holy Spirit before ascending to Heaven.

1. Follow Jesus's Commandments: The Power of Obedience

2. The Power of the Holy Spirit: God's Presence in our Lives

1. John 14:15-17 “If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you.

2. Matthew 28:18-20 “And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

Acts 1:3 To whom also he shewed himself alive after his passion by many infallible proofs, being seen of them forty days, and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God:

Jesus showed Himself alive after His passion by many infallible proofs, appearing to His followers for forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God.

1. Jesus' Resurrection: A Witness to Our Faith

2. The Kingdom of God: Jesus' Vision for Humanity

1. 1 Corinthians 15:3-4 - For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures.

2. Mark 16:15-16 - And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.

Acts 1:4 And, being assembled together with them, commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father, which, saith he, ye have heard of me.

Jesus commanded his disciples to wait in Jerusalem for the promise of the Father.

1. Waiting for the Promise of the Father: Making the Most of Our Time in Limbo

2. The Strength of Waiting: Trusting God's Timing for Our Lives

1. Romans 8:25 - "But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently."

2. Hebrews 10:36 - "For you have need of endurance, so that when you have done the will of God, you may receive what is promised."

Acts 1:5 For John truly baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence.

Jesus tells the disciples that they will soon be baptized with the Holy Spirit.

1. The Power of the Holy Spirit: How to Access God's Strength.

2. The Power of Baptism: A Reflection on the Significance of Water and the Spirit.

1. John 14:26 - "But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you."

2. Matthew 3:11 - "I baptize you with water for repentance, but he who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire."

Acts 1:6 When they therefore were come together, they asked of him, saying, Lord, wilt thou at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel?

The disciples of Jesus asked him if he would restore the kingdom to Israel at that time.

1. God's Timing is Perfect - Exploring the importance of patience and faith in the Lord's plans.

2. The Kingdom of God - Uncovering the hope of the kingdom of God and what it means for us today.

1. Isaiah 40:31 - But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.

2. Matthew 6:33 - But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.

Acts 1:7 And he said unto them, It is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father hath put in his own power.

God has given authority and knowledge of times and seasons to Himself only.

1. The Power of God: Trusting God with the Unknown

2. Letting Go of Control: Understanding God's Sovereignty

1. Isaiah 55:8-9 "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts."

2. Romans 11:33-36 "Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways! For who has known the mind of the Lord, or who has been his counselor? Or who has given a gift to him that he might be repaid? For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be glory forever. Amen."

Acts 1:8 But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

The disciples were promised power from the Holy Spirit to be witnesses for Jesus throughout the world.

1: The Power of the Holy Spirit in Our Lives

2: Becoming a Witness for Jesus

1: John 15:26-27 “But when the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth, who proceeds from the Father, he will bear witness about me. And you also will bear witness, because you have been with me from the beginning.”

2: Ephesians 3:16-17 “that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith.”

Acts 1:9 And when he had spoken these things, while they beheld, he was taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight.

Jesus was taken up to heaven in a cloud after speaking to the disciples.

1. Follow Jesus' example of faith and obedience even when the way is unclear.

2. Live a life worthy of the calling that Jesus has placed on us.

1. Luke 9:51-62 – Jesus' journey to Jerusalem and his obedience to the Father.

2. Ephesians 4:1-3 – Walking in a manner worthy of the calling we have received.

Acts 1:10 And while they looked stedfastly toward heaven as he went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel;

The disciples of Jesus watched him ascend to heaven and two men in white apparel appeared.

1: God always sends help when we need it.

2: Even in moments of sorrow, God provides us with hope and comfort.

1: Romans 8:28 - And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God.

2: Isaiah 41:10 - Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness.

Acts 1:11 Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven.

The disciples were told that Jesus, who was taken up into heaven, would come back just like he left.

1. Relying on the Promises of Christ - How we can trust that Jesus will return just like He left.

2. Finding Hope in Unexpected Places - How God's promises of Jesus' return can bring us comfort in difficult times.

1. John 14:3 - And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.

2. Isaiah 40:31 - But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.

Acts 1:12 Then returned they unto Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is from Jerusalem a sabbath day's journey.

The disciples of Jesus returned to Jerusalem from the mount of Olivet, which was a sabbath day's journey away.

1. The importance of following Jesus' example and taking the time to journey together in fellowship.

2. The importance of understanding the distance of a sabbath day's journey and living within it.

1. Philippians 2:5 - "Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus".

2. Exodus 16:29 - "Let no man go out of his place on the seventh day".

Acts 1:13 And when they were come in, they went up into an upper room, where abode both Peter, and James, and John, and Andrew, Philip, and Thomas, Bartholomew, and Matthew, James the son of Alphaeus, and Simon Zelotes, and Judas the brother of James.

The disciples went up to an upper room where Peter, James, John, Andrew, Philip, Thomas, Bartholomew, Matthew, James the son of Alphaeus, Simon Zelotes, and Judas the brother of James were gathered.

1. The Power of Community: How the Disciples' Unity Changed the World

2. The Importance of Coming Together: A Look at the Disciples' Gatherings

1. John 13:34-35: "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”

2. Galatians 6:2: "Bear one another’s burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ."

Acts 1:14 These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication, with the women, and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brethren.

The followers of Jesus, including his mother Mary and brothers, prayed together in one accord.

1. The Power of United Prayer: How Working Together Unites Us to God

2. The Importance of Family: The Impact of Jesus' Family on His Mission

1. Ephesians 4:1-6 - Unity in the Body of Christ

2. Deuteronomy 6:4-9 - Love the Lord with All Your Heart, Soul and Might

Acts 1:15 And in those days Peter stood up in the midst of the disciples, and said, (the number of names together were about an hundred and twenty,)

Peter gathered the disciples to choose a replacement for Judas Iscariot.

1. The Power of Unity - How we can accomplish great things when we stand together

2. The Importance of Community - Why fellowship and companionship are essential for a healthy spiritual life

1. John 13:35 - "By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

2. 1 Corinthians 12:12-27 - "For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ."

Acts 1:16 Men and brethren, this scripture must needs have been fulfilled, which the Holy Ghost by the mouth of David spake before concerning Judas, which was guide to them that took Jesus.

This verse of scripture is referencing Judas's betrayal of Jesus and the fulfillment of prophecy.

1. The Consequences of Betrayal

2. The Fulfillment of God's Prophecy

1. John 17:12 - "While I was with them, I kept them in thy name: those that thou gavest me I have kept, and none of them is lost, but the son of perdition; that the scripture might be fulfilled."

2. Isaiah 53:12 - "Therefore will I divide him a portion with the great, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong; because he hath poured out his soul unto death: and he was numbered with the transgressors; and he bare the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors."

Acts 1:17 For he was numbered with us, and had obtained part of this ministry.

This passage reveals that the apostle Matthias was chosen to fill Judas’ place in the apostolic ministry.

1: God has a plan for each of us.

2: God calls us to be part of his mission.

1: Romans 8:28-30 - And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.

2: Ephesians 4:11-13 - So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up.

Acts 1:18 Now this man purchased a field with the reward of iniquity; and falling headlong, he burst asunder in the midst, and all his bowels gushed out.

This passage describes the death of Judas Iscariot who died after buying a field with the money he had received for betraying Jesus.

1. The Consequences of Betrayal: Learning from Judas Iscariot

2. The Power of Forgiveness: Jesus' Grace Despite Judas' Betrayal

1. Matthew 26:14-16 - Jesus' knowledge of Judas' betrayal

2. Hebrews 9:27 - Death as an inevitable consequence of sin

Acts 1:19 And it was known unto all the dwellers at Jerusalem; insomuch as that field is called in their proper tongue, Aceldama, that is to say, The field of blood.

A field near Jerusalem called Aceldama is known to all the inhabitants of Jerusalem, which is translated to The field of blood.

1. The Power of a Name: Aceldama and its Significance

2. The Symbolism of Blood: Its Meaning in Christianity

1. Matthew 27:3-10 - The story of Judas and how he betrayed Jesus for 30 pieces of silver

2. Hebrews 9:18-22 - The significance of Jesus' death on the cross and its impact on our lives

Acts 1:20 For it is written in the book of Psalms, Let his habitation be desolate, and let no man dwell therein: and his bishoprick let another take.

This passage from Acts Psalms and states that the habitation of the person mentioned in the Psalms should be desolate, and that someone else should take their bishoprick.

1. The Power of God's Will: How God's Plans are Always Carried Out

2. The Search for Meaning in Scripture: Exploring the Symbolic Language of the Bible

1. Psalm 69:25 - "Let their habitation be desolate; and let none dwell in their tents."

2. Acts 2:25 - "For David speaketh concerning him, I foresaw the Lord always before my face, for he is on my right hand, that I should not be moved."

Acts 1:21 Wherefore of these men which have companied with us all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us,

The passage describes the companions that Jesus had before his ascension.

1. The importance of having companionship in life.

2. Jesus' journey of faith and the example He set for us.

1. Ecclesiastes 4:9-12 - Two are better than one; because they have a good reward for their labour.

2. Matthew 28:19-20 - Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost.

Acts 1:22 Beginning from the baptism of John, unto that same day that he was taken up from us, must one be ordained to be a witness with us of his resurrection.

This passage highlights the importance of appointing witnesses to testify to Jesus' resurrection.

1. The Power of Bearing Witness: How to be an Effective Witness for Jesus

2. The Call to Testify: Our Responsibility to Spread the Good News of Jesus' Resurrection

1. Isaiah 43:10-12 - “You are my witnesses,” declares the Lord, “and my servant whom I have chosen, so that you may know and believe me and understand that I am he. Before me no god was formed, nor will there be one after me.

2. Matthew 28:16-20 - Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

Acts 1:23 And they appointed two, Joseph called Barsabas, who was surnamed Justus, and Matthias.

The disciples of Jesus appointed two men, Joseph Barsabas (also known as Justus) and Matthias, to take the place of Judas Iscariot as one of the 12 apostles.

1. "A New Beginning: Moving Forward in the Ministry"

2. "The Importance of Preparation to Serve the Lord"

1. Matthew 19:28 - "Jesus said to them, “Truly I tell you, at the renewal of all things, when the Son of Man sits on his glorious throne, you who have followed me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel."

2. Romans 12:4-8 - "For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully."

Acts 1:24 And they prayed, and said, Thou, Lord, which knowest the hearts of all men, shew whether of these two thou hast chosen,

The disciples of Jesus prayed to God to reveal which of two candidates should replace Judas.

1: Let us always turn to God in prayer and trust in His will for our lives.

2: We must seek God's guidance in making important decisions.

1: Proverbs 3:5-6 - Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.

2: James 1:5-6 - If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you.

Acts 1:25 That he may take part of this ministry and apostleship, from which Judas by transgression fell, that he might go to his own place.

Judas' betrayal of Jesus and the need to replace him with a new disciple is discussed in Acts 1:25.

1: Jesus Christ, the Redeemer of Sinners

2: The Ministry of the Apostles and its Impact on Jesus' Teachings

1: Luke 22:47-48 - And while he yet spake, behold a multitude, and he that was called Judas, one of the twelve, went before them, and drew near unto Jesus to kiss him. But Jesus said unto him, Judas, betrayest thou the Son of man with a kiss?

2: John 17:12 - While I was with them in the world, I kept them in thy name: those that thou gavest me I have kept, and none of them is lost, but the son of perdition; that the scripture might be fulfilled.

Acts 1:26 And they gave forth their lots; and the lot fell upon Matthias; and he was numbered with the eleven apostles.

The eleven apostles randomly chose Matthias to be the twelfth apostle.

1. The importance of trusting and relying on God’s plan for our lives.

2. The need to be open and willing to serve in whatever capacity necessary.

1. Proverbs 16:33 – “The lot is cast into the lap, but its every decision is from the LORD.”

2. Philippians 2:3-4 – “Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.”

Acts 2 recounts the coming of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost, Peter's sermon to the crowds in Jerusalem, and the early days of the Christian community.

1st Paragraph: The chapter begins with all believers gathered in one place on day of Pentecost. Suddenly a sound like blowing of a violent wind came from heaven filled whole house where they were sitting saw what seemed tongues fire separated came rest each them all filled Holy Spirit began speak other languages as Spirit enabled them. At this time there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. When they heard this sound, a crowd gathered in bewilderment because each one heard their

own language being spoken by disciples (Acts 2:1-6).

2nd Paragraph: Peter then stood up with Eleven raised voice addressed crowd explaining not drunk as some supposed but this was fulfillment Joel's prophecy 'In last days God says I will pour out my Spirit all people sons daughters prophesy young men see visions old dream dreams even servants both men women pour out my Spirit those days they prophesy.' He then testified about Jesus Nazareth man accredited by God miracles wonders signs which God did among through him crucified killed hands lawless men but God raised him freeing agony death because impossible for death keep its hold on him David said about 'I saw Lord always before me he is at my right hand I will not be shaken.' Therefore let all Israel be assured of this: God has made this Jesus whom you crucified both Lord Messiah (Acts 2:14-36).

3rd Paragraph: When people heard this they were cut to heart asked Peter other apostles 'Brothers what shall we do?' Peter replied 'Repent be baptized every one you name Jesus Christ forgiveness your sins receive gift Holy Spirit promise for you children for all who are far off - for all whom Lord our God will call.' With many other words he warned them pleaded save yourselves corrupt generation Those accepted message baptized about three thousand added number day They devoted themselves apostles' teaching fellowship breaking bread prayer Everyone filled awe many wonders miraculous signs done apostles All believers were together had everything common sold property possessions gave anyone as had need Every day continued meet temple courts broke bread homes ate together glad sincere hearts praising God enjoying favor people Lord added number daily those being saved (Acts 2:37-47).

Acts 2:1 And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place.

On the day of Pentecost, all the disciples were gathered together in one place.

1. The Power of Unity: How Coming Together Improves Our Faith

2. The Promise of Pentecost: How God's Gifts Are Available to Us

1. Psalm 133:1 - Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!

2. Ephesians 4:3 - Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

Acts 2:2 And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting.

The Holy Spirit filled the house with a sound from heaven like a mighty wind.

1. The Power of the Holy Spirit

2. The Sound of Heaven

1. Ezekiel 37:1-14 - The Valley of Dry Bones

2. Isaiah 11:1-2 - The Sevenfold Spirit of God

Acts 2:3 And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them.

On the day of Pentecost, the Holy Spirit descended on the Apostles and appeared to them in the form of tongues of fire.

1. The Power of the Holy Spirit - Acts 2:3

2. The Gifts of the Spirit - Acts 2:3

1. John 14:26 - But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you.

2. Isaiah 11:2 - And the Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.

Acts 2:4 And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

The believers in the early church were filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke in tongues.

1. The Power of the Holy Spirit in the Lives of Believers

2. The Gift of Tongues: A Sign of the Holy Spirit

1. Romans 8:26 In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express.

2. Ephesians 5:18-19 And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit, addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart.

Acts 2:5 And there were dwelling at Jerusalem Jews, devout men, out of every nation under heaven.

The passage speaks of Jews from every nation living in Jerusalem.

1. The Gathering of the Nations: Unity Through Diversity

2. The Journey to Jerusalem: A Pilgrimage of Faith

1. Amos 9:7 - ?□re you not like the Cushites to me, O people of Israel???declares the LORD. ?□id I not bring up Israel from the land of Egypt, and the Philistines from Caphtor and the Syrians from Kir?

2. Psalm 87:4-6 - I will record Rahab and Babylon among those who acknowledge me?? Philistia too, and Tyre, along with Cush??and will say, ?□his one was born in Zion.?? Indeed, of Zion it will be said, ?□his one and that one were born in her, and the Most High himself will establish her.??

Acts 2:6 Now when this was noised abroad, the multitude came together, and were confounded, because that every man heard them speak in his own language.

The multitude was amazed when they heard everyone speaking in their own language.

1: God's power knows no boundaries and can transcend language barriers.

2: We should not be afraid to share the gospel with others, even if we do not speak the same language.

1: 1 Corinthians 13:1 - "Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have

not charity, I am become as sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal."

2: Acts 10:34-35 - "Then Peter opened his mouth, and said, Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons: But in every nation he that feareth him, and worketh righteousness, is accepted with him."

Acts 2:7 And they were all amazed and marvelled, saying one to another, Behold, are not all these which speak Galilaeans?

This passage describes the amazement of the crowd when the disciples of Jesus spoke in different languages on the day of Pentecost.

1. Behold the Power of God: Celebrating the Gift of Pentecost

2. The Miraculous Presence of Jesus: How the Holy Spirit Grants Us Boldness

1. John 14:26 - But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.

2. Isaiah 28:11-13 - For with stammering lips and another tongue will he speak to this people. To whom he said, This is the rest wherewith ye may cause the weary to rest; and this is the refreshing: yet they would not hear.

Acts 2:8 And how hear we every man in our own tongue, wherein we were born?

The people of the Pentecost were astonished to hear the disciples speaking in their native languages.

1. The Power of the Holy Spirit: How it Transcends Language Barriers

2. The Miracle of Pentecost: A Renewal of Faith in God

1. Acts 10:44-48 ??Peter?□ Vision of the Clean and Unclean Animals

2. Joel 2:28-32 ??The Promise of the Holy Spirit to All People

Acts 2:9 Parthians, and Medes, and Elamites, and the dwellers in Mesopotamia, and in Judaea, and Cappadocia, in Pontus, and Asia,

This passage describes the many different people groups present in the crowd gathered on the Day of Pentecost.

1. The diversity of God's church: How different nations and cultures can come together in unity and love.

2. The power of the Holy Spirit: How the Holy Spirit can bring together people from all backgrounds.

1. Galatians 3:28 - "There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus."

2. Revelation 7:9 - "After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb."

Acts 2:10 Phrygia, and Pamphylia, in Egypt, and in the parts of Libya about Cyrene, and strangers of Rome, Jews and proselytes,

This passage refers to the spreading of the gospel to many different parts of the world, including Phrygia, Pamphylia, Egypt, Libya, and Rome.

1. Understanding the Power of the Gospel - How the Good News of Jesus Christ Spans the Globe

2. Reaching the Unreached - How We Can Take the Gospel to Every Corner of the World

1. Matthew 28:16-20 - The Great Commission

2. Romans 10:14-17 - How Faith Comes by Hearing the Word of God

Acts 2:11 Cretes and Arabians, we do hear them speak in our tongues the wonderful works of God.

The people of Cretes and Arabians heard the disciples of Jesus speak in their own

language about the wonderful works of God.

1. The Power of the Gospel to Reach All People

2. The Miracle of Language: God's Unifying Tool

1. Acts 10:34-35 ?□hen Peter began to speak: ?□ now realize how true it is that God does not show favoritism but accepts from every nation the one who fears him and does what is right.?□□?

2. Isaiah 66:18-19 ?□or I know their works and their thoughts, and I am coming to gather all nations and tongues. And they shall come and shall see my glory, and I will set a sign among them.??

Acts 2:12 And they were all amazed, and were in doubt, saying one to another, What meaneth this?

This passage describes the reaction of the people in Jerusalem as they heard the disciples speaking in other languages.

1) The Power of the Holy Spirit: How the Holy Spirit Can Transform Us

2) The Importance of Openness and Receptiveness to God

1) Acts 2:1-4 - When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly a sound came from heaven like the rush of a mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared to them tongues as of fire, distributed and resting on each one of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

2) John 14:16-17 - And I will pray the Father, and he will give you another Counselor, to be with you forever, even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him; you know him, for he dwells with you, and will be in you.

Acts 2:13 Others mocking said, These men are full of new wine.

The people mocked the apostles, claiming they were drunk.

1: In times of opposition and ridicule, remain steadfast in our faith.

2: Do not be swayed by the opinions of others, instead be guided by our faith in God.

1: Galatians 6:9 - And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.

2: Philippians 4:13 - I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.

Acts 2:14 But Peter, standing up with the eleven, lifted up his voice, and said unto them, Ye men of Judaea, and all ye that dwell at Jerusalem, be this known unto you, and hearken to my words:

Peter stands with the eleven other disciples and addresses the people of Jerusalem, calling on them to listen to his words.

1. The Power of Peter's Words: How One Voice Can Change the Course of History

2. The Importance of Listening: Heeding the Message of Scripture

1. Matthew 28:18-20 - And Jesus came and said to them, ?□ll authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.??

2. Acts 1:8 - But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.

Acts 2:15 For these are not drunken, as ye suppose, seeing it is but the third hour of the day.

The people in the crowd were not drunk, as some supposed, because it was only the third hour of the day.

1. The Importance of Restraint

2. The Power of Perception

1. Proverbs 23:20-21 - Be not among winebibbers; among riotous eaters of flesh: For the drunkard and the glutton shall come to poverty: and drowsiness shall clothe a man with rags.

2. 1 Peter 4:3-4 - For the time past of our life may suffice us to have wrought the will of the Gentiles, when we walked in lasciviousness, lusts, excess of wine, revellings, banquetings, and abominable idolatries: Wherein they think it strange that ye run not with them to the same excess of riot, speaking evil of you.

Acts 2:16 But this is that which was spoken by the prophet Joel;

This passage describes the fulfillment of the prophecy of the prophet Joel.

1. God's Word is Always True: An Examination of the Fulfillment of Joel's Prophecy

2. The Power and Accuracy of Prophecy: How God's Word is Fulfilled

1. Joel 2:28-32

2. Isaiah 55:10-11

Acts 2:17 And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams:

God promises to pour out His Spirit upon all people in the last days, so that people of all ages will be able to experience visions and dreams.

1: God's Promise to pour out His Spirit

2: Experiencing God Through Visions and Dreams

1: Joel 2:28-29 - And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions.

2: John 10:10 - The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.

Acts 2:18 And on my servants and on my handmaidens I will pour out in those days of my Spirit; and they shall prophesy:

The Holy Spirit will be poured out on all believers, enabling them to prophesy.

1: How the Holy Spirit Empowers Us to Serve God

2: Experiencing the Power of the Holy Spirit Through Prophecy

1: Luke 11:13 - "If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!"

2: John 14:26 - "But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you."

Acts 2:19 And I will shew wonders in heaven above, and signs in the earth beneath; blood, and fire, and vapour of smoke:

The passage speaks of God's power to show miracles in the heavens and on earth through blood, fire and smoke.

1: God is able to do Amazing Things

2: Believe in the Miracles of God

1: Isaiah 40:31 "But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint."

2: Hebrews 11:6 "But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him."

Acts 2:20 The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before that

great and notable day of the Lord come:

The sun and moon will be darkened before the Day of the Lord.

1. The Power of God - Examining the Prophet Joel's Warning of the Day of the Lord

2. The Coming of the Lord - Understanding the Significance of the Sun and Moon in the End Times

1. Joel 2:31 - "The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before the great and terrible day of the LORD come."

2. Revelation 6:12-14 - "And I beheld when he had opened the sixth seal, and, lo, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became as blood; And the stars of heaven fell unto the earth, even as a fig tree casteth her untimely figs, when she is shaken of a mighty wind."

Acts 2:21 And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved.

Everyone who calls upon the name of the Lord will be saved.

1. The Power of Praise: Calling on the Name of the Lord

2. The Promise of Salvation: Relying on the Name of the Lord

1. Romans 10:13 - "Everyone who calls upon the name of the Lord will be saved."

2. Psalms 116:13 - "I will take up the cup of salvation and call on the name of the Lord."

Acts 2:22 Ye men of Israel, hear these words; Jesus of Nazareth, a man approved of God among you by miracles and wonders and signs, which God did by him in the midst of you, as ye yourselves also know:

Jesus of Nazareth, a man approved by God, performed miracles, wonders, and signs among the people of Israel, which they knew and witnessed.

1. The Miracles of Jesus: A Testimony to His Divinity

2. Significance of Signs and Wonders in the Bible

1. Matthew 11:2-6 - The Testimony of John the Baptist

2. Matthew 12:38-42 - Jesus' Sign of Jonah the Prophet

Acts 2:23 Him, being delivered by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God, ye have taken, and by wicked hands have crucified and slain:

The crucifixion of Jesus was an act determined by God.

1. God's Sovereignty in Jesus' Crucifixion

2. The Ultimate Sacrifice of Jesus

1. Isaiah 53:10 - "Yet it pleased the Lord to bruise him; he hath put him to grief: when thou shalt make his soul an offering for sin."

2. Romans 8:28 - "And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose."

Acts 2:24 Whom God hath raised up, having loosed the pains of death: because it was not possible that he should be holden of it.

God has resurrected Jesus and freed Him from death's grip, which could not have held Him.

1: God is the ultimate power, and He alone has the authority to bring back to life the dead.

2: Jesus' resurrection is a sign of God's immense love for us, and a reminder that we can have faith in Him in all situations.

1: John 11:25-26 - Jesus said to her, ?□ am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes

in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die.

2: Romans 8:11 - If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you.

Acts 2:25 For David speaketh concerning him, I foresaw the Lord always before my face, for he is on my right hand, that I should not be moved:

David foresaw that the Lord was always before his face, and that he would not be moved.

1. Knowing That God Is With Us: How to Find Strength and Courage in Difficult Times

2. God's Unfailing Presence: Relying on God's Strength to Overcome Challenges

1. Psalm 16:8 - ?□ have set the Lord always before me; because he is at my right hand, I shall not be shaken.??

2. Isaiah 41:10 - ?□ear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.??

Acts 2:26 Therefore did my heart rejoice, and my tongue was glad; moreover also my flesh shall rest in hope:

The joy of salvation brings hope and gladness to the believer's heart.

1: Rejoicing in the Hope of Salvation

2: The Gladness of a Saved Heart

1: Romans 5:1-5 - Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. By him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God.

2: Colossians 1:27 - To them God chose to make known how great among the Gentiles are the riches of the glory of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.

Acts 2:27 Because thou wilt not leave my soul in hell, neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption.

God will not leave His people in hell, but will instead bring them redemption.

1: God is Mercy, Love, and Forgiveness.

2: God Does Not Abandon His People.

1: Romans 8:28 - And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.

2: 1 Peter 1:3-5 - Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you, Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

Acts 2:28 Thou hast made known to me the ways of life; thou shalt make me full of joy with thy countenance.

The ways of life are made known to us through God's presence.

1: Joy through the Lord's Countenance

2: Finding Direction through God's Presence

1: Psalm 27:4 ?One thing have I desired of the Lord, that will I seek after; that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord, and to enquire in his temple.??

2: Isaiah 58:11 ?And the Lord shall guide thee continually, and satisfy thy soul in drought, and make fat thy bones: and thou shalt be like a watered garden, and like a spring of water, whose waters fail not.??

Acts 2:29 Men and brethren, let me freely speak unto you of the patriarch David, that he is both dead and buried, and his sepulchre is with us unto this day.

The Apostle Peter addresses the crowd in Jerusalem to share that the patriarch David is dead and buried, with his tomb still present in their day.

1. The Power of Death: The Example of David

2. The Legacy of Faith: Remembering the Patriarchs

1. 2 Samuel 7:12-13 - When your days are fulfilled and you lie down with your fathers, I will raise up your offspring after you, who shall come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom.

2. Psalm 16:8-11 - I have set the Lord always before me; because he is at my right hand, I shall not be shaken. Therefore my heart is glad, and my whole being rejoices; my flesh also dwells secure. For you will not abandon my soul to Sheol, or let your holy one see corruption.

Acts 2:30 Therefore being a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him, that of the fruit of his loins, according to the flesh, he would raise up Christ to sit on his throne;

David knew through prophecy that God had promised to raise up Christ from his descendants according to the flesh to be seated on his throne.

1. The Promise of Christ's Throne: God's Unchanging Plan of Redemption

2. The Power of Prophecy: How David Knew of Christ's Coming

1. Psalm 132:11 "The LORD hath sworn in truth unto David; he will not turn from it; Of the fruit of thy body will I set upon thy throne."

2. Hebrews 7:14 "For it is evident that our Lord sprang out of Juda; of which tribe Moses spake nothing concerning priesthood."

Acts 2:31 He seeing this before spake of the resurrection of Christ, that his soul was not left in hell, neither his flesh did see corruption.

The resurrection of Christ was predicted by scripture, and his soul was not left in hell nor

did his flesh see corruption.

1. Jesus is Risen: The Victory of Life Over Death

2. The Resurrection of Jesus: God's Power Over Sin and Death

1. Psalm 16:10 ?□or thou wilt not leave my soul in hell; neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption.??

2. Isaiah 25:8 ?□e will swallow up death in victory; and the Lord God will wipe away tears from off all faces.??

Acts 2:32 This Jesus hath God raised up, whereof we all are witnesses.

The Resurrection of Jesus Christ is a reality that is witnessed by all.

1. The Unmistakable Reality of Jesus' Resurrection

2. The Hope and Joy of Jesus' Resurrection

1. 1 Corinthians 15:14-17 - And if Christ be not risen, then is our preaching vain, and your faith is also vain.

2. Romans 4:25 - Who was delivered for our offences, and was raised again for our justification.

Acts 2:33 Therefore being by the right hand of God exalted, and having received of the Father the promise of the Holy Ghost, he hath shed forth this, which ye now see and hear.

Jesus Christ, being exalted by God, received the promise of the Holy Spirit from the Father and has poured out the gifts of the Spirit, which the people of that time could see and hear.

1. God's Promises are True and Reliable

2. The Power of the Holy Spirit

1. Romans 8:14-16 - "For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, ?□bba! Father!??The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God."

2. Ephesians 1:13-14 - "In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory."

Acts 2:34 For David is not ascended into the heavens: but he saith himself, The Lord said unto my Lord, Sit thou on my right hand,

In Acts 2:34, Peter quotes Psalm 110:1 to prove the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

1. The Authority of Christ: Proven Through Scripture

2. The Power of the Resurrection: A Hope for Us All

1. Psalm 110:1 - The Lord said unto my Lord, Sit thou on my right hand

2. Philippians 2:9-11 - Therefore God hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name.

Acts 2:35 Until I make thy foes thy footstool.

This passage from Acts 2:35 is a quote from Psalm 110:1, which speaks of the power of God to make His enemies a footstool beneath the feet of His people.

1. The Power of God to Make Foes a Footstool

2. Standing on the Promises of God

1. Psalm 110:1 - The Lord said to my Lord, "Sit at my right hand, until I make your enemies your footstool."

2. Romans 16:20 - The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet. The grace of

our Lord Jesus be with you.

Acts 2:36 Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made that same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ.

God has declared Jesus both Lord and Christ and the house of Israel should know.

1: Jesus: Lord and Christ - Who is He?

2: Jesus: The Crucified One - Why is He Lord and Christ?

1: Philippians 2:9-11 - Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, 10 that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, 11 and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

2: Colossians 1:15-20 - He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. 16 For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities?□ll things were created through him and for him. 17 And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. 18 And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent. 19 For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, 20 and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.

Acts 2:37 Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do?

The people were deeply moved and asked the apostles what they should do.

1. The Power of the Word: How the Gospel Moves Us

2. Responding to the Call of Faith: What We Should Do When We Hear the Good News

1. Isaiah 55:11 - So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it.

2. James 1:22-24 - But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own

selves. For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass: For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was.

Acts 2:38 Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.

Peter commands the people to repent and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and they will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

1: The Power of Repentance and Baptism

2: The Importance of Receiving the Gift of the Holy Spirit

1: Matthew 3:13-17 - Jesus is baptized by John the Baptist

2: 2 Corinthians 5:17 - Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come.

Acts 2:39 For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the LORD our God shall call.

The promise of the Lord is for all those He calls, both near and far.

1: ?□od?□ Promise of Salvation??

2: ?□od?□ Call of Grace??

1: Romans 10:14-15 - How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? And how are they to preach unless they are sent?

2: Isaiah 55:6-7 - Seek the Lord while he may be found; call upon him while he is near; let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him return to the Lord, that he may have compassion on him, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.

Acts 2:40 And with many other words did he testify and exhort, saying, Save yourselves from this untoward generation.

Peter exhorts the people to save themselves from the wicked generation.

1. Living in an Unrighteous World: How to Not Follow the Crowd

2. God's Call to Repentance: How to Be Saved from Wickedness

1. Psalm 1:1-2 - Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers.

2. Titus 2:11-14 - For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age.

Acts 2:41 Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls.

The early church welcomed new converts and baptized them, leading to an increase in their numbers of about three thousand souls.

1. The Importance of Welcoming New Believers

2. The Power of Baptism

1. Matthew 28:19-20 - Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost.

20 Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.

2. Romans 10:8-10 - But what saith it? The word is nigh thee, even in thy mouth, and in thy heart: that is, the word of faith, which we preach;

9 That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.

10 For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

Acts 2:42 And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.

The early church devoted themselves to learning the apostles' teachings, fellowship, breaking bread, and prayer.

1. The Foundation of the Church: Devotion to the Apostles' Teachings

2. The Power of Fellowship: Experiencing the Blessing of Belonging

1. Colossians 3:16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.

2. Hebrews 10:24-25 And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.

Acts 2:43 And fear came upon every soul: and many wonders and signs were done by the apostles.

Fear spread throughout the people as the apostles performed many miraculous signs and wonders.

1. The Power of Miracles: Demonstrating the Authority of God

2. Facing Fear: Overcoming Anxiety and Worry in Difficult Times

1. Hebrews 2:3-4 - How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation; which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard him.

4. 2 Corinthians 12:9 - And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

Acts 2:44 And all that believed were together, and had all things common;

The believers shared all their possessions among themselves.

1. The Power of Generosity

2. The Beauty of Community

1. Acts 4:32 - ?□ow the full number of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one said that any of the things that belonged to him was his own, but they had everything in common.??

2. 1 Corinthians 13:4-7 - ?□ove is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.??

Acts 2:45 And sold their possessions and goods, and parted them to all men, as every man had need.

The people of the early Christian church shared their possessions with one another to meet the needs of those in the church community.

1. The Power of Generosity in Christian Community

2. Caring for Each Other in the Church

1. Galatians 6:2 - Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.

2. 1 John 3:17 - But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him?

Acts 2:46 And they, continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart,

The early church continued to gather together in the temple and shared meals with one

another with joy and unity.

1: We should strive to live our lives in unity, just like the early church.

2: Celebrating our faith with one another brings us joy and strengthens our faith.

1: Ephesians 4:3, ?□aking every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.??

2: Psalm 133:1, ?□ehold, how good and how pleasant it is For brothers to dwell together in unity!??

Acts 2:47 Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.

The Lord was praised by the people and was favored by them. As a result, the Lord added to the church daily those who were saved.

1: We should always praise the Lord and be favored by Him.

2: We should strive to be saved and be added to the church daily.

1: Psalms 103:1-2 "Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless His holy name! Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits."

2: Acts 3:19 "Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord."

Acts 3 recounts Peter healing a lame beggar and his subsequent sermon at Solomon's Portico.

1st Paragraph: The chapter begins with Peter and John going to the temple at the time of prayer. They encounter a man lame from birth, who was being carried to the temple gate called Beautiful where he was put every day to beg from those going into the temple courts. When he saw Peter and John about to enter, he asked them for money. But Peter looked straight at him, as did John. Then Peter said, "Silver or gold I do not have, but what I do have I give you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk." Taking him by right hand helped him up instantly feet ankles became strong began walk then went with them into temple courts walking jumping praising God (Acts 3:1-8).

2nd Paragraph: All people saw him walking praising God recognized him same man used sit begging Beautiful Gate were filled wonder amazement happened Seeing opportunity Peter addressed crowd explaining that it was not by their own power or godliness that they had made this man walk but by faith in name Jesus whom God glorified whom they had handed over disowned before Pilate though he had decided release him disowned Holy Righteous One asked murderer be released killed author life but God raised dead which witnesses (Acts 3:9-15).

3rd Paragraph: It is Jesus' name and faith that comes through Him that has completely healed this man as all can clearly see. Now brothers know acted ignorance did your leaders but this way God fulfilled what He foretold through all prophets saying His Messiah would suffer so repent turn back sins wiped out times refreshing may come Lord may send Messiah already appointed for you Jesus must remain heaven until time comes for God restore everything as He promised long ago through His holy prophets (Acts 3:16-21). He continues his sermon referencing Moses Samuel other prophets who spoke about these days concluding 'You are heirs prophets covenant God made with your ancestors when said Abraham 'Through your offspring all peoples earth will be blessed.' When God raised up His servant sent first you bless turning each from wicked ways' (Acts 3:22-26).

Acts 3:1 Now Peter and John went up together into the temple at the hour of prayer, being the ninth hour.

Peter and John went to the temple at the ninth hour to pray.

1. The importance of prayer and dedication to God.

2. The power of faith and how it can move mountains.

1. 1 Thessalonians 5:17 - Pray without ceasing.

2. Matthew 17:20 - He said to them, “Because of your little faith. For truly, I say to you, if you have faith like a grain of mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, ‘Move from here to there,’ and it will move, and nothing will be impossible for you.”

Acts 3:2 And a certain man lame from his mother's womb was carried, whom they laid daily at the gate of the temple which is called Beautiful, to ask alms of them that entered into the temple;

A man who had been lame since birth was carried to a gate of the temple called

Beautiful, where he asked for alms from those who entered the temple.

1. The Power of Faith: How God Heals the Faithful

2. The Power of Compassion: How We Can Make a Difference

1. Luke 4:18-19 - “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised.”

2. Romans 8:28 - “And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.”

Acts 3:3 Who seeing Peter and John about to go into the temple asked an alms.

The man at the temple asked Peter and John for an alms.

1. The Power of Generosity: Understanding the Blessing of Giving

2. Learning to Trust God In Times of Need

1. Matthew 6:19-21 “Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

2. Luke 6:38 “Give, and it will be given to you. Good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap. For with the measure you use it will be measured back to you.”

Acts 3:4 And Peter, fastening his eyes upon him with John, said, Look on us.

The passage describes Peter and John looking intently upon a man.

1. "Look on Us: The Power of Intentional Glances"

2. "The Strength of Togetherness: Uniting in a Glance"

1. "Let your eyes look straight ahead; fix your gaze directly before you." — Proverbs 4:25

2. "Do not look around you to the right or to the left; keep your foot from evil." — Proverbs 4:27

Acts 3:5 And he gave heed unto them, expecting to receive something of them.

A man came to Peter and John expecting to receive something from them.

1. The Power of Generosity: Learning to give without expecting anything in return.

2. The Power of Faith: Putting your trust in God to provide for all your needs.

1. James 1:17 - Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.

2. 2 Corinthians 9:10-11 - Now he that ministereth seed to the sower both minister bread for your food, and multiply your seed sown, and increase the fruits of your righteousness; Being enriched in every thing to all bountifulness, which causeth through us thanksgiving to God.

Acts 3:6 Then Peter said, Silver and gold have I none; but such as I have give I thee: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise up and walk.

Peter heals a lame man by proclaiming the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth.

1. The Power of Jesus' Name: Experiencing God's Miracles Through Christ

2. Jesus: The Source of Life and Healing

1. John 14:12 - "Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes in me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do, because I am going to the Father."

2. Matthew 8:3 - "And Jesus stretched out his hand and touched him, saying, "I will; be

clean." And immediately his leprosy was cleansed."

Acts 3:7 And he took him by the right hand, and lifted him up: and immediately his feet and ankle bones received strength.

The man was healed through the power of Jesus and was able to stand up.

1: The Power of Jesus Heals

2: The Unexpected Strength of Faith

1: Matthew 9:2 - And, behold, they brought to him a man sick of the palsy, lying on a bed: and Jesus seeing their faith said unto the sick of the palsy; Son, be of good cheer; thy sins be forgiven thee.

2: Acts 10:38 - How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him.

Acts 3:8 And he leaping up stood, and walked, and entered with them into the temple, walking, and leaping, and praising God.

The man crippled from birth was healed and was able to stand and walk, and he entered the temple with joy and praise.

1. The Power of Praise - How praising God can bring healing and joy.

2. Overcoming Adversity - How faith and courage can bring about amazing results.

1. John 14:12-14 - Trusting in Jesus brings peace and supernatural joy.

2. Psalm 34:1-4 - Praising God brings healing and peace.

Acts 3:9 And all the people saw him walking and praising God:

A man who had been lame was healed and was seen walking and praising God.

1. The Power of Praise: Encouraging Others to Give Thanks in All Situations

2. The Miracles of God: Experiencing His Healing and Restoration

1. Psalm 34:1-3 - I will bless the Lord at all times; his praise shall continually be in my mouth.

2. Hebrews 13:15 - Through him then let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that acknowledge his name.

Acts 3:10 And they knew that it was he which sat for alms at the Beautiful gate of the temple: and they were filled with wonder and amazement at that which had happened unto him.

A man who was sitting outside the temple gates begging for alms was miraculously healed by Peter and John, leaving the people around him filled with wonder and amazement.

1. The Power of Miracles: Jesus' Miraculous Healing

2. Beholding the Wonders of God in the Everyday

1. Matthew 9:35 - "And Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people."

2. Luke 7:22 - "Then Jesus answering said unto them, Go your way, and tell John what things ye have seen and heard; how that the blind see, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, to the poor the gospel is preached."

Acts 3:11 And as the lame man which was healed held Peter and John, all the people ran together unto them in the porch that is called Solomon's, greatly wondering.

The lame man was healed and the people gathered around Peter and John in amazement.

1. Miracles of Healing Today

2. God's Power and Presence in Our Lives

1. John 14:12 - “Very truly I tell you, whoever believes in me will do the works I have been doing, and they will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father.”

2. Acts 2:22 - “Men of Israel, listen to this: Jesus of Nazareth was a man accredited by God to you by miracles, wonders and signs, which God did among you through him, as you yourselves know.”

Acts 3:12 And when Peter saw it, he answered unto the people, Ye men of Israel, why marvel ye at this? or why look ye so earnestly on us, as though by our own power or holiness we had made this man to walk?

Peter asked the people of Israel why they were amazed at the miracle of a man being healed by Jesus.

1. The Power of Jesus: Recognizing the Miracle of Jesus in Our Lives

2. Embracing the Miracles of God: Accepting His Provision and Grace

1. Luke 5:17-26 – Jesus heals a paralyzed man

2. John 10:10 – Jesus came to give life and life more abundantly

Acts 3:13 The God of Abraham, and of Isaac, and of Jacob, the God of our fathers, hath glorified his Son Jesus; whom ye delivered up, and denied him in the presence of Pilate, when he was determined to let him go.

God has glorified his son Jesus, despite being rejected and betrayed by humankind.

1. The Power of God's Love - How God's love for humanity is stronger than our own sins and inadequacies.

2. The Glorification of Jesus - How Jesus's obedience to God's will led to his glorification.

1. Romans 5:8 - "But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us."

2. Philippians 2:5-8 - "In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death— even death on a cross!"

Acts 3:14 But ye denied the Holy One and the Just, and desired a murderer to be granted unto you;

Passage The people denied the holy and just one and instead desired a murderer.

1. The Danger of Rejecting God

2. The Power of Making the Wrong Choice

1. Isaiah 53:5 - But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.

2. James 4:17 - Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin.

Acts 3:15 And killed the Prince of life, whom God hath raised from the dead; whereof we are witnesses.

Peter, one of the twelve apostles, preached to the people of Jerusalem that Jesus, the Prince of Life, was killed but God had raised him from the dead.

1. The Power of the Resurrection - Exploring the significance of Jesus' resurrection and the power it offers us.

2. The Life of Jesus - Examining the impact Jesus' life had on his followers and our lives today.

1. Romans 6:4-10 - Exploring our new life in Christ through our union with his death and

resurrection.

2. 1 Corinthians 15:21-26 - Examining the importance of Jesus' resurrection in bringing us new life.

Acts 3:16 And his name through faith in his name hath made this man strong, whom ye see and know: yea, the faith which is by him hath given him this perfect soundness in the presence of you all.

A man was healed through faith in Jesus' name, and this miraculous healing was witnessed by all present.

1. Faith That Moves Mountains: How To Live A Life Of Miraculous Possibility

2. The Power of Faith: How To Access Divine Healing

1. Mark 11:22-24 - And Jesus answered them, “Have faith in God. Truly, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, ‘Be taken up and thrown into the sea,’ and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that what he says will come to pass, it will be done for him.

2. James 1:5-7 - If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him. But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea that is driven and tossed by the wind.

Acts 3:17 And now, brethren, I wot that through ignorance ye did it, as did also your rulers.

Peter rebukes the crowd of Jews for killing Jesus, explaining that it was done through ignorance.

1. The Power of Ignorance: How to Overcome Our Own Blindness

2. Unintentional Sin: Learning to Recognize and Repent of Our Wrongdoings

1. Matthew 26:67-68 - Then they spat in his face and struck him with their fists; and others slapped him, saying, “Prophesy to us, Christ! Who is the one who struck you?”

2. James 4:17 - Therefore, to one who knows the right thing to do and does not do it, to him it is sin.

Acts 3:18 But those things, which God before had shewed by the mouth of all his prophets, that Christ should suffer, he hath so fulfilled.

God has fulfilled his promise that Christ would suffer for our sins.

1. The Promise of the Cross: Understanding the Suffering of Jesus

2. Jesus' Death: The Ultimate Sacrifice for Our Sins

1. Isaiah 53:4-5 - Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his stripes we are healed.

2. Philippians 2:6-8 - Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death— even death on a cross!

Acts 3:19 Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord;

Repent and turn to God in order for sins to be forgiven.

1: Repentance leads to forgiveness.

2: Seek redemption through conversion.

1: Isaiah 1:18 - "Come now, let us reason together, says the Lord: though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall become like wool."

2: 1 John 1:9 - "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

Acts 3:20 And he shall send Jesus Christ, which before was preached unto you:

The passage speaks of Jesus Christ who was preached to the people before.

1. Jesus: The Hope of the World

2. Preaching the Good News of Jesus Christ

1. 1 Corinthians 15:3-4 - For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures.

2. Romans 10:14-15 - How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!

Acts 3:21 Whom the heaven must receive until the times of restitution of all things, which God hath spoken by the mouth of all his holy prophets since the world began.

In Acts 3:21, it is stated that heaven will receive Jesus until the times of restitution of all things, which God has spoken through the prophets since the beginning of the world.

1. Jesus is the fulfillment of God's promises and plan from the beginning of time.

2. God's promises have been revealed through his prophets and will be fulfilled through Jesus.

1. Isaiah 55:11 - "so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it."

2. Hebrews 2:14 - "Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, he himself likewise partook of the same things, that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil."

Acts 3:22 For Moses truly said unto the fathers, A prophet shall the Lord your God raise up unto you of your brethren, like unto me; him shall ye hear in all things whatsoever he shall say unto you.

Moses prophesied of a coming Messiah who would bring a new covenant of salvation.

1. The Promise of a Messiah: What the Prophets Foretold

2. Responding to the Coming of the Messiah

1. Isaiah 53:4-6

2. Luke 4:18-21

Acts 3:23 And it shall come to pass, that every soul, which will not hear that prophet, shall be destroyed from among the people.

This passage from Acts 3:23 warns that those who do not listen to the prophet will be destroyed from among the people.

1. "God's Call to Obedience: Listening to the Prophet"

2. "The Consequences of Disobedience: Destruction from the People"

1. Deuteronomy 18:15-19, "The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your brothers—it is to him you shall listen—just as you desired of the Lord your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly, when you said, ‘Let me not hear again the voice of the Lord my God or see this great fire any more, lest I die.’ And the Lord said to me, ‘They are right in what they have spoken. I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their brothers. And I will put my words in his mouth, and he shall speak to them all that I command him. And whoever will not listen to my words that he shall speak in my name, I myself will require it of him.’"

2. Jeremiah 7:23-24, "But this command I gave them: ‘Obey my voice, and I will be your God, and you shall be my people. And walk in all the way that I command you, that it may be well with you.’ But they did not obey or incline their ear, but walked in their own counsels and the stubbornness of their evil hearts, and went backward and not forward."

Acts 3:24 Yea, and all the prophets from Samuel and those that follow after, as many as

have spoken, have likewise foretold of these days.

God has promised that He would send His Son to the world to save mankind.

1. God's faithfulness in fulfilling His promise to send His Son for the salvation of humanity.

2. The power of prophecy and its importance in pointing towards the coming of Christ.

1. Isaiah 9:6-7 - For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

2. Luke 1:68-69 - Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has visited and redeemed his people and has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David.

Acts 3:25 Ye are the children of the prophets, and of the covenant which God made with our fathers, saying unto Abraham, And in thy seed shall all the kindreds of the earth be blessed.

God made a covenant with Abraham, promising that all the nations of the earth would be blessed through his seed.

1. The Power of God's Covenant Promises

2. The Blessing of Abraham's Descendants

1. Galatians 3:14 - “That the blessing of Abraham might come on the Gentiles through Jesus Christ; that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.”

2. Genesis 12:1-3 - “Now the LORD had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will shew thee: And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing: And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.”

Acts 3:26 Unto you first God, having raised up his Son Jesus, sent him to bless you, in turning away every one of you from his iniquities.

God's plan of redemption is to send his Son Jesus to bless us and turn us away from our sins.

1: Jesus, Our Redeemer and Savior

2: Turning Away from Iniquity

1: 1 John 2:1-2 - “My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous: And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world.”

2: Romans 10:9-10 - “That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.”

Acts 4 recounts the arrest of Peter and John by the Sanhedrin, their bold proclamation of faith in Jesus Christ, and the unity and generosity among early believers.

1st Paragraph: The chapter begins with Peter and John speaking to people about Jesus' resurrection when priests, temple guard captain Sadducees came up disturbed because apostles were teaching people proclaiming in Jesus resurrection dead. They seized Peter and John because it was evening, they put them in jail until next day. However many who heard message believed number men grew about five thousand (Acts 4:1-4).

2nd Paragraph: The next day rulers elders teachers law met Jerusalem with Annas high priest Caiaphas John Alexander others family high priest brought Peter John asked By what power name did this? Then filled Holy Spirit Peter said 'Rulers elders if we being called account today act kindness shown man who lame being asked how he was healed know this you all people Israel name Jesus Christ Nazareth whom you crucified but whom God raised from dead that this man stands before you healed.' He then declared that salvation is found in no one else for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved (Acts 4:5-12).

3rd Paragraph: Seeing courage Peter John realizing they were unschooled ordinary men astonished took note these men had been with Jesus but since they could see man who had been healed standing there nothing say ordered them not speak teach at all name Jesus but Peter John replied 'We cannot help speaking about what we have seen heard.' After further threats let them go finding no way punish them because people praising God what happened. Upon release went back own people reported chief priests elders said prayed God grant servants speak word great boldness stretch out hand heal perform signs wonders through name holy servant Jesus place where praying shaken filled Holy Spirit spoke word God boldly (Acts 4:13-31). The chapter concludes describing unity

among believers claiming possession their own shared everything had apostles continued testify resurrection Lord Jesus much grace upon all needy among distributed anyone as he had need (Acts 4:32-37).

Acts 4:1 And as they spake unto the people, the priests, and the captain of the temple, and the Sadducees, came upon them,

The early Christian church was persecuted by the priests, captain of the temple, and the Sadducees.

1. Do not be discouraged when persecuted for your faith.

2. Stand firm in your faith despite opposition.

1. Acts 5:41 - "And they departed from the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for his name."

2. Romans 8:35-39 - "Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? ... Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord."

Acts 4:2 Being grieved that they taught the people, and preached through Jesus the resurrection from the dead.

The religious leaders were unhappy that the apostles were teaching and preaching about Jesus and the resurrection from the dead.

1. The Power of a Resurrected Life

2. The Power of Teaching and Preaching

1. John 11:25-26 - Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die.

2. Matthew 28:19-20 - Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in

the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.

Acts 4:3 And they laid hands on them, and put them in hold unto the next day: for it was now eventide.

The apostles were arrested and held until the next day.

1. The Strength of Faith: How the Apostles Persevered Despite Adversity

2. Standing Firm in the Face of Persecution

1. Romans 8:31–39 – God's Unconditional Love and Protection through Difficult Times

2. Ephesians 6:10–20 – Putting on the Armor of God to Stand Firm in Faith

Acts 4:4 Howbeit many of them which heard the word believed; and the number of the men was about five thousand.

The Word of God was preached and about five thousand men believed.

1) The Power of Preaching: How the Word of God Can Lead to Salvation

2) The Value of Believing: How Faith Makes a Difference

1) Isaiah 55:11 - “So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it.”

2) Romans 10:17 - “So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.”

Acts 4:5 And it came to pass on the morrow, that their rulers, and elders, and scribes,

The next day, the rulers, elders, and scribes gathered together.

1. The power of coming together: The importance of working together as a community.

2. Solidarity in times of difficulty: How to stay unified in challenging times.

1. Hebrews 10:24-25 - "And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near."

2. Ecclesiastes 4:9-10 - "Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their toil. For if they fall, one will lift up his fellow. But woe to him who is alone when he falls and has not another to lift him up!"

Acts 4:6 And Annas the high priest, and Caiaphas, and John, and Alexander, and as many as were of the kindred of the high priest, were gathered together at Jerusalem.

The high priest and his family were gathered together in Jerusalem.

1. The importance of family unity.

2. The power of faith in achieving unity.

1. Psalm 133:1 “Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!”

2. Ephesians 4:1-3 “I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called, With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love; Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.”

Acts 4:7 And when they had set them in the midst, they asked, By what power, or by what name, have ye done this?

The religious leaders in Jerusalem were questioning Peter and John about the miracle they had performed.

1. The Power of the Name of Jesus: How Peter and John Demonstrated Its Authority

2. The Authority of Believers: How We Can Do Miracles in the Name of Jesus

1. Philippians 2:9-11 - Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

2. Mark 16:17-18 - And these signs will accompany those who believe: in my name they will cast out demons; they will speak in new tongues; they will pick up serpents with their hands; and if they drink any deadly poison, it will not hurt them; they will lay their hands on the sick, and they will recover.

Acts 4:8 Then Peter, filled with the Holy Ghost, said unto them, Ye rulers of the people, and elders of Israel,

Peter boldly declared that Jesus is the only way to salvation.

1: Jesus is the Way, the Truth, and the Life

2: The Holiness of Jesus and Our Salvation

1: John 14:6 “Jesus said to him, ‘I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.’”

2: Hebrews 7:26 “For it was indeed fitting that we should have such a high priest, holy, innocent, unstained, separated from sinners, and exalted above the heavens.”

Acts 4:9 If we this day be examined of the good deed done to the impotent man, by what means he is made whole;

This passage describes the examination of the apostles by the Jewish authorities concerning the healing of a lame man.

1. The Power of Faith - How the lame man was healed through faith in Jesus Christ.

2. God's Mercy and Love - How God works through us to show mercy and love to the less fortunate.

1. Matthew 8:5-13 - Jesus healing the centurion’s servant.

2. Luke 7:11-17 - Jesus raising the widow’s son from the dead.

Acts 4:10 Be it known unto you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom ye crucified, whom God raised from the dead, even by him doth this man stand here before you whole.

This passage emphasizes the power of Jesus Christ, who was crucified by the people of Israel but was raised from the dead by God.

1. The Power of the Name of Jesus Christ

2. The Resurrecting Power of God

1. Acts 10:38 - How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him.

2. John 11:25-26 - Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die.

Acts 4:11 This is the stone which was set at nought of you builders, which is become the head of the corner.

The stone which was disregarded by the builders has become the cornerstone.

1. The Unfortunate Beauty of Rejection

2. The Power of Redemption

1. Psalm 118:22 - “The stone which the builders rejected has become the cornerstone.”

2. Matthew 21:42 - “Have you never read in the Scriptures: ‘The stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; the Lord has done this, and it is marvelous in our eyes.’”

Acts 4:12 Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.

Salvation is only found in Jesus Christ.

1: We must trust in Jesus Christ alone for our salvation.

2: It is only through Jesus Christ that we can be saved.

1: John 14:6 - Jesus said to him, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

2: Ephesians 2:8-9 - For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast.

Acts 4:13 Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were unlearned and ignorant men, they marvelled; and they took knowledge of them, that they had been with Jesus.

The people in Jerusalem were amazed by the boldness of Peter and John and realized that they had been with Jesus, even though they were uneducated and untrained.

1: Through Jesus, we can have the courage to face any opposition.

2: We don't need to be educated or trained to have the power to do great things with Jesus.

1: Philippians 4:13 - I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.

2: Isaiah 41:10 - Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.

Acts 4:14 And beholding the man which was healed standing with them, they could say nothing against it.

The people who witnessed the man who was healed standing with the apostles could not argue against it.

1. God's Power is Unstoppable

2. Miracles are Evidence of God's Love and Grace

1. Romans 8:31 - What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?

2. Psalm 37:5 - Commit your way to the Lord; trust in him, and he will act.

Acts 4:15 But when they had commanded them to go aside out of the council, they conferred among themselves,

The council members asked the apostles to leave the council and discussed the situation amongst themselves.

1. We must always remember to listen to wisdom from God and those who speak for Him.

2. When we are faced with difficult decisions, we should always seek God's guidance.

1. Proverbs 1:7 - The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and instruction.

2. Jeremiah 33:3 - Call to me and I will answer you, and will tell you great and hidden things that you have not known.

Acts 4:16 Saying, What shall we do to these men? for that indeed a notable miracle hath been done by them is manifest to all them that dwell in Jerusalem; and we cannot deny it.

The people of Jerusalem were amazed by the miracle performed by Peter and John and were asking what should be done with them.

1. Miracles Are Signs of God's Presence

2. Obedience to God Brings Blessing

1. Acts 5:32 - "And we are his witnesses of these things; and so is also the Holy Ghost, whom God hath given to them that obey him."

2. John 14:11-12 - "Believe me that I am in the Father, and the Father in me: or else believe me for the very works' sake. Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father."

Acts 4:17 But that it spread no further among the people, let us straitly threaten them, that they speak henceforth to no man in this name.

The religious leaders threatened the disciples to not speak of Jesus Christ anymore.

1: The power of Jesus Christ is undeniable; don't be afraid to share your faith and proclaim His name.

2: Stand up for Jesus Christ and share His love and truth with all.

1: John 15:13 - Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends.

2: Hebrews 13:15 - Through Jesus, therefore, let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise—the fruit of lips that openly profess his name.

Acts 4:18 And they called them, and commanded them not to speak at all nor teach in the name of Jesus.

The authorities commanded Peter and John not to speak or teach in the name of Jesus.

1. Stand firm in the face of opposition

2. Speak truth and live courageously

1. Matthew 5:11-12 "Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

2. Ephesians 6:13-17 Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

Acts 4:19 But Peter and John answered and said unto them, Whether it be right in the sight of God to hearken unto you more than unto God, judge ye.

Peter and John refuse to obey the leaders of the Sanhedrin and instead choose to obey God.

1. The importance of obeying God over man.

2. The power of standing up for what is right.

1. Colossians 3:23-24 - Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men.

2. James 4:7-8 - Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you.

Acts 4:20 For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard.

The disciples are compelled to share their experience of Jesus and His teachings.

1. Speak What You Have Seen and Heard: A Call to Testimony

2. Proclaiming the Good News of Jesus: A Necessary Duty

1. John 15:27 - "And you also will bear witness, because you have been with me from the beginning."

2. Romans 10:14-15 - "How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching?"

Acts 4:21 So when they had further threatened them, they let them go, finding nothing how they might punish them, because of the people: for all men glorified God for that which was done.

The people glorified God for the miraculous event that had happened, so the authorities had no choice but to let them go.

1. God works in mysterious ways and can use even the most unlikely of people to bring about his purposes.

2. God can use any situation to glorify himself, and even when it appears that all hope is lost, he can still bring about a miraculous victory.

1. Isaiah 55:8-9 - “For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways,” declares the Lord. “As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

2. Romans 8:28 - And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.

Acts 4:22 For the man was above forty years old, on whom this miracle of healing was shewed.

This passage describes a healing miracle performed on a man who was over 40 years old.

1. Embrace the Miracles of God: God's loving power is available to all, regardless of age.

2. The Power of Faith: Miracles can be done through trusting in the Lord's power.

1. Mark 16:17-18 - And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover.

2. Hebrews 11:1 - Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

Acts 4:23 And being let go, they went to their own company, and reported all that the chief priests and elders had said unto them.

The apostles were released after confronting the chief priests and elders and reported all that had been said to them.

1: We should always stand up for what is right in the face of opposition and trust in the Lord to protect us.

2: We can learn from the example of the apostles that we will have trials and tribulations, but the Lord will still be with us.

1: Philippians 4:13 - "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."

2: Isaiah 41:10 - "Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand."

Acts 4:24 And when they heard that, they lifted up their voice to God with one accord, and said, Lord, thou art God, which hast made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and all that in them is:

The people in the church praised God for creating the heavens, the earth, the sea, and all that is in them.

1. God is the Creator of All Things

2. Gratitude for God's Creation

1. Psalm 148:5 - Let them praise the name of the Lord: for he commanded, and they were created.

2. Colossians 1:16 - For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him.

Acts 4:25 Who by the mouth of thy servant David hast said, Why did the heathen rage, and the people imagine vain things?

The heathen raged and people imagined vain things, despite God's will.

1. God's will will ultimately prevail despite what may seem to rage against it.

2. We must discern between God's will and things imagined vainly.

1. Matthew 16:18 (And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.)

2. Psalm 2:1-2 (Why do the heathen rage, and the people imagine a vain thing? The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the Lord, and against his anointed...)

Acts 4:26 The kings of the earth stood up, and the rulers were gathered together against the Lord, and against his Christ.

The kings and rulers of the earth gathered together to oppose the Lord and his Christ.

1. The Power of Uniting Against God

2. Standing Firm in the Face of Opposition

1. Ephesians 6:10-20 – Stand firm against the schemes of the devil

2. Daniel 3:16-18 – Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego stood firm against Nebuchadnezzar and the firey furnace

Acts 4:27 For of a truth against thy holy child Jesus, whom thou hast anointed, both Herod, and Pontius Pilate, with the Gentiles, and the people of Israel, were gathered together,

Herod, Pilate, Gentiles, and Israelites all united against Jesus, God's anointed one.

1. The Unity of Opposition: How Our Enemies Unite Against God's Plan

2. The Anointing of Jesus: How God's Blessing Changes the Course of History

1. Isaiah 53:3-5 He is despised and rejected by men, a Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. And we hid, as it were, our faces from Him; He was despised, and we did not esteem Him.

2. Psalm 2:2 The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD and against His Anointed.

Acts 4:28 For to do whatsoever thy hand and thy counsel determined before to be done.

This passage is about how God's hand and counsel determine what will happen in the future.

1. "God’s Sovereignty: We Can Trust His Plan"

2. "Obedience: Doing What God Wills"

1. Isaiah 46:10-11 - "I make known the end from the beginning, from ancient times, what is still to come. I say, ‘My purpose will stand, and I will do all that I please.’

2. Proverbs 16:9 - "In their hearts humans plan their course, but the Lord establishes their steps.”

Acts 4:29 And now, Lord, behold their threatenings: and grant unto thy servants, that with all boldness they may speak thy word,

The passage speaks of a prayer for God's protection and boldness to continue to spread His Word.

1: We must not be discouraged by opposition, but instead, rely on God's protection and strength to be bold in our proclamation of His Word.

2: We can trust in the Lord to provide the boldness and strength we need to continue His work, no matter the opposition.

1: Isaiah 41:10 “Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.”

2: Romans 8:31-32 “What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things?”

Acts 4:30 By stretching forth thine hand to heal; and that signs and wonders may be done by the name of thy holy child Jesus.

The early church prayed for healing and for signs and wonders to be done in Jesus' name.

1. Jesus is the Healer: Exploring How God Uses Miracles to Make His Presence Known

2. Signs and Wonders: Examining the Roles Miracles Played in the Early Church

1. Matthew 8:16-17 - When evening had come, they brought to Him many who were demon-possessed. And He cast out the spirits with a word, and healed all who were sick, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Isaiah the prophet, saying: “He Himself took our infirmities And bore our sicknesses.”

2. Mark 16:17-18 - And these signs will follow those who believe: In My name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues; they will take up serpents; and if they drink anything deadly, it will by no means hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover.

Acts 4:31 And when they had prayed, the place was shaken where they were assembled together; and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and they spake the word of God with boldness.

The believers prayed and the place was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost and spoke the word of God with boldness.

1. Let the Holy Spirit Guide Your Words

2. The Power of Prayer

1. Ephesians 6:19-20 – “And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord’s people.”

2. Luke 11:1 – “One day Jesus was praying in a certain place. When he finished, one of his

disciples said to him, ‘Lord, teach us to pray, just as John taught his disciples.’”

Acts 4:32 And the multitude of them that believed were of one heart and of one soul: neither said any of them that ought of the things which he possessed was his own; but they had all things common.

The early church had a strong sense of community, where no one person was more important than the other and all possessions were shared.

1. The Unity of the Church: A Call to Love and Share.

2. Practicing Generosity: Giving What You Can, Taking What You Need.

1. Philippians 2:3-4 - Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves.

2. Hebrews 13:16 - Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.

Acts 4:33 And with great power gave the apostles witness of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus: and great grace was upon them all.

The apostles gave witness of the resurrection of Jesus with great power and grace.

1. The Power of Witnessing for Jesus

2. Experiencing God's Grace in Our Witnessing

1. John 15:27—“And you also will bear witness, because you have been with me from the beginning.”

2. 1 Corinthians 15:15—“And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith.”

Acts 4:34 Neither was there any among them that lacked: for as many as were possessors of lands or houses sold them, and brought the prices of the things that were sold,

The early Christians shared and cared for each other, not allowing anyone to go without.

1: In times of need, God's people should come together and share the resources that they have.

2: We must be open to sacrificing our own possessions to ensure everyone is taken care of.

1: Acts 2:44, 45 - And all that believed were together, and had all things common; and sold their possessions and goods, and parted them to all men, as every man had need.

2: James 2:15-17 - If a brother or sister be naked, and destitute of daily food, and one of you say unto them, Depart in peace, be ye warmed and filled; notwithstanding ye give them not those things which are needful to the body; what doth it profit?

Acts 4:35 And laid them down at the apostles' feet: and distribution was made unto every man according as he had need.

The apostles distributed resources to everyone according to their individual needs.

1. The importance of generosity and charity towards others.

2. The power of community when everyone works together to provide for each other.

1. James 2:14-17 - What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save them? 15 Suppose a brother or a sister is without clothes and daily food. 16 If one of you says to them, “Go in peace; keep warm and well fed,” but does nothing about their physical needs, what good is it? 17 In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.

2. 2 Corinthians 8:9-11 - For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich. 10 And here is my advice about what is best for you in this matter: Last year you were the first not only to give but also to have the desire to do so. 11 Now finish the work, so that your eager willingness to do it may be matched by your completion of it, according to your means.

Acts 4:36 And Joses, who by the apostles was surnamed Barnabas, (which is, being

interpreted, The son of consolation,) a Levite, and of the country of Cyprus,

Barnabas was a Levite from the country of Cyprus who was given the nickname "Son of Consolation" by the apostles.

1. The Power of Faith - How Barnabas' story can encourage us to have faith in God

2. The Blessing of a Good Name - The importance of being known for our good deeds

1. Hebrews 13:2 - "Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by so doing some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it."

2. Proverbs 22:1 - "A good name is more desirable than great riches; to be esteemed is better than silver or gold."

Acts 4:37 Having land, sold it, and brought the money, and laid it at the apostles' feet.

A group of people sold their land and gave the proceeds to the apostles.

1. The Power of Generosity: The Example of the Early Church

2. Living a Life of Generousity: An Example from the Bible

1. 2 Corinthians 8:12-15

2. Luke 6:38 & Matthew 6:19-21

Acts 5 recounts the story of Ananias and Sapphira, the miraculous signs performed by the apostles, their arrest and miraculous escape, and their testimony before the Sanhedrin.

1st Paragraph: The chapter begins with Ananias and his wife Sapphira selling a piece of property but keeping back part of money for themselves while pretending to give all proceeds to apostles. When Ananias brought part of money Peter asked why Satan filled heart lie Holy Spirit keep back some price land. Upon hearing Peter's words, Ananias fell down and died. Fear seized all who heard what happened. Later when Sapphira came in unaware what happened Peter asked her about price land she confirmed false amount then told her feet men buried husband were door carry out she fell down died moment

young men came found her dead carried her out buried next husband great fear seized whole church all who heard these events (Acts 5:1-11).

2nd Paragraph: The apostles performed many signs wonders among people believers used meet together Solomon's Colonnade no one else dared join them even though they were highly regarded by people more more men women believed Lord added number daily those being saved. As result people brought sick into streets laid them on beds mats so that at least Peter's shadow might fall on some them as he passed by crowds gathered also from towns around Jerusalem bringing sick those tormented impure spirits all healed (Acts 5:12-16).

3rd Paragraph: Then high priest his associates who were members party Sadducees filled jealousy arrested apostles put public jail during night angel Lord opened doors jail brought them out 'Go stand temple courts said tell people full message new life.' At daybreak they entered temple courts began teach high priest associates arrived called together Sanhedrin elders Israel sent jail officers bring apostles found jail securely locked guards standing doors when opened found no one inside On hearing this report captain temple guard chief priests puzzled wondering would come this Then someone came said 'Look men you put in prison are standing in temple courts teaching people.' They arrested again but did not use force because feared that they would be stoned by people (Acts 5:17-26). Brought before Sanhedrin Peter other apostles declared 'We must obey God rather than human beings! God our ancestors raised Jesus whom you killed hanging him cross exalted him right hand as Prince Savior forgiveness sins Israel We witnesses these things so Holy Spirit whom God given those obey him' (Acts 5:27-32). Gamaliel a respected Pharisee advised council let men go if endeavor human origin fail if divine cannot stop it may even fighting against God His advice was taken flogged ordered not speak name Jesus let go rejoicing counted worthy suffering disgrace Name Day after day temple from house did not stop teaching proclaiming good news Jesus Christ (Acts 5:33-42).

Acts 5:1 But a certain man named Ananias, with Sapphira his wife, sold a possession,

Ananias and Sapphira lie about the amount they received for a possession they sold.

1. Honesty and Integrity - Ananias and Sapphira's example of dishonesty and lack of integrity.

2. The Power of Deception - How the lies of Ananias and Sapphira led to their demise.

1. Proverbs 12:22 - “Lying lips are an abomination to the Lord, but those who act faithfully are His delight.”

2. Colossians 3:9-10 - “Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old self with its practices and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator.”

Acts 5:2 And kept back part of the price, his wife also being privy to it, and brought a certain part, and laid it at the apostles' feet.

The couple of Ananias and Sapphira attempted to deceive the apostles by not giving the full amount of money they earned from the sale of their land.

1: The Sin of Deception - Acts 5:2

2: The Power of Honesty - Acts 5:2

1: Proverbs 12:22 - Lying lips are an abomination to the Lord, but those who deal faithfully are His delight.

2: Ephesians 4:25 - Therefore, having put away falsehood, let each one of you speak the truth with his neighbor, for we are members one of another.

Acts 5:3 But Peter said, Ananias, why hath Satan filled thine heart to lie to the Holy Ghost, and to keep back part of the price of the land?

Peter rebuked Ananias for lying to the Holy Spirit and not giving away the full amount of the land's price.

1: We must be honest with God and not try to deceive Him.

2: We must be generous and give God our all.

1: James 1:22 - "But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves."

2: Proverbs 3:9 - "Honor the Lord with your wealth and with the firstfruits of all your produce."

Acts 5:4 Whiles it remained, was it not thine own? and after it was sold, was it not in thine own power? why hast thou conceived this thing in thine heart? thou hast not lied unto men, but unto God.

Ananias and Sapphira have lied to God by not giving the entirety of the money they received from selling a possession.

1. The Power of Lies and the Consequences of Not Being Honest with God

2. The Importance of Honesty and Integrity in Our Relationship with God

1. Proverbs 12:22 - Lying lips are an abomination to the Lord, but those who act faithfully are his delight.

2. Ephesians 5:11 - Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them.

Acts 5:5 And Ananias hearing these words fell down, and gave up the ghost: and great fear came on all them that heard these things.

Ananias lied to God and was struck dead.

1: A reminder that God's truth must be respected, and that lying to God has consequences.

2: A warning to not harden our hearts against God's truth, but to accept it and live by it.

1: Proverbs 12:22 - Lying lips are an abomination to the Lord, but those who act faithfully are his delight.

2: John 3:16-17 - For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

Acts 5:6 And the young men arose, wound him up, and carried him out, and buried him.

Two young men wound up and carried out a man, whom they buried.

1. The Power of Compassion: How We Can Learn from the Young Men in Acts 5:6

2. The Importance of Caring for Our Brothers and Sisters: A Call to Action from Acts 5:6

1. Luke 10:25-37 - Parable of the Good Samaritan

2. James 2:14-17 - Faith without works is dead

Acts 5:7 And it was about the space of three hours after, when his wife, not knowing what was done, came in.

Ananias and Sapphira lied to the apostles about the amount of money they had given to the church. Three hours later, Sapphira arrived not aware of what had occurred.

1. The Consequences of Lying: Learning from the Story of Ananias and Sapphira

2. A Heart for God: The Power of Generous Giving

1. Ephesians 4:25 – “Therefore, having put away falsehood, let each one of you speak the truth with his neighbor, for we are members one of another.”

2. Luke 6:38 – “Give, and it will be given to you. They will pour into your lap a good measure—pressed down, shaken together, and running over. For by your standard of measure it will be measured to you in return.”

Acts 5:8 And Peter answered unto her, Tell me whether ye sold the land for so much? And she said, Yea, for so much.

Peter asked the woman if she had sold her land for a certain amount, and she confirmed that she had.

1. The Benefits of Honesty

2. The Power of Questions

1. Psalm 15:2 He that walketh uprightly, and worketh righteousness, and speaketh the truth in his heart.

2. James 3:17 But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be entreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy.

Acts 5:9 Then Peter said unto her, How is it that ye have agreed together to tempt the Spirit of the Lord? behold, the feet of them which have buried thy husband are at the door, and shall carry thee out.

Peter questions Ananias and Sapphira for conspiring to deceive the Holy Spirit.

1. The Danger of Deceit - God knows and will not be fooled by our falsehoods.

2. The Power of God - Even in the face of our greatest deceptions, God is still in control.

1. Psalm 34:15 - The eyes of the LORD are on the righteous, and his ears are attentive to their cry;

2. Proverbs 12:22 - The Lord detests lying lips, but he delights in people who are trustworthy.

Acts 5:10 Then fell she down straightway at his feet, and yielded up the ghost: and the young men came in, and found her dead, and, carrying her forth, buried her by her husband.

A woman died instantly after seeing the apostles because of her faith in them. The young men then buried her with her husband.

1. Faith in Christ's apostles can be so strong that it can lead to a miraculous death.

2. We can learn from the woman's faith to have trust in the apostles.

1. Matthew 9:20-22 – And, behold, a woman, which was diseased with an issue of blood twelve years, came behind him, and touched the hem of his garment: For she said within herself, If I may but touch his garment, I shall be whole. But Jesus turned him about, and when he saw her, he said, Daughter, be of good comfort; thy faith hath made thee whole.

2. John 11:25-26 – Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that

believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. Believest thou this?

Acts 5:11 And great fear came upon all the church, and upon as many as heard these things.

Fear spread throughout the church after hearing the news of the apostles' miracles.

1. The Power of Miracles: How God Works In and Through Us

2. The Strength of Our Faith: Knowing That God Is With Us

1. Matthew 17:20 - He said to them, “Because of your little faith. For truly, I say to you, if you have faith like a grain of mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, ‘Move from here to there,’ and it will move, and nothing will be impossible for you.

2. Romans 8:31b - What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?

Acts 5:12 And by the hands of the apostles were many signs and wonders wrought among the people; (and they were all with one accord in Solomon's porch.

The apostles performed many wonders and miracles among the people, and everyone gathered in Solomon's porch in agreement.

1. God's Work Through the Apostles: How to Recognize and Follow His Miracles

2. Unity Through the Apostles: The Power of Working Together in Faith

1. Mark 16:17-18 - And these signs will accompany those who believe: In my name they will drive out demons; they will speak in new tongues; 18 they will pick up snakes with their hands; and when they drink deadly poison, it will not hurt them at all; they will place their hands on sick people, and they will get well.

2. John 6:7-8 - Philip answered him, “It would take more than half a year’s wages to buy enough bread for each one to have a bite!” 8 Another of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother, spoke up,

Acts 5:13 And of the rest durst no man join himself to them: but the people magnified them.

The people of Jerusalem were in awe of the apostles and their teachings, so much so that no one could join them.

1. The Power of Influence: Learning to Live a Life that Impacts Others

2. Taking Responsibility for Your Impact: How to Use Your Influence to Make a Difference

1. Proverbs 11:30 - The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life; and he that winneth souls is wise.

2. 1 Peter 2:12 - Having your conversation honest among the Gentiles: that, whereas they speak against you as evildoers, they may by your good works, which they shall behold, glorify God in the day of visitation.

Acts 5:14 And believers were the more added to the Lord, multitudes both of men and women.)

Multitudes of men and women were added to the Christian faith.

1. "The Power of Belief: How Faith Propels Us Forward"

2. "Growing in Faith: Strengthening Our Relationship with the Lord"

1. Romans 10:17 - “So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.”

2. Ephesians 2:8–9 - “For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.”

Acts 5:15 Insomuch that they brought forth the sick into the streets, and laid them on beds and couches, that at the least the shadow of Peter passing by might overshadow some of them.

People brought their sick friends and family to the streets to be healed by Peter's shadow.

1. The Healing Power of Faith: How Even Peter's Shadow Could Bring About Miracles

2. The Ministry of Peter: How One Man's Faith Brings About Miracles

1. Matthew 9:20-22 - And, behold, a woman, which was diseased with an issue of blood twelve years, came behind him, and touched the hem of his garment: For she said within herself, If I may but touch his garment, I shall be whole. But Jesus turned him about, and when he saw her, he said, Daughter, be of good comfort; thy faith hath made thee whole. And the woman was made whole from that hour.

2. Mark 2:3-5 - And they come unto him, bringing one sick of the palsy, which was borne of four. And when they could not come nigh unto him for the press, they uncovered the roof where he was: and when they had broken it up, they let down the bed wherein the sick of the palsy lay. When Jesus saw their faith, he said unto the sick of the palsy, Son, thy sins be forgiven thee.

Acts 5:16 There came also a multitude out of the cities round about unto Jerusalem, bringing sick folks, and them which were vexed with unclean spirits: and they were healed every one.

The multitude from the nearby cities were healed when they brought their sick and possessed to Jerusalem.

1. God's healing power is available for all who come to Him in faith.

2. The power of Jesus Christ is alive today to heal the sick and set captives free.

1. Matthew 8:16-17 - When evening came, many who were demon-possessed were brought to him, and he drove out the spirits with a word and healed all the sick.

17 This was to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet Isaiah: “He took up our infirmities and bore our diseases.”

2. James 5:14-15 - Is anyone among you sick? Let them call the elders of the church to pray over them and anoint them with oil in the name of the Lord. 15 And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise them up. If they have sinned, they will be forgiven.

Acts 5:17 Then the high priest rose up, and all they that were with him, (which is the sect of the Sadducees,) and were filled with indignation,

The high priest and the sect of the Sadducees were filled with indignation.

1. The Danger of Unchecked Emotions

2. The Power of Love Over Anger

1. James 1:19-20 - Let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger; for the anger of man does not produce the righteousness of God.

2. Proverbs 15:1 - A soft answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger.

Acts 5:18 And laid their hands on the apostles, and put them in the common prison.

The authorities arrested the apostles and put them in prison.

1. Obeying God in the face of opposition

2. Faithfulness in persecution

1. Hebrews 11:32-40

2. Acts 4:13-22

Acts 5:19 But the angel of the Lord by night opened the prison doors, and brought them forth, and said,

The angel of the Lord brought Peter and the other apostles out of prison.

1: God's power is infinite and He can set us free from any bondage.

2: If we are obedient to God, He will deliver us from all adversity.

1: Isaiah 41:10 - "Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand."

2: Philippians 4:13 - "I can do all things through him who strengthens me."

Acts 5:20 Go, stand and speak in the temple to the people all the words of this life.

The apostle Peter encourages the people to go to the temple and speak the words of eternal life.

1. The Power of Words: How to Speak Life into Your Life

2. The Joy of Sharing the Gospel: Why We Should Always Speak the Words of Eternal Life

1. Colossians 3:16 - Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.

2. James 1:19 - Wherefore, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath.

Acts 5:21 And when they heard that, they entered into the temple early in the morning, and taught. But the high priest came, and they that were with him, and called the council together, and all the senate of the children of Israel, and sent to the prison to have them brought.

The high priest and the senate of the children of Israel called a council together and sent to the prison to have the disciples of Jesus brought after hearing that they were teaching in the temple.

1. The importance of obedience to the law of God.

2. Standing firm in the face of persecution.

1. Romans 13:1-7 - Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers.

2. Hebrews 11:32-40 - The men of old endured by faith.

Acts 5:22 But when the officers came, and found them not in the prison, they returned, and told,

The officers found the apostles were not in the prison.

1 - God delivered the apostles from prison.

2 - We should trust God to deliver us in difficult times.

1 - Psalm 34:7 - The angel of the LORD encamps around those who fear him, and delivers them.

2 - Psalm 91:14 - “Because he holds fast to me in love, I will deliver him; I will protect him, because he knows my name.

Acts 5:23 Saying, The prison truly found we shut with all safety, and the keepers standing without before the doors: but when we had opened, we found no man within.

The prison was found to be securely closed, but no one was found inside.

1. God is powerful and can do the impossible.

2. Trust in God to provide protection and safety.

1. Isaiah 40:31 – “but those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.”

2. Isaiah 46:4 – “Even to your old age and gray hairs I am he, I am he who will sustain you. I have made you and I will carry you; I will sustain you and I will rescue you.”

Acts 5:24 Now when the high priest and the captain of the temple and the chief priests heard these things, they doubted of them whereunto this would grow.

The high priest, captain of the temple, and chief priests were skeptical when they heard

the news about the Apostles.

1. The Power of Faith - How trusting in God can bring about the impossible

2. Standing Up for What's Right - Having the courage to stand up against those who doubt

1. Matthew 17:20 - "He replied, "Because you have so little faith. Truly I tell you, if you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you."

2. Hebrews 11:1 - "Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see."

Acts 5:25 Then came one and told them, saying, Behold, the men whom ye put in prison are standing in the temple, and teaching the people.

The prisoners who had been placed in jail were found teaching the people in the temple.

1. God's Sovereignty: No Obstacle Can Stop His Plan

2. God's Faithfulness: He Never Fails To Accomplish His Purposes

1. Isaiah 55:11 - So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it.

2. Jeremiah 29:11 - For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the Lord, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end.

Acts 5:26 Then went the captain with the officers, and brought them without violence: for they feared the people, lest they should have been stoned.

The captain and officers brought the apostles without violence because the people feared stoning them.

1: Fear of the Lord is wisdom, and can protect us from harm.

2: We should always seek a peaceful resolution to conflicts, even if we are afraid.

1: Proverbs 1:7 - "The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge; Fools despise wisdom and instruction."

2: Romans 12:18 - "If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all."

Acts 5:27 And when they had brought them, they set them before the council: and the high priest asked them,

The apostles were brought before the council and interrogated by the high priest.

1. Standing Firm in the Face of Persecution

2. How to Respond to Unjust Accusations

1. 1 Peter 2:20-23 - For what credit is it if, when you sin and are beaten for it, you endure? But if when you do good and suffer for it you endure, this is a gracious thing in the sight of God. For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow His steps: “Who committed no sin, nor was deceit found in His mouth”;

2. Matthew 5:10-12 - Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, For theirs is the kingdom of heaven. “Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake. Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

Acts 5:28 Saying, Did not we straitly command you that ye should not teach in this name? and, behold, ye have filled Jerusalem with your doctrine, and intend to bring this man's blood upon us.

This verse from Acts 5:28 speaks of the apostles being commanded not to teach in Jesus' name and yet they had done so, spreading their doctrine throughout Jerusalem.

1. The Power of Obedience: Following God's Commands Despite Difficulties

2. The Impact of Faith: How Our Actions Speak Louder Than Our Words

1. Matthew 28:19-20 “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.”

2. Isaiah 6:8 “And I heard the voice of the Lord saying, ‘Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?’ Then I said, ‘Here I am! Send me.’”

Acts 5:29 Then Peter and the other apostles answered and said, We ought to obey God rather than men.

The apostles responded to the Jewish rulers, saying that they must obey God instead of man.

1. Obedience to God vs. Obedience to Man

2. Putting God First in All Choices

1. Matthew 22:21 (“Render therefore unto Caesar the things which are Caesar's; and unto God the things that are God's.”)

2. Philippians 3:20 (“For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ.”)

Acts 5:30 The God of our fathers raised up Jesus, whom ye slew and hanged on a tree.

The God of the Israelites raised Jesus, who was killed and hung on a tree by the people of Israel.

1. The Power of God's Resurrection: How Jesus Conquered Death

2. Jesus' Sacrifice: The Example of Love and Forgiveness

1. Romans 6:4-5 - Therefore we were buried with him by baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.

5. 1 Corinthians 15:3-4 - For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures.

Acts 5:31 Him hath God exalted with his right hand to be a Prince and a Saviour, for to give repentance to Israel, and forgiveness of sins.

God has exalted Jesus as a Prince and Saviour to give repentance and forgiveness of sins to Israel.

1. The Exalted Prince and Saviour - Luke 2:11

2. The Gift of Repentance and Forgiveness - Acts 17:30

1. Romans 5:8 - But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

2. John 3:16-17 - For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.

Acts 5:32 And we are his witnesses of these things; and so is also the Holy Ghost, whom God hath given to them that obey him.

The Apostles were witnesses to the works of Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit was given to those who obey God's command.

1. Our Obedience to God Opens the Door to the Holy Spirit

2. The Power of Witnessing God's Work

1. John 14:15-17 - If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, even the Spirit of truth.

2. Romans 12:1-2 - I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and

acceptable and perfect.

Acts 5:33 When they heard that, they were cut to the heart, and took counsel to slay them.

The Jewish leaders were filled with anger when they heard the teachings of the apostles and decided to kill them.

1. The Power of the Word: How the Gospel Transforms Even the Most Unbelieving Heart

2. The Persecution of the Church: How We Respond to Suffering

1. Ephesians 4:15 – “Speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ”

2. Philippians 1:29 – “For it has been granted to you that for the sake of Christ you should not only believe in him but also suffer for his sake.”

Acts 5:34 Then stood there up one in the council, a Pharisee, named Gamaliel, a doctor of the law, had in reputation among all the people, and commanded to put the apostles forth a little space;

Gamaliel, a Pharisee and respected teacher of the law, stood up in the council and asked to have the apostles moved away.

1. The Wisdom of Gamaliel: Listening to the Voice of Reason in Times of Conflict

2. The Power of Reputation: The Influence of a Good Name

1. Proverbs 18:13 - "He that answereth a matter before he heareth it, it is folly and shame unto him."

2. Ecclesiastes 10:2 - "A wise man's heart is at his right hand; but a fool's heart at his left."

Acts 5:35 And said unto them, Ye men of Israel, take heed to yourselves what ye intend to do as touching these men.

The men of Israel were warned about their intentions regarding the men before them.

1. The importance of considering God's will in our decisions.

2. The necessity of being wise and discerning when faced with difficult decisions.

1. James 1:5 - "If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him."

2. Proverbs 3:5-6 - “Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.”

Acts 5:36 For before these days rose up Theudas, boasting himself to be somebody; to whom a number of men, about four hundred, joined themselves: who was slain; and all, as many as obeyed him, were scattered, and brought to nought.

Theudas was a man who claimed to be someone important and gathered around 400 men to join him. However, he was slain and all of his followers were scattered and brought to nothing.

1. God's sovereign plan is always fulfilled - Romans 8:28

2. Beware of false prophets and their empty promises - Matthew 7:15-17

1. Daniel 4:35 - All the inhabitants of the earth are accounted as nothing

2. Proverbs 16:2 - All the ways of a man are pure in his own eyes, But the Lord weighs the spirit.

Acts 5:37 After this man rose up Judas of Galilee in the days of the taxing, and drew away much people after him: he also perished; and all, even as many as obeyed him, were dispersed.

This passage speaks of Judas of Galilee who rose up in the days of the taxing and gathered a large following, but ultimately perished and his followers dispersed.

1. The fleeting nature of worldly fame

2. The importance of following God rather than man

1. Psalm 146:3-4 - Put not your trust in princes, in a son of man, in whom there is no salvation. When his breath departs, he returns to the earth; on that very day his plans perish.

2. Proverbs 14:12 - There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way to death.

Acts 5:38 And now I say unto you, Refrain from these men, and let them alone: for if this counsel or this work be of men, it will come to nought:

The Apostle Peter advised the people to stay away from the men who were preaching a false gospel, as it would amount to nothing.

1. Be aware of false gospels and do not be deceived by them.

2. Do not be swayed by false teachers, as their work will not amount to anything.

1. Jeremiah 17:5-8 - Trust in the Lord with all your heart and do not lean on your own understanding.

2. Romans 12:2 - Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind.

Acts 5:39 But if it be of God, ye cannot overthrow it; lest haply ye be found even to fight against God.

God will always prevail in the end and it is dangerous for us to attempt to oppose Him.

1: We should never try to resist God and His will as it is futile and can be detrimental to us.

2: God is the sovereign Lord who reigns supreme and it is wise to submit to Him.

1: Ephesians 4:6 - One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.

2: Psalm 103:19 - The Lord hath prepared his throne in the heavens; and his kingdom ruleth over all.

Acts 5:40 And to him they agreed: and when they had called the apostles, and beaten them, they commanded that they should not speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go.

The apostles were called and beaten, but were allowed to go after being commanded not to speak in the name of Jesus.

1. The Power of Perseverance: Learning from the Apostles

2. Following Jesus No Matter the Cost

1. Matthew 10:32-33 - “Whoever acknowledges me before others, I will also acknowledge before my Father in heaven. But whoever disowns me before others, I will disown before my Father in heaven.”

2. 1 Peter 4:13 - “But rejoice insofar as you share Christ’s sufferings, that you may also rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed.”

Acts 5:41 And they departed from the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for his name.

The apostles rejoiced in their suffering for the name of Jesus.

1. "Counted Worthy to Suffer Shame for His Name"

2. "Facing Shame with Joy"

1. Philippians 3:8-11 “Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith— that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death,

that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead."

2. 2 Corinthians 12:9-10 "But he said to me, 'My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.' Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me. For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong."

Acts 5:42 And daily in the temple, and in every house, they ceased not to teach and preach Jesus Christ.

Every day, the disciples of Jesus taught and preached about Jesus in the temple and in homes.

1. The Power of the Gospel – How the Disciples of Jesus Spread the Word

2. The Mission of the Church – Preaching and Teaching the Gospel

1. Matthew 28:19-20 – Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you.

2. Romans 10:14-15 – How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? And how are they to preach unless they are sent?

Acts 6 recounts the appointment of seven men to serve the growing Christian community, the arrest of Stephen, one of these seven men, and false accusations made against him.

1st Paragraph: The chapter begins with a problem arising in early church as Greek-speaking Jews complained that their widows were being overlooked in daily distribution food. So twelve apostles gathered all disciples together said 'It would not be right for us to neglect ministry word God order wait tables. Brothers sisters choose seven men from among you who are known to be full Spirit wisdom will turn responsibility over them give our attention prayer ministry word.' This proposal pleased whole group selected Stephen man full faith Holy Spirit also Philip Procorus Nicanor Timon Parmenas Nicolas Antioch convert Judaism presented these men apostles prayed laid hands on them (Acts 6:1-6).

2nd Paragraph: With this arrangement in place, the word of God spread and number disciples Jerusalem increased rapidly large number priests became obedient faith.

Meanwhile Stephen full grace power performed great wonders miraculous signs among people opposition arose members Synagogue Freedmen Jews Cyrene Alexandria well provinces Cilicia Asia began argue with Stephen but could not stand up against wisdom Spirit gave him as he spoke (Acts 6:7-10).

3rd Paragraph: Then they secretly persuaded some men say 'We have heard Stephen speak blasphemous words against Moses God' stirred up people elders teachers law seized him brought him before Sanhedrin produced false witnesses said 'This fellow never stops speaking against this holy place law we have heard him say Jesus Nazarene will destroy place change customs Moses handed down.' All who were sitting in Sanhedrin looked intently at Stephen saw his face was like face angel (Acts 6:11-15).

Acts 6:1 And in those days, when the number of the disciples was multiplied, there arose a murmuring of the Grecians against the Hebrews, because their widows were neglected in the daily ministration.

With the growth of the early church, a complaint arose from the Greek-speaking Jewish believers that their widows were being overlooked in the daily distribution of aid.

1. "A Call to Compassion and Service: Overcoming Complacency in the Church"

2. "The Power of Unity: Working Together to Serve Others"

1. Matthew 5:43-45, "You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven.

2. Galatians 6:2, "Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ."

Acts 6:2 Then the twelve called the multitude of the disciples unto them, and said, It is not reason that we should leave the word of God, and serve tables.

The twelve apostles gathered the disciples and taught them that they should not neglect the word of God by focusing only on serving tables.

1. Prioritizing the Word of God: Why It Matters

2. Serving With Purpose: A Study on the Example of the Apostles

1. Colossians 3:23 - Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters.

2. Ephesians 6:7 - Serve wholeheartedly, as if you were serving the Lord, not people.

Acts 6:3 Wherefore, brethren, look ye out among you seven men of honest report, full of the Holy Ghost and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business.

The apostles ask the church to choose seven men of honest character, full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom, to oversee the business of the church.

1. The Qualities of Godly Leadership: Exploring the Characteristics of a Good Leader in Acts 6:3

2. The Power of the Holy Spirit in the Church: How to Recognize and Nurture Spiritual Gifts in the Body of Believers

1. Proverbs 11:3 - "The integrity of the upright shall guide them: but the perverseness of the froward shall destroy them."

2. 1 Corinthians 12:7 - "But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal."

Acts 6:4 But we will give ourselves continually to prayer, and to the ministry of the word.

The early church devoted their time to prayer and the ministry of the Word.

1. The Power of Prayer

2. The Call to Serve in Ministry

1. James 5:16 - "The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working."

2. 1 Corinthians 12:4-11 - "Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone."

Acts 6:5 And the saying pleased the whole multitude: and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Ghost, and Philip, and Prochorus, and Nicanor, and Timon, and Parmenas, and Nicolas a proselyte of Antioch:

The whole multitude chose Stephen, Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas and Nicolas to serve in the church.

1. The Power of Faith in Serving God

2. The Necessity of Being Full of the Holy Spirit

1. Romans 12:11 - "Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord."

2. Galatians 5:22-23 - "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control."

Acts 6:6 Whom they set before the apostles: and when they had prayed, they laid their hands on them.

The apostles prayed and laid hands on chosen individuals in order to set them before them.

1. The Power of Prayer - How prayer can help us to overcome fear and step into the unknown.

2. The Gift of Service - A call to service and how laying hands on individuals can be a sign of God's blessing.

1. James 5:13-16 - Is anyone among you in trouble? Let them pray. Is anyone happy? Let them sing songs of praise.

2. 1 Timothy 4:14 - Do not neglect your gift, which was given you through prophecy when the body of elders laid their hands on you.

Acts 6:7 And the word of God increased; and the number of the disciples multiplied in Jerusalem greatly; and a great company of the priests were obedient to the faith.

The number of disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem and many priests obeyed the faith.

1. The Growth of Faith: How Obedience Can Lead to Great Things

2. The Power of God: How the Word of God Spreads Through Obedience

1. Matthew 28:19-20 - Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.

2. Romans 1:5 - Through him and for his name?□ sake, we received grace and apostleship to call people from among all the Gentiles to the obedience that comes from faith.

Acts 6:8 And Stephen, full of faith and power, did great wonders and miracles among the people.

Stephen, a man of great faith and power, performed many amazing miracles to the people.

1. Living a Life of Faith and Power

2. Trusting God's Miracles

1. Hebrews 11:1 - ?□ow faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.??

2. Matthew 14:22-33 - Jesus walking on water and calming the storm.

Acts 6:9 Then there arose certain of the synagogue, which is called the synagogue of the Libertines, and Cyrenians, and Alexandrians, and of them of Cilicia and of Asia, disputing with Stephen.

Stephen's debate with members of the synagogue provokes a strong reaction.

1. The Power of Debate: How We Can Utilize Discussions to Further God's Kingdom

2. The Value of Listening to Understand: How We Can Learn from Others Through Dialogue

1. Romans 15:5-7 "Now the God of patience and consolation grant you to be likeminded one toward another according to Christ Jesus: That ye may with one mind and one mouth glorify God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Wherefore receive ye one another, as Christ also received us to the glory of God."

2. James 1:19-20 "Wherefore, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath: For the wrath of man worketh not the righteousness of God."

Acts 6:10 And they were not able to resist the wisdom and the spirit by which he spake.

Stephen was so full of wisdom and the Spirit that his opponents were not able to resist him.

1. The Power of the Holy Spirit: How Our Words Can Transform Others

2. Wisdom Through the Spirit: How to Speak with Authority

1. Isaiah 11:2-3: ?□nd the Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.??

2. Proverbs 15:23: ?□ man hath joy by the answer of his mouth: and a word spoken in due season, how good is it!??

Acts 6:11 Then they suborned men, which said, We have heard him speak blasphemous words against Moses, and against God.

False witnesses were hired to testify against Stephen, claiming he had blasphemed against Moses and God.

1. Do Not Bear False Witness: The Consequences of Deceit

2. Speak the Truth in Love: The Power of Authenticity

1. Exodus 20:16 ?□ou shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.??

2. Ephesians 4:15 ?□ather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ.??

Acts 6:12 And they stirred up the people, and the elders, and the scribes, and came upon him, and caught him, and brought him to the council,

The people, elders, and scribes stirred up the people and arrested Jesus.

1. The Power of Collective Action: Examining the Arrest of Jesus

2. The Role of Leadership in Difficult Times: Examining the Arrest of Jesus

1. Psalm 46:10-11 - ?□e still, and know that I am God. I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth!??

2. Matthew 26:53-54 - Jesus said to them, ?□o you think that I cannot appeal to my Father, and he will at once send me more than twelve legions of angels? But how then should the Scriptures be fulfilled, that it must be so???

Acts 6:13 And set up false witnesses, which said, This man ceaseth not to speak blasphemous words against this holy place, and the law:

The Sanhedrin were accusing Stephen of speaking blasphemous words against the holy place and the law.

1. How to live a holy life that is pleasing to God

2. The importance of upholding God's law in our lives

1. Hebrews 12:14 - "Strive for peace with all men, and for the holiness without which no one will see the Lord."

2. Romans 13:1-7 - "Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God."

Acts 6:14 For we have heard him say, that this Jesus of Nazareth shall destroy this place, and shall change the customs which Moses delivered us.

This passage speaks of how people have heard Jesus of Nazareth speak of destroying this place and changing the customs that Moses delivered.

1. Change: Learning to Adapt to God's Will

2. Destruction and Renewal: A Call to Repentance

1. Isaiah 43:18-19 - ?□o not remember the former things, nor consider the things of old. Behold, I will do a new thing; now it shall spring forth; shall you not know it? I will even make a road in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.??

2. Romans 12:2 - ?□nd do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.??

Acts 6:15 And all that sat in the council, looking stedfastly on him, saw his face as it had been the face of an angel.

Stephen, one of the first deacons of the early Church, was brought before the Sanhedrin council and all those present were amazed by the look of his face, which appeared to be like the face of an angel.

1. How to Maintain a Heavenly Countenance

2. The Power of a Godly Character

1. Matthew 5:16 - "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven."

2. Colossians 3:12-17 - "Therefore, as God?□ chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity."

Acts 7 recounts Stephen's defense before the Sanhedrin, his vision of Jesus standing at the right hand of God, and his martyrdom.

1st Paragraph: In response to charges against him, Stephen delivers a long speech recounting Israel's history. He begins with God's call to Abraham and the promise made to him about his descendants becoming strangers in a foreign land where they would be enslaved for four hundred years (Acts 7:1-8). He continues with story of Joseph who was sold into Egypt but later became a ruler there saving his family from famine (Acts 7:9-16).

2nd Paragraph: Stephen then recounts how God appeared to Moses in burning bush commissioning him lead Israel out Egyptian slavery. Despite delivering Israelites from Egypt through miracles, they turned away from Moses and worshiped idols (Acts 7:17-43). He also talks about the tabernacle built by Moses according to God’s design and later Solomon’s temple but reminds them Most High does not live in houses made by human hands as prophet says 'Heaven is my throne earth is my footstool What kind house will you build me says Lord or where will my resting place be? Has not my hand made all these things?' (Acts 7:44-50).

3rd Paragraph: Stephen accuses leaders stiff-necked people uncircumcised hearts ears always resisting Holy Spirit just as their ancestors did. They persecuted prophets who foretold coming Righteous One now they have betrayed murdered Him received law ordained angels yet not kept it (Acts 7:51-53). On hearing this members Sanhedrin were furious gnashed their teeth at him but he full Holy Spirit looked up heaven saw glory God Jesus standing right hand God said 'Look I see heaven open Son Man standing right hand God.' They covered their ears yelling top voices rushed at him dragged out city began stone him witnesses laid coats feet young man named Saul while they stoned Stephen prayed 'Lord Jesus receive spirit' then fell knees cried loud voice 'Lord do not hold this sin against them' having said this he fell asleep Saul approved killing (Acts 7:54-60).

Acts 7:1 Then said the high priest, Are these things so?

The passage is about the high priest asking if the accusations about Stephen were true.

1. The Power of Questioning: A Study of Stephen's Accusers in Acts 7

2. The Role of Humility in Confrontational Situations: Examining Stephen's Response in Acts 7

1. Isaiah 53:7 - He was oppressed and afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth; he was led like a lamb to the slaughter.

2. Matthew 11:29 - Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart.

Acts 7:2 And he said, Men, brethren, and fathers, hearken; The God of glory appeared unto our father Abraham, when he was in Mesopotamia, before he dwelt in Charran,

Stephen spoke to the people, recounting how God appeared to Abraham in Mesopotamia before he moved to Charran.

1. Living according to God's plan: Abraham's story of faith and obedience

2. Stepping out in faith: Learning from Abraham's example

1. Genesis 12:1-3 – God calls Abraham to go to a land He will show him

2. Hebrews 11:8 – Abraham obeyed and went, not knowing where he was going

Acts 7:3 And said unto him, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and come into the land which I shall shew thee.

God called Abraham to leave his country and his family in order to move to a new land which God would show him.

1. How Obedience to God's Callings Bring Blessings

2. Following God's Leadership in Times of Transition

1. Genesis 12:1-4 - And the LORD had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will shew thee:

2. Joshua 1:1-9 - After the death of Moses the servant of the LORD, it came to pass, that the LORD spake unto Joshua the son of Nun, Moses' minister, saying, Moses my servant is dead; now therefore arise, go over this Jordan, thou, and all this people, unto the land which I do give to them, even to the children of Israel.

Acts 7:4 Then came he out of the land of the Chaldaeans, and dwelt in Charran: and from thence, when his father was dead, he removed him into this land, wherein ye now dwell.

Stephen recounts the journey of Abraham from the land of the Chaldeans to Charran and then to the land in which the Jews were now living.

1. Moving Forward: Abraham's Journey from Chaldeans to Charran

2. Taking Root: Abraham's Prolonged Dwelling in the Promised Land

1. Genesis 11:31 - 12:4 - God's call for Abraham to leave his homeland and journey to the Promised Land.

2. Hebrews 11:8-10 - Abraham's faith in God's promise of a new home and his obedience to God's call.

Acts 7:5 And he gave him none inheritance in it, no, not so much as to set his foot on: yet he promised that he would give it to him for a possession, and to his seed after him, when as yet he had no child.

God promised Abraham a land even when Abraham had no heir.

1. God's faithfulness to His promises, regardless of the circumstance

2. The importance of trusting in God and His promises

1. Romans 4:13-18 - Abraham's faith in God and God's promise of the land to him

2. Hebrews 11:8-10 - Abraham's faith in God, even when he had no heir

Acts 7:6 And God spake on this wise, That his seed should sojourn in a strange land; and that they should bring them into bondage, and entreat them evil four hundred years.

God spoke that His people would be taken to a foreign land and suffer mistreatment for 400 years.

1. "The Power of Endurance: How God's People Persevered Through Difficult Times"

2. "God's Promises: A Look at Faithful Endurance"

1. Romans 5:3-5 "Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us."

2. Romans 8:18 "I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us."

Acts 7:7 And the nation to whom they shall be in bondage will I judge, said God: and after that shall they come forth, and serve me in this place.

God promised the Israelites that they would serve Him after they had been in bondage to a foreign nation.

1. The Hope of the Israelites: The Promise of Deliverance and Faithfulness to God

2. The Power of God: His Sovereignty over Nations and His Faithfulness to His People

1. Isaiah 43:1-3 - Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine.

2. Romans 8:28 - And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.

Acts 7:8 And he gave him the covenant of circumcision: and so Abraham begat Isaac, and circumcised him the eighth day; and Isaac begat Jacob; and Jacob begat the twelve patriarchs.

Abraham was given the covenant of circumcision and he passed it on to his son Isaac, who then passed it on to his son Jacob. Jacob was the father of the twelve patriarchs.

1. The importance of passing traditions from generation to generation.

2. The power of God's covenant of circumcision and how it has been passed down for centuries.

1. Genesis 17:10-14 - God's covenant of circumcision with Abraham.

2. Deuteronomy 6:4-9 - Commands to pass down God's covenant to future generations.

Acts 7:9 And the patriarchs, moved with envy, sold Joseph into Egypt: but God was with him,

The patriarchs, out of envy, sold Joseph into Egypt, however God remained with him.

1: Despite the hardships we encounter, God is always with us.

2: Envy can lead to destructive actions, but God can still bring good out of them.

1: Romans 8:28- And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.

2: James 1:2-4 - My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.

Acts 7:10 And delivered him out of all his afflictions, and gave him favour and wisdom in the sight of Pharaoh king of Egypt; and he made him governor over Egypt and all his house.

God rescued Joseph from his troubles and gave him wisdom and favor in Pharaoh's court, making him the governor of Egypt and his household.

1. God's Plan In Difficult Times - How God can use our afflictions for His purpose

2. The Wisdom of God - How the Lord gives us insight and favor in times of need

1. Romans 8:28 - And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.

2. James 1:5 - If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him.

Acts 7:11 Now there came a dearth over all the land of Egypt and Chanaan, and great affliction: and our fathers found no sustenance.

The land of Egypt and Chanaan experienced a great famine, and the people were in great affliction as they were unable to find sustenance.

1. God's Provision in Times of Need

2. Relying on God's Strength in Difficult Situations

1. Matthew 6:25-34 - Do not worry, but trust in God's provision

2. Psalm 16:8 - I have set the Lord always before me, and He is my help in times of trouble

Acts 7:12 But when Jacob heard that there was corn in Egypt, he sent out our fathers first.

Jacob sent out the Israelite ancestors to Egypt in search of food when he heard there was corn there.

1. God will provide for us even in difficult times.

2. Do not be afraid to take risks for God.

1. Matthew 6:25-34 - Do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself.

2. Hebrews 11:8 - By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to the place which he would receive as an inheritance.

Acts 7:13 And at the second time Joseph was made known to his brethren; and Joseph's kindred was made known unto Pharaoh.

Joseph's family was revealed to Pharaoh during the second encounter.

1. God can provide opportunities for us to be reunited with our family.

2. God can use our past experiences to shape our future.

1. Matthew 10:29-31 (Are not two sparrows sold for a farthing? And one of them shall not fall on the ground without your Father. But the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Fear ye not therefore, ye are of more value than many sparrows.)

2. Romans 8:28 (And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.)

Acts 7:14 Then sent Joseph, and called his father Jacob to him, and all his kindred, threescore and fifteen souls.

Joseph sends for his father Jacob and his extended family of seventy-five people to come to Egypt.

1. The power of family: the importance of coming together and supporting one another during difficult times.

2. Trusting God’s plan for our lives: learning to accept and embrace the unexpected.

1. Isaiah 43:2 “When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and when you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned; the flames will not set you ablaze.”

2. Psalm 34:8 “Taste and see that the Lord is good; blessed is the one who takes refuge in him.”

Acts 7:15 So Jacob went down into Egypt, and died, he, and our fathers,

Jacob's journey to Egypt and death is described in Acts 7:15.

1. God's faithfulness to his people, even in the midst of difficult circumstances.

2. The power of God's promises to guide and sustain us.

1. Psalm 105:17-19 - He sent a man before them, even Joseph, who was sold for a

servant: Whose feet they hurt with fetters: he was laid in iron: Until the time that his word came: the word of the Lord tried him.

2. Genesis 50:24-25 - And Joseph said unto his brethren, I die: and God will surely visit you, and bring you out of this land unto the land which he sware to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob. And Joseph took an oath of the children of Israel, saying, God will surely visit you, and ye shall carry up my bones from hence.

Acts 7:16 And were carried over into Sychem, and laid in the sepulchre that Abraham bought for a sum of money of the sons of Emmor the father of Sychem.

The sons of Emmor sold a sepulchre to Abraham, which was located in Sychem.

1. "God's Promise to Abraham" - Exploring the covenant God made with Abraham and the role of the sepulchre in fulfilling that promise.

2. "The Importance of Sepulchres" - Examining the significance of sepulchres in the Biblical narrative and in today's world.

1. Genesis 15:17-21 - The covenant God made with Abraham.

2. John 11:17-44 - Jesus raises Lazarus from the dead, demonstrating the resurrection power of sepulchres.

Acts 7:17 But when the time of the promise drew nigh, which God had sworn to Abraham, the people grew and multiplied in Egypt,

The people of Israel multiplied in Egypt as the time for God's promised to Abraham drew near.

1. God's promises are reliable and will come to pass.

2. God will always be faithful to His people.

1. Romans 4:20-21 - He did not waver through unbelief regarding the promise of God, but was strengthened in his faith and gave glory to God, being fully persuaded that God had power to do what he had promised.

2. Hebrews 10:23 - Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful.

Acts 7:18 Till another king arose, which knew not Joseph.

The Pharaoh of Egypt did not recognize Joseph and his accomplishments.

1: God's plan is ultimately at work in every situation, even when it isn't recognized by everyone.

2: Even in difficult circumstances, we can trust that God has a plan.

1: Romans 8:28 - And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.

2: Isaiah 55:8-9 - For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.

Acts 7:19 The same dealt subtilly with our kindred, and evil entreated our fathers, so that they cast out their young children, to the end they might not live.

Pharaoh dealt deceitfully with the Israelites, mistreating their ancestors and forcing them to abandon their young children so that they would not survive.

1. The Consequences of Deceit: Learning from Pharaoh's Mistreatment of the Israelites

2. Embracing God's Promise of Redemption in the Face of Unfair Treatment

1. Matthew 10:28-29 - “Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather, be afraid of the One who can destroy both soul and body in hell. Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground outside your Father’s care.”

2. Deuteronomy 30:19-20 - “Today I have given you the choice between life and death, between blessings and curses. Now I call on heaven and earth to witness the choice you make. Oh, that you would choose life, so that you and your descendants might live! You can make this choice by loving the Lord your God, obeying him, and committing yourself firmly to him.”

Acts 7:20 In which time Moses was born, and was exceeding fair, and nourished up in his father's house three months:

Moses was born in a time of great persecution against the Israelites and he was very beautiful, growing up in his father's house for three months.

1. Living in Persecution: How God Uses Difficulty for Good

2. The Beauty of Moses: A Reflection on God's Perfection

1. Romans 8:28 - And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.

2. Psalm 139:14 - I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well.

Acts 7:21 And when he was cast out, Pharaoh's daughter took him up, and nourished him for her own son.

Pharaoh's daughter found Moses in the Nile River and raised him as her own son.

1. God is in control of even the most difficult of situations.

2. We must trust God and His plan for our lives.

1. Romans 8:28 - "And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose."

2. Jeremiah 29:11 - "'For I know the plans I have for you,' declares the Lord, 'plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.'"

Acts 7:22 And Moses was learned in all the wisdom of the Egyptians, and was mighty in words and in deeds.

Moses was educated in all aspects of Egyptian wisdom and was a powerful orator and doer.

1. The Power of Education: How Moses' Mastery of Egyptian Wisdom Transformed His Life

2. The Power of Action: How Moses's Words and Deeds Changed History

1. Proverbs 4:7 - Wisdom is the principal thing; therefore get wisdom: and with all thy getting get understanding.

2. James 1:22-25 - But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks intently at his natural face in a mirror. For he looks at himself and goes away and at once forgets what he was like. But the one who looks into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and perseveres, being no hearer who forgets but a doer who acts, he will be blessed in his doing.

Acts 7:23 And when he was full forty years old, it came into his heart to visit his brethren the children of Israel.

When Stephen was forty years old, he had a strong desire to visit his fellow Israelites.

1. The Power of Community: Examining Stephen's Story

2. The Importance of Fulfilling Our Dreams: Lessons from Stephen

1. Romans 12:10 - Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving p to one another.

2. Proverbs 13:20 - He who walks with wise men will be wise, but the companion of fools will be destroyed.

Acts 7:24 And seeing one of them suffer wrong, he defended him, and avenged him that was oppressed, and smote the Egyptian:

Moses defends an Israelite and strikes an Egyptian.

1. The Strength of Standing Up for Others: How We Can Learn from Moses

2. The Power of Justice: How We Can Right Wrongs

1. Proverbs 31:8-9 - "Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves; ensure justice for those being crushed. Yes, speak up for the poor and helpless, and see that they get justice."

2. James 5:4 - "Look! The wages you failed to pay the workers who mowed your fields are crying out against you. The cries of the harvesters have reached the ears of the Lord Almighty."

Acts 7:25 For he supposed his brethren would have understood how that God by his hand would deliver them: but they understood not.

God’s people need to trust in Him and His plan for them.

1: "The Power of Trust: Relying on God’s Plan"

2: "Strengthening Our Faith: Understanding God’s Deliverance"

1: Isaiah 40:31 - "But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint."

2: Proverbs 3:5-6 - "Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths."

Acts 7:26 And the next day he shewed himself unto them as they strove, and would have set them at one again, saying, Sirs, ye are brethren; why do ye wrong one to another?

Stephen rebuked the people for their wrongdoings and urged them to reconcile with one another.

1. Reconciliation: The Path to Peace

2. The Power of Unity

1. Matthew 5:9 - “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.”

2. Ephesians 4:3 - “making every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.”

Acts 7:27 But he that did his neighbour wrong thrust him away, saying, Who made thee a ruler and a judge over us?

Stephen was wrongfully accused of trying to make himself a ruler and a judge over the people.

1. The Danger of False Accusations

2. The Importance of Humility

1. Psalm 15:3 - He that backbiteth not with his tongue, nor doeth evil to his neighbour, nor taketh up a reproach against his neighbour.

2. Proverbs 17:9 - He that covereth a transgression seeketh love; but he that repeateth a matter separateth very friends.

Acts 7:28 Wilt thou kill me, as thou diddest the Egyptian yesterday?

Stephen accused the Jewish leaders of trying to kill him, just like they killed an Egyptian the day before.

1. How Our Actions Have Consequences: Examining Stephen's Boldness

2. How Do We Respond To Persecution?: Learning From Stephen's Faith

1. Exodus 2:14 - "And he said, Who made thee a prince and a judge over us? intendest thou to kill me, as thou killedst the Egyptian?"

2. Matthew 5:44 - "But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you."

Acts 7:29 Then fled Moses at this saying, and was a stranger in the land of Madian, where

he begat two sons.

Moses fled when God commanded him to return to Egypt, and he stayed in Madian, where he had two sons.

1: We should remember to be obedient to God's commands, even if it is hard.

2: God will provide for us, even when we are away from home.

1: Psalm 37:23-24 - “The steps of a man are established by the Lord, when he delights in his way; though he fall, he shall not be cast headlong, for the Lord upholds his hand.”

2: Hebrews 11:24-26 - “By faith Moses, when he was grown up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh’s daughter, choosing rather to be mistreated with the people of God than to enjoy the fleeting pleasures of sin. He considered the reproach of Christ greater wealth than the treasures of Egypt, for he was looking to the reward.”

Acts 7:30 And when forty years were expired, there appeared to him in the wilderness of mount Sina an angel of the Lord in a flame of fire in a bush.

After forty years of wandering in the wilderness, Moses encountered an angel of the Lord in a bush that was on fire.

1. How God Reveals His Presence In Unexpected Ways

2. God's Timing is Always Right

1. Exodus 3:2-4 - And the angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush: and he looked, and, behold, the bush burned with fire, and the bush was not consumed.

2. Hebrews 12:25-29 - See that ye refuse not him that speaketh. For if they escaped not who refused him that spake on earth, much more shall not we escape, if we turn away from him that speaketh from heaven.

Acts 7:31 When Moses saw it, he wondered at the sight: and as he drew near to behold it, the voice of the LORD came unto him,

Moses was in awe of God's power and majesty.

1: We should always be in awe of God's power and majesty.

2: We should stand in awe and reverence before the presence of God.

1: Isaiah 6:3 - And one cried unto another, and said, Holy, holy, holy, is the LORD of hosts: the whole earth is full of his glory.

2: Psalm 33:8 - Let all the earth fear the LORD: let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of him.

Acts 7:32 Saying, I am the God of thy fathers, the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob. Then Moses trembled, and durst not behold.

Moses trembled when he heard God declare Himself as the God of his fathers Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

1. God is the God of all generations.

2. Knowing God brings awe and reverence.

1. Genesis 17:1-8 - God's covenant with Abraham.

2. Matthew 3:13-17 - Jesus baptised in the Jordan.

Acts 7:33 Then said the Lord to him, Put off thy shoes from thy feet: for the place where thou standest is holy ground.

God instructed Moses to remove his shoes from his feet to show reverence for the holy ground.

1: Reverence for the Holy: Taking off our shoes as an act of submission and respect to God.

2: The Sanctity of the Earth: We are called to honor and respect the places God has

created.

1: Exodus 3:5 - “Come no closer! Remove your sandals from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground.”

2: Isaiah 6:1-2 - “In the year that King Uzziah died I saw the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up; and the train of his robe filled the temple. Above him stood the seraphim. Each had six wings: with two he covered his face, and with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew.”

Acts 7:34 I have seen, I have seen the affliction of my people which is in Egypt, and I have heard their groaning, and am come down to deliver them. And now come, I will send thee into Egypt.

God saw the affliction of His people in Egypt and heard their groaning, so He came down to deliver them. He then sent Moses to Egypt to bring them out.

1. Our Deliverance Through God's Intervention

2. Relying on the Lord in Difficult Times

1. Hebrews 13:5-6 - “Keep your life free from love of money, and be content with what you have, for he has said, “I will never leave you nor forsake you.”

2. Psalm 34:17-18 - “When the righteous cry for help, the Lord hears and delivers them out of all their troubles. The Lord is near to the brokenhearted and saves the crushed in spirit.”

Acts 7:35 This Moses whom they refused, saying, Who made thee a ruler and a judge? the same did God send to be a ruler and a deliverer by the hand of the angel which appeared to him in the bush.

In Acts 7:35, we read about Moses, who the Israelites rejected as their ruler and judge, but God sent him as a ruler and deliverer through the angel who appeared to him in the bush.

1. How God Can Transform a Rejected Person Into a Leader

2. God's faithfulness to His People in spite of their Rebelliousness

1. Isaiah 6:8 - "Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, Whom shall I send, and who will go for us? Then said I, Here am I; send me."

2. Exodus 3:2 - "And the angel of the LORD appeared unto him in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush: and he looked, and, behold, the bush burned with fire, and the bush was not consumed."

Acts 7:36 He brought them out, after that he had shewed wonders and signs in the land of Egypt, and in the Red sea, and in the wilderness forty years.

God faithfully guided the Israelites for 40 years in the wilderness after showing them signs and wonders in Egypt and the Red Sea.

1: God is a faithful guide, who will never leave us nor forsake us.

2: God is a God of signs and wonders, who will provide for us when we trust in Him.

1: Deuteronomy 31:6 - "Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them, for the Lord your God goes with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you."

2: Psalm 105:27 - "He [God] made them [the Israelites] ride on the heights of the land and fed them with the fruit of the fields."

Acts 7:37 This is that Moses, which said unto the children of Israel, A prophet shall the Lord your God raise up unto you of your brethren, like unto me; him shall ye hear.

Moses was a prophet chosen by God to speak to the Israelites.

1: God chooses leaders to guide us.

2: The power of prophecy and the importance of obedience.

1: Jeremiah 1:5 - Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart; I appointed you as a prophet to the nations.

2: Hebrews 11:23-29 - By faith Moses, when he was born, was hidden for three months

by his parents, because they saw he was a beautiful child; and they were not afraid of the king’s edict.

Acts 7:38 This is he, that was in the church in the wilderness with the angel which spake to him in the mount Sina, and with our fathers: who received the lively oracles to give unto us:

Stephen discusses Moses' role in delivering the living word of God to the Israelites in the wilderness.

1. The importance of the living word of God in our lives

2. The power of obedience to God's word

1. Deuteronomy 4:2-4 - Do not add or take away from God's word

2. Romans 10:17 - Faith comes from hearing the word of God

Acts 7:39 To whom our fathers would not obey, but thrust him from them, and in their hearts turned back again into Egypt,

The Israelites of the Old Testament did not obey God, instead turning away and going back to Egypt.

1. Following God is Hard, But Worth It

2. God's Love is Unconditional

1. Deuteronomy 28:1–2 - "And if you faithfully obey the voice of the Lord your God, being careful to do all his commandments that I command you today, the Lord your God will set you high above all the nations of the earth.

2. Jeremiah 29:11 - For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope.

Acts 7:40 Saying unto Aaron, Make us gods to go before us: for as for this Moses, which brought us out of the land of Egypt, we wot not what is become of him.

The Israelites asked Aaron to make them gods to lead them, because they did not know what happened to Moses, who had led them out of Egypt.

1. God's Plan is Greater than Man's: How to Recognize and Submit to God's Will

2. God's Provision: How to Trust God in Times of Uncertainty

1. Isaiah 55:8-9 “For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.”

2. Exodus 14:31 “And Israel saw that great work which the Lord did upon the Egyptians: and the people feared the Lord, and believed the Lord, and his servant Moses.”

Acts 7:41 And they made a calf in those days, and offered sacrifice unto the idol, and rejoiced in the works of their own hands.

In the days of the Israelites, they made a golden calf and offered sacrifices to the idol, celebrating the craftsmanship of their own hands.

1. The Danger of Idolatry - How We Can Avoid It

2. The Power of Celebrating Our Gifts

1. Exodus 32:1-6

2. Psalm 115:4-8

Acts 7:42 Then God turned, and gave them up to worship the host of heaven; as it is written in the book of the prophets, O ye house of Israel, have ye offered to me slain beasts and sacrifices by the space of forty years in the wilderness?

The Israelites were given up to worship the host of heaven for forty years in the wilderness, according to the book of the prophets.

1. The Danger of Idolatry

2. The Importance of Worshiping God Alone

1. Deuteronomy 6:4-5 - "Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might."

2. Jeremiah 10:2-3 - "Thus says the Lord: “Learn not the way of the nations, nor be dismayed at the signs of the heavens because the nations are dismayed at them, for the customs of the peoples are vanity."

Acts 7:43 Yea, ye took up the tabernacle of Moloch, and the star of your god Remphan, figures which ye made to worship them: and I will carry you away beyond Babylon.

The people of Israel had taken up the tabernacle of Moloch and the star of their god Remphan, idols which they had made to worship them. God promised to take them away from Babylon as punishment.

1. Idolatry is displeasing to God and will bring consequences.

2. We must remain faithful to God and reject all forms of idolatry.

1. Exodus 20:3-5 “You shall have no other gods before me. You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. You shall not bow down to them or serve them, for I the Lord your God am a jealous God.”

2. Romans 1:23-25 “And exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man and birds and animals and creeping things. Therefore God gave them up in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, to the dishonoring of their bodies among themselves, because they exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever! Amen.”

Acts 7:44 Our fathers had the tabernacle of witness in the wilderness, as he had appointed, speaking unto Moses, that he should make it according to the fashion that he had seen.

The tabernacle of witness was made according to the fashion that God showed Moses in the wilderness.

1. The Faithfulness of God in Fulfilling His Promises

2. Following God's Design for Your Life

1. Hebrews 11:8-10 – “By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to the place which he would receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going. By faith he dwelt in the land of promise as in a foreign country, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise; for he waited for the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God.”

2. Exodus 25:40 – “And look that thou make them after their pattern, which was shewed thee in the mount.”

Acts 7:45 Which also our fathers that came after brought in with Jesus into the possession of the Gentiles, whom God drave out before the face of our fathers, unto the days of David;

The ancestors of the Jews were allowed to possess the land of the Gentiles by God, up until the time of King David.

1. God's faithfulness to His people throughout the generations.

2. The importance of remembering our ancestors' faithfulness to God.

1. Psalm 77:11 - "I will remember the works of the Lord: surely I will remember thy wonders of old."

2. Deuteronomy 6:20-22 - "And when thy son asketh thee in time to come, saying, What mean the testimonies, and the statutes, and the judgments, which the Lord our God hath commanded you? Then thou shalt say unto thy son, We were Pharaoh's bondmen in Egypt; and the Lord brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand: And the Lord showed signs and wonders, great and sore, upon Egypt, upon Pharaoh, and upon all his household, before our eyes."

Acts 7:46 Who found favour before God, and desired to find a tabernacle for the God of Jacob.

Stephen recounts the history of the Israelites, noting how God found favor in them and desired to provide a dwelling for the God of Jacob.

1. The Faithfulness of God: How God's Favor Endures Despite Our Mistakes

2. How We Can Follow in the Footsteps of the Israelites and Receive God's Favor

1. Deuteronomy 4:7-8 - For what great nation is there that has a god so near to it as the Lord our God is to us, whenever we call upon him?

2. Psalm 33:18 - Behold, the eye of the Lord is on those who fear him, on those who hope in his steadfast love.

Acts 7:47 But Solomon built him an house.

The passage is about Solomon building a house for God.

1. The Power of Sacrifice: How Solomon's Building of an House for God Demonstrates His Faith

2. The Heart of Worship: Understanding the Significance of Building a House for God

1. 2 Chronicles 2:1-10 - Solomon's building of the temple for the Lord

2. Matthew 6:33 - Seeking God's Kingdom first before all else

Acts 7:48 Howbeit the most High dwelleth not in temples made with hands; as saith the prophet,

The Most High does not dwell in temples made with hands, as the prophet said.

1. God is Greater than Our Structures: An Exploration of the Transcendence of the Most High

2. The Necessity of Spiritual Connectivity: Seeking Out a Relationship with the Divine

1. Isaiah 66:1 - "Thus says the Lord: “Heaven is my throne, and the earth is my footstool; what is the house that you would build for me, and what is the place of my rest?"

2. Psalm 24:1-2 - "The earth is the Lord’s and the fullness thereof, the world and those who dwell therein, for he has founded it upon the seas and established it upon the rivers."

Acts 7:49 Heaven is my throne, and earth is my footstool: what house will ye build me? saith the Lord: or what is the place of my rest?

God's greatness and sovereignty is above all earthly power and authority.

1: God is bigger than anything we can imagine and His power and authority supersedes all.

2: We all have a responsibility to recognize God's greatness and sovereignty when making decisions.

1: Psalm 147:5 - "Great is our Lord and mighty in power; his understanding has no limit."

2: Isaiah 40:22 - "He sits enthroned above the circle of the earth, and its people are like grasshoppers. He stretches out the heavens like a canopy, and spreads them out like a tent to live in."

Acts 7:50 Hath not my hand made all these things?

The passage speaks of God's omnipotence in the creation of everything.

1. Awe and Wonder: Understanding God's Sovereignty in Creation

2. Unshakable Strength: God's All-Powerful Hand

1. Psalm 19:1 - "The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands."

2. Isaiah 40:26 - "Lift up your eyes and look to the heavens: Who created all these? He who brings out the starry host one by one and calls forth each of them by name."

Acts 7:51 Ye stiffnecked and uncircumcised in heart and ears, ye do always resist the

Holy Ghost: as your fathers did, so do ye.

Stephen tells the people that their ancestors resisted the Holy Ghost and that they are doing the same.

1. Understanding the Importance of Listening to the Holy Spirit

2. Learning from the Mistakes of Our Ancestors

1. John 16:13 - "But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all the truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come."

2. Proverbs 2:1-3 - "My son, if you accept my words and store up my commands within you, turning your ear to wisdom and applying your heart to understanding, and if you call out for insight and cry aloud for understanding, and if you look for it as for silver and search for it as for hidden treasure."

Acts 7:52 Which of the prophets have not your fathers persecuted? and they have slain them which shewed before of the coming of the Just One; of whom ye have been now the betrayers and murderers:

The Jewish people persecuted and killed many prophets who prophesied the coming of Jesus, yet they have now betrayed and murdered him.

1. Persecution of God's Prophets: The Consequences of Rejecting God

2. Betrayal of the Just One: The Danger of Disbelief

1. Psalm 105:15 "Touch not mine anointed, and do my prophets no harm"

2. John 3:16-17 “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.”

Acts 7:53 Who have received the law by the disposition of angels, and have not kept it.

Stephen accused the Jews of not following the Law of Moses which was given to them by angels.

1. Upholding God's Law: The Example of Stephen

2. The Power of Obedience: Following the Law of Moses

1. Exodus 20:1-17 - The Ten Commandments

2. Romans 7:12 - The Law is Holy and Just

Acts 7:54 When they heard these things, they were cut to the heart, and they gnashed on him with their teeth.

Stephen was preaching to the people and what he said so angered them they wanted to attack him.

1. The Power of Preaching: How the Words We Speak Make a Difference

2. Finding Strength in Difficult Times: The Story of Stephen

1. Proverbs 15:1, "A soft answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger."

2. Psalm 27:14, "Wait for the Lord; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the Lord!"

Acts 7:55 But he, being full of the Holy Ghost, looked up stedfastly into heaven, and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing on the right hand of God,

Stephen, being filled with the Holy Spirit, looked up into Heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at God's right hand.

1. Knowing Jesus as Our Righteous Advocate

2. The Power of the Holy Spirit in Our Lives

1. Hebrews 7:25 - "Therefore he is able to save completely those who come to God through him, because he always lives to intercede for them."

2. Romans 8:26 - "In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans."

Acts 7:56 And said, Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of man standing on the right hand of God.

Stephen saw a vision of Jesus standing at the right hand of God in the opened heavens.

1. “The Power of Heaven – Understanding the Vision of Stephen”

2. “The Right Hand of God – The Place of Honor and Power”

1. Romans 8:34 - “Christ Jesus, who died—more than that, who was raised to life—is at the right hand of God and is interceding for us.”

2. Ephesians 1:20 - “He put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms.”

Acts 7:57 Then they cried out with a loud voice, and stopped their ears, and ran upon him with one accord,

The people of Jerusalem rejected Stephen's message and killed him.

1: We must always be willing to accept the truth, even when it is difficult.

2: We should not be so quick to judge someone and instead strive to understand them.

1: Matthew 7:1-5 “Judge not, that you be not judged. For with the judgment you pronounce you will be judged, and with the measure you use it will be measured to you.”

2: James 1:19-20 “Know this, my beloved brothers: let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger; for the anger of man does not produce the righteousness of God.”

Acts 7:58 And cast him out of the city, and stoned him: and the witnesses laid down their clothes at a young man's feet, whose name was Saul.

Stephen was stoned to death by the people of Jerusalem, while witnesses laid down their clothes at the feet of Saul, a young man.

1. The Power of Witnesses: The example of Stephen and Saul

2. Faithfulness in the Face of Persecution: The Courage of Stephen

1. Romans 12:21 - "Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good."

2. James 1:2-4 - "Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything."

Acts 7:59 And they stoned Stephen, calling upon God, and saying, Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.

Stephen was stoned while praying to God and calling on Jesus to receive his spirit.

1. "The Power of Praying in Faith"

2. "The Faithfulness of Stephen in the Face of Persecution"

1. James 5:13-20 - The power of prayer in faith.

2. Hebrews 11:32-40 - Examples of faithfulness in the face of persecution.

Acts 7:60 And he kneeled down, and cried with a loud voice, Lord, lay not this sin to their charge. And when he had said this, he fell asleep.

Stephen, a faithful disciple of Jesus Christ, prayed for the forgiveness of his persecutors before his death.

1. The Power of Forgiveness - How Stephen's Prayer for His Persecutors Changed History

2. The Strength of Faith - Stephen's Unwavering Commitment to Jesus Christ

1. Matthew 5:44 - But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you.

2. Luke 23:34 - Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.”

Acts 8 recounts the spread of the gospel following Stephen's death, Philip's evangelistic work in Samaria and with an Ethiopian official.

1st Paragraph: The chapter begins with Saul approving Stephen's execution. On that day a great persecution broke out against church Jerusalem all except apostles were scattered throughout Judea Samaria. Godly men buried Stephen mourned deeply for him but Saul began to destroy church going from house to house he dragged off both men women put them in prison (Acts 8:1-3). Those who had been scattered preached word wherever they went Philip went down town Samaria proclaimed Christ there when crowds heard Philip saw signs he performed they all paid close attention what he said unclean spirits came out many who were possessed many paralyzed lame were healed so there was great joy in that city (Acts 8:4-8).

2nd Paragraph: There was a man named Simon who had previously practiced magic in city amazed people Samaria claiming be someone great they all followed him because he had amazed them long time his magic arts. But when they believed Philip as he proclaimed good news kingdom God name Jesus Christ both men women were baptized Simon himself believed was baptized followed Philip everywhere astonished by great signs miracles he saw (Acts 8:9-13). When apostles Jerusalem heard that Samaria accepted word God sent Peter John them prayed for new believers receive Holy Spirit because Holy Spirit not yet come upon any them they simply been baptized name Lord Jesus then Peter John placed hands on them received Holy Spirit seeing Simon offered money saying 'Give me also this ability so anyone I lay hands may receive Holy Spirit' Peter rebuked him saying his heart was not right before God and needed to repent of his wickedness, and pray to the Lord hoping if possible intention heart may be forgiven for bitterness wickedness Simon answered 'Pray Lord me so nothing you have said may happen me' (Acts 8:14-24).

3rd Paragraph: After testifying preaching word Lord Peter John returned Jerusalem preaching gospel many Samaritan villages Now angel Lord said Philip 'Go south road goes down from Jerusalem Gaza.' So started out on way met Ethiopian eunuch important official charge treasury Candace queen Ethiopians reading book Isaiah prophet Spirit told Philip go near chariot stay near it asked understood what reading said how could unless someone guides explained good news about Jesus starting passage scripture reading — 'He led like sheep slaughter silent before shearers did not open mouth humiliation justice

denied who can speak generations deprived earth' — as traveling along road came some water eunuch said 'Look here is water What prevent me being baptized?' gave orders stop chariot both Philip eunuch went down into water Philip baptized him when came up out water Spirit Lord suddenly took away eunuch did see him again went way rejoicing but appeared Azotus traveled about preaching gospel towns until reached Caesarea (Acts 8:25-40).

Acts 8:1 And Saul was consenting unto his death. And at that time there was a great persecution against the church which was at Jerusalem; and they were all scattered abroad throughout the regions of Judaea and Samaria, except the apostles.

After the death of Stephen, Saul consented to his death and a great persecution against the church at Jerusalem caused many of the believers to scatter throughout Judaea and Samaria, except the apostles.

1. Overcoming Fear in the Face of Persecution

2. Standing Strong in the Face of Adversity

1. Psalm 27:1-3 "The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid? When evildoers assail me to eat up my flesh, my adversaries and foes, it is they who stumble and fall. Though an army encamp against me, my heart shall not fear; though war arise against me, yet I will be confident."

2. Hebrews 11:32-34 "And what more shall I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets—who through faith conquered kingdoms, enforced justice, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched the power of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, were made strong out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight."

Acts 8:2 And devout men carried Stephen to his burial, and made great lamentation over him.

Stephen was a devout man who was carried to his burial with great lamentation.

1. The Power of Devotion: Remembering Stephen

2. Understanding the Impact of Lamentation

1. Ecclesiastes 3:4 - "a time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance"

2. Job 30:25 - "did not I weep for him whose day was hard? Was not my soul grieved for the needy?"

Acts 8:3 As for Saul, he made havock of the church, entering into every house, and haling men and women committed them to prison.

Saul persecuted the church, entering houses and imprisoning people.

1. God's grace and mercy is greater than any evil inflicted on His church.

2. The need to remain faithful and committed to God despite persecution.

1. Romans 8:38-39 - For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

2. Hebrews 10:32-39 - But recall the former days when, after you were enlightened, you endured a hard struggle with sufferings, sometimes being publicly exposed to reproach and affliction, and sometimes being partners with those so treated. For you had compassion on those in prison, and you joyfully accepted the plundering of your property, since you knew that you yourselves had a better possession and an abiding one. Therefore do not throw away your confidence, which has a great reward. For you have need of endurance, so that when you have done the will of God you may receive what is promised.

Acts 8:4 Therefore they that were scattered abroad went every where preaching the word.

After Jesus' death and resurrection, his followers were scattered throughout the world and preached the Gospel everywhere.

1. Preach the Word of God in all places

2. The Power of the Gospel to Transform Lives

1. Romans 10:14-17 - How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed?

and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher?

2. Acts 1:8 - But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

Acts 8:5 Then Philip went down to the city of Samaria, and preached Christ unto them.

Philip went to the city of Samaria and preached about Jesus Christ.

1. The Power of Preaching: How to Share the Gospel Effectively

2. Overcoming Fear and Preaching the Gospel Boldly

1. Romans 10:14-15 - "How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? And how are they to preach unless they are sent?"

2. Isaiah 6:8 - "And I heard the voice of the Lord saying, “Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?” Then I said, “Here I am! Send me.”

Acts 8:6 And the people with one accord gave heed unto those things which Philip spake, hearing and seeing the miracles which he did.

The people listened attentively to Philip and watched the miracles he performed.

1: Believe in God's power and you will see miracles.

2: Listen attentively to God's Word and you will be blessed.

1: Matthew 11:28-30 - Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

2: 1 Corinthians 2:4-5 - And my speech and my preaching was not with enticing words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power.

Acts 8:7 For unclean spirits, crying with loud voice, came out of many that were possessed with them: and many taken with palsies, and that were lame, were healed.

The Holy Spirit healed many people of their physical ailments.

1: Through faith and the power of the Holy Spirit, all things are possible.

2: Healing comes to those who turn to the Lord for help.

1: Philippians 4:13 - "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."

2: James 5:15 - "And the prayer of faith will save the one who is sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven."

Acts 8:8 And there was great joy in that city.

The people of the city were filled with great joy upon hearing the message of the gospel.

1. The Power of Joy: Experiencing God's Joy in Our Lives

2. The Joy of the Gospel: How to Share the Good News

1. Psalm 126:3 - The LORD has done great things for us, and we are filled with joy.

2. Philippians 4:4 - Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice!

Acts 8:9 But there was a certain man, called Simon, which beforetime in the same city used sorcery, and bewitched the people of Samaria, giving out that himself was some great one:

Simon, a sorcerer from Samaria, deceived people by claiming to be someone important.

1. The Danger of False Claims

2. The Power of Deception

1. Proverbs 14:5 - "A faithful witness does not lie, but a false witness breathes out lies."

2. 1 John 4:1 - "Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world."

Acts 8:10 To whom they all gave heed, from the least to the greatest, saying, This man is the great power of God.

This passage speaks of the awe and reverence that the people of Samaria had for the Apostle Philip when he proclaimed the power of God to them.

1) The Power of God: Learning to Recognize and Acknowledge God's Authority

2) The Power of Testimony: How Our Words Can Impact Others

1) Psalm 24:8 - Who is this King of glory? The Lord strong and mighty, the Lord mighty in battle.

2) 2 Corinthians 4:6 - For God, who said, “Let light shine out of darkness,” has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

Acts 8:11 And to him they had regard, because that of long time he had bewitched them with sorceries.

The people of Samaria had a great respect for Simon the sorcerer, since he had been deceiving them with his sorcery for a long time.

1. Be careful of false prophets and their teachings.

2. Jesus is the only one who can truly save us.

1. Matthew 7:15-16 “Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves. You will know them by their fruits.”

2. John 14:6 “Jesus said to him, ‘I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to

the Father except through Me.’”

Acts 8:12 But when they believed Philip preaching the things concerning the kingdom of God, and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women.

Believing in Jesus Christ and the Kingdom of God leads to baptism.

1. Faith and Fulfillment: The Power of the Gospel

2. Baptism: A Symbol of New Life

1. Matthew 28:19-20 - Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you.

2. Romans 10:9-10 - because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved.

Acts 8:13 Then Simon himself believed also: and when he was baptized, he continued with Philip, and wondered, beholding the miracles and signs which were done.

Simon was convinced of the truth of the gospel and was baptized after witnessing the miracles performed by Philip.

1. The Power of Witnessing: How the Miracles of Philip Inspired Simon to Believe

2. Believing and Baptism: Why Following Through on Your Faith is Vital

1. Matthew 28:19-20 “Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.”

2. John 3:16 “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.”

Acts 8:14 Now when the apostles which were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had

received the word of God, they sent unto them Peter and John:

The apostles at Jerusalem sent Peter and John to Samaria upon hearing that the people there had accepted the Word of God.

1. The Power of the Gospel: How the Good News of Jesus Changes Lives

2. The Power of Witnessing: How We Can Share the Word of God

1. Romans 1:16-17 - For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.

2. Matthew 28:19-20 - Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you.

Acts 8:15 Who, when they were come down, prayed for them, that they might receive the Holy Ghost:

The men of Samaria were baptized and prayed for the Holy Ghost.

1: We must always seek the Holy Ghost and allow Him to fill our lives with His grace.

2: Be willing to be baptized and to receive the Holy Ghost.

1: Romans 8:9 - But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you.

2: Matthew 3:11 - I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance, but He who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.

Acts 8:16 (For as yet he was fallen upon none of them: only they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.)

This passage explains that the Samaritans had not yet received the Holy Spirit when they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.

1. The Power of Baptism in the Name of the Lord Jesus

2. Understanding the Significance of the Holy Spirit

1. John 3:5-8 (For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reproved. But he that doeth truth cometh to the light, that his deeds may be made manifest, that they are wrought in God.)

2. Ephesians 5:8-10 (For ye were sometimes darkness, but now are ye light in the Lord: walk as children of light: (For the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness and righteousness and truth;) Proving what is acceptable unto the Lord.)

Acts 8:17 Then laid they their hands on them, and they received the Holy Ghost.

The apostles laid their hands on the believers and they were filled with the Holy Spirit.

1. The Power of the Holy Spirit in Our Lives

2. The Transformation of the Anointing of the Holy Spirit

1. Luke 24:49 - "And, behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high."

2. Romans 8:11 - "But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you."

Acts 8:18 And when Simon saw that through laying on of the apostles' hands the Holy Ghost was given, he offered them money,

Simon attempted to use money to purchase the gift of the Holy Spirit.

1: We must remember that God's gifts can never be bought or sold.

2: We must strive to serve God with our hearts and not with our wallets.

1: Matthew 6:19-21 - "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

2: 1 Corinthians 13:3 - "If I give all I possess to the poor and give over my body to hardship that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing."

Acts 8:19 Saying, Give me also this power, that on whomsoever I lay hands, he may receive the Holy Ghost.

The Samaritans asked for the power to lay hands on others to bestow the Holy Ghost.

1: The power of the Holy Ghost is a gift, not something to be taken lightly.

2: We should be humble when asking God for spiritual gifts.

1: Ephesians 4:7 “But to each one of us grace has been given as Christ apportioned it.”

2: James 4:6 “But he gives more grace. Therefore it says, “God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble.”

Acts 8:20 But Peter said unto him, Thy money perish with thee, because thou hast thought that the gift of God may be purchased with money.

Peter rebukes Simon for attempting to purchase the gift of God with money.

1: We cannot buy the gift of God with money.

2: The Lord's gifts are not for sale.

1: Matthew 10:8 - Freely ye have received, freely give.

2: James 1:17 - Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.

Acts 8:21 Thou hast neither part nor lot in this matter: for thy heart is not right in the sight of God.

The importance of having a right heart in the sight of God is emphasized.

1. The Value of a Right Heart Before God

2. The Necessity of Heart Integrity

1. Proverbs 4:23 - Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life.

2. 1 Chronicles 28:9 - And thou, Solomon my son, know thou the God of thy father, and serve him with a perfect heart and with a willing mind: for the LORD searcheth all hearts, and understandeth all the imaginations of the thoughts.

Acts 8:22 Repent therefore of this thy wickedness, and pray God, if perhaps the thought of thine heart may be forgiven thee.

Repentance is essential to receive forgiveness from God.

1. Turning from Sin: The Pathway to Forgiveness

2. The Necessity of Repentance for Receiving God's Mercy

1. Jeremiah 3:13 - "Only acknowledge thine iniquity, that thou hast transgressed against the Lord thy God, and hast scattered thy ways to the strangers under every green tree, and ye have not obeyed my voice, saith the Lord.

2. Luke 13:3 - "I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish."

Acts 8:23 For I perceive that thou art in the gall of bitterness, and in the bond of iniquity.

An angel of the Lord speaks to a man named Simon, warning him of his spiritual state of bitterness and iniquity.

1. "The Bond of Iniquity"

2. "The Danger of Bitterness"

1. Ephesians 4:31-32 - “Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice: And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.”

2. Colossians 3:8 - “But now ye also put off all these; anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy communication out of your mouth.”

Acts 8:24 Then answered Simon, and said, Pray ye to the LORD for me, that none of these things which ye have spoken come upon me.

Simon expresses his need for God's protection and asks for the prayers of the disciples.

1. Put Your Faith in God: Lessons from Simon's Request in Acts 8:24

2. Trust in the Lord: Relying on God's Protection in Difficult Times

1. Isaiah 26:3-4 - You will keep in perfect peace those whose minds are steadfast, because they trust in you.

2. Psalm 4:8 - In peace I will lie down and sleep, for you alone, Lord, make me dwell in safety.

Acts 8:25 And they, when they had testified and preached the word of the Lord, returned to Jerusalem, and preached the gospel in many villages of the Samaritans.

The disciples testified and preached the word of the Lord, then returned to Jerusalem to preach the gospel in many villages of the Samaritans.

1. The Power of Testifying and Preaching the Word of the Lord

2. Spreading the Gospel in the Most Unlikely of Places

1. Philippians 1:18 – “What then? Only that in every way, whether in pretense or in truth, Christ is proclaimed, and in that I rejoice.”

2. Matthew 28:19-20 – “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you.”

Acts 8:26 And the angel of the Lord spake unto Philip, saying, Arise, and go toward the south unto the way that goeth down from Jerusalem unto Gaza, which is desert.

An angel of the Lord instructed Philip to go south from Jerusalem to Gaza, which was a desert.

1. The Importance of Listening to God's Instructions

2. Obeying God's Call: Following the Road Less Traveled

1. Isaiah 40:3 - A voice of one calling: "In the desert prepare the way for the Lord; make straight in the wilderness a highway for our God.

2. Matthew 7:13-14 - "Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it.

Acts 8:27 And he arose and went: and, behold, a man of Ethiopia, an eunuch of great authority under Candace queen of the Ethiopians, who had the charge of all her treasure, and had come to Jerusalem for to worship,

A man from Ethiopia, an eunuch of great authority under the Queen of Ethiopians, Candace, came to Jerusalem to worship.

1. The Power of Worship: The story of the Ethiopian Eunuch

2. An Unexpected Worshiper: The Story of the Ethiopian Eunuch

1. Isaiah 56:3-5 - "Neither let the son of the stranger, that hath joined himself to the Lord, speak, saying, The Lord hath utterly separated me from his people: neither let the eunuch say, Behold, I am a dry tree. For thus saith the Lord unto the eunuchs that keep my sabbaths, and choose the things that please me, and take hold of my covenant; Even

unto them will I give in mine house and within my walls a place and a name better than of sons and of daughters: I will give them an everlasting name, that shall not be cut off."

2. Matthew 8:14-15 - "And when Jesus was come into Peter's house, he saw his wife's mother laid, and sick of a fever. And he touched her hand, and the fever left her: and she arose, and ministered unto them."

Acts 8:28 Was returning, and sitting in his chariot read Esaias the prophet.

An angel instructs Philip to go to a desert road and he meets a man in a chariot, who is reading from the prophet Isaiah.

1. The importance of being in tune with God's Word and listening to His instruction.

2. The power of the Word of God to bring transformation in our lives.

1. Isaiah 55:11 - "So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it."

2. James 1:22-25 - "But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves. For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass: For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was. But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed."

Acts 8:29 Then the Spirit said unto Philip, Go near, and join thyself to this chariot.

The Spirit of God told Philip to approach and join a chariot.

1. The Power of the Spirit: How God Directs Us in Our Lives

2. Obeying the Voice of God: Following His Calling

1. John 14:26 - But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.

2. Isaiah 30:21 - Whether you turn to the right or to the left, your ears will hear a voice behind you, saying, “This is the way; walk in it.”

Acts 8:30 And Philip ran thither to him, and heard him read the prophet Esaias, and said, Understandest thou what thou readest?

Philip heard a man reading a passage from Isaiah and asked if he understood what he was reading.

1. Never Stop Seeking the Truth

2. The Power of Listening to the Word of God

1. John 8:31-32 - "Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."

2. Romans 10:17 - "So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God."

Acts 8:31 And he said, How can I, except some man should guide me? And he desired Philip that he would come up and sit with him.

An Ethiopian eunuch is reading Isaiah and asks Philip for help in understanding the scripture.

1. God's Word is meant to be shared and understood.

2. The power of Scripture to bring people to God.

1. Luke 24:27 - And beginning at Moses and all the Prophets, he expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself.

2. Psalm 119:105 - Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.

Acts 8:32 The place of the scripture which he read was this, He was led as a sheep to the slaughter; and like a lamb dumb before his shearer, so opened he not his mouth:

Philip reads a passage from Isaiah 53 to the eunuch, which speaks of Jesus being led to the slaughter like a sheep.

1. Taking Up Our Cross: The Cost of Following Jesus

2. The Power of Submission: Following God's Will Despite Difficult Circumstances

1. Isaiah 53:7 - He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth: he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he openeth not his mouth.

2. Matthew 10:38 - And he that taketh not his cross, and followeth after me, is not worthy of me.

Acts 8:33 In his humiliation his judgment was taken away: and who shall declare his generation? for his life is taken from the earth.

The humiliation of Jesus led to a lack of justice, making his life taken from the earth.

1. How to find Justice in Injustice

2. The Life and Death of Jesus

1. Isaiah 53:8 - "By oppression and judgment he was taken away; and as for his generation, who considered that he was cut off out of the land of the living, stricken for the transgression of my people?"

2. John 3:16 - "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."

Acts 8:34 And the eunuch answered Philip, and said, I pray thee, of whom speaketh the prophet this? of himself, or of some other man?

Philip is asked by the Ethiopian eunuch to explain who is the subject of the prophecy from Isaiah.

1. Faithful Obedience: Responding to God's Call

2. Knowing God's Will: Seeking Understanding through the Scriptures

1. Isaiah 53:7-8 He was oppressed and afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth; he was led like a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before its shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth.

2. Matthew 16:15 He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?”

Acts 8:35 Then Philip opened his mouth, and began at the same scripture, and preached unto him Jesus.

Philip opened the Scripture and began to preach to the man about Jesus.

1. The Power of the Word of God - How the Word of God has the power to open our hearts to the Lord.

2. The Privilege of Preaching the Gospel - How we have the privilege and responsibility to share the Good News of Jesus.

1. Isaiah 55:11 - "So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it."

2. Matthew 4:17 - "From that time Jesus began to preach, and to say, Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

Acts 8:36 And as they went on their way, they came unto a certain water: and the eunuch said, See, here is water; what doth hinder me to be baptized?

The eunuch asked what was preventing him from being baptized.

1. The Power of Baptism: How Baptism Transforms Our Lives

2. The Significance of Water in Baptism

1. Matthew 28:19-20 "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in

the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

2. Romans 6:3-4 “Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.”

Acts 8:37 And Philip said, If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest. And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.

Philip encourages a man to believe in Jesus Christ and the man responds that he believes Jesus Christ is the Son of God.

1. Believe with All Your Heart

2. The Son of God

1. Romans 10:9 - That if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.

2. John 1:14-15 - And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Acts 8:38 And he commanded the chariot to stand still: and they went down both into the water, both Philip and the eunuch; and he baptized him.

The eunuch was baptized by Philip.

1. The Power of Baptism: How Baptism Can Transform Lives

2. A Heart for the Lost: Following Philip’s Example of Ministry

1. Acts 8:26-39

2. Matthew 28:19-20

Acts 8:39 And when they were come up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord caught away Philip, that the eunuch saw him no more: and he went on his way rejoicing.

The Spirit of the Lord took away Philip after the eunuch and he were baptized, and the eunuch went on his way rejoicing.

1. The Power of the Holy Spirit - How God's Spirit can work in our lives.

2. Joy in the Lord - Finding joy in our faith and in God's work in our lives.

1. Ephesians 5:18-20 - And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit, speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord, giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

2. Romans 15:13 - Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Acts 8:40 But Philip was found at Azotus: and passing through he preached in all the cities, till he came to Caesarea.

Philip preached in all the cities from Azotus to Caesarea.

1: Preaching with Persistence

2: The Power of Preaching

1: Luke 4:18-19, "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised."

2: Romans 10:15, "And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!"

Acts 9 recounts the dramatic conversion of Saul, his subsequent preaching, and Peter's miracles.

1st Paragraph: The chapter begins with Saul still breathing out murderous threats against Lord's disciples. He went to high priest asked letters synagogues Damascus if found any there who belonged Way whether men women might take them as prisoners Jerusalem. As he neared Damascus on journey suddenly light from heaven flashed around him fell ground heard voice say 'Saul Saul why do you persecute me?' 'Who are you Lord?' Saul asked 'I am Jesus whom you are persecuting' He replied 'Now get up go into city will be told what must do.' Men traveling with Saul stood there speechless heard sound but did not see anyone. Saul got up from ground but when opened eyes could see nothing so they led him by hand into Damascus for three days was blind did not eat drink anything (Acts 9:1-9).

2nd Paragraph: In Damascus there was a disciple named Ananias. The Lord called to him in a vision, "Ananias!" "Yes, Lord," he answered. The Lord told him, "Go to house Judas on Straight Street ask for man from Tarsus named Saul he is praying has seen in vision man named Ananias come place hands on him restore sight." But Ananias expressed concern about this command because of what he had heard about the harm that Saul had done to saints in Jerusalem and his authority from chief priests arrest all who call name Jesus. But God reassured Ananias saying that He had chosen Saul as an instrument to proclaim His name before Gentiles their kings and people of Israel and would show him how much he must suffer for His name. So Ananias went entered house placing hands on Saul said 'Brother Saul Lord—Jesus appeared you road came—has sent me so may see again filled Holy Spirit.' Immediately something like scales fell from eyes could see again got up baptized after taking some food regained strength spent several days disciples Damascus once began preach synagogues that Jesus Son God (Acts 9:10-22).

3rd Paragraph: After many days Jews conspired kill him learning plot watched gates day night kill him but his followers took night lowered him basket through opening wall escaped went Jerusalem tried join disciples they were afraid believing really disciple Barnabas brought apostles described saw road how spoken preached fearlessly name Jesus (Acts 9:23-28). Then Peter traveled about country also came saints living Lydda found man named Aeneas who been paralyzed eight years said Aeneas 'Jesus Christ heals Get up roll mat' immediately Aeneas got up all those lived Lydda Sharon saw became believers (Acts 9:32-35). At Joppa disciple named Tabitha known Greek Dorcas always doing good helping poor became sick died washed placed upstairs room hearing Peter nearby sent two men urged come without delay On arrival moved all out knelt down prayed turning body said 'Tabitha get up' she opened eyes seeing Peter sat up gave her hand helped her stand called believers widows presented alive news spread throughout Joppa many believed Lord Peter stayed Joppa many days certain tanner named Simon (Acts 9:36-43).

Acts 9:1 And Saul, yet breathing out threatenings and slaughter against the disciples of the Lord, went unto the high priest,

Saul threatened the disciples of the Lord and went to the high priest.

1. The Power of Belief: Saul's Conversion

2. Forgiveness and Redemption: Saul's Journey

1. Matthew 18:21-22 - "Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, “Lord, how often should I forgive someone who sins against me? Seven times?” “No, not seven times,” Jesus replied, “but seventy times seven!"

2. Romans 5:8 - “But God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners.”

Acts 9:2 And desired of him letters to Damascus to the synagogues, that if he found any of this way, whether they were men or women, he might bring them bound unto Jerusalem.

Saul asked for letters to the synagogues in Damascus so that he could bring any Christians he found back to Jerusalem in chains.

1. The Danger of Persecution: How Our Faith is Tested by Those Who Oppose Us

2. The Value of Courage: Standing Firm in Our Beliefs Despite Challenges

1. Romans 8:31-37 (What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us?)

2. Matthew 5:10-12 (Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.)

Acts 9:3 And as he journeyed, he came near Damascus: and suddenly there shined round about him a light from heaven:

On his journey to Damascus, Saul was surrounded by a bright light from heaven.

1. “The Light of God's Power and Mercy”

2. “A Call to Follow in Saul’s Footsteps”

1. Isaiah 6:1-8;

2. Luke 9:23-25.

Acts 9:4 And he fell to the earth, and heard a voice saying unto him, Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me?

Saul falls to the ground and hears a voice asking why he is persecuting the speaker.

1. The Power of Conversion: Saul's Encounter with the Lord

2. The Importance of Righteous Living: Saul's Transformation

1. 1 Corinthians 15:9-10 - For I am the least of the apostles, that am not meet to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. But by the grace of God I am what I am: and his grace which was bestowed upon me was not in vain; but I laboured more abundantly than they all: yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me.

2. Romans 12:2 - And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

Acts 9:5 And he said, Who art thou, Lord? And the Lord said, I am Jesus whom thou persecutest: it is hard for thee to kick against the pricks.

Saul, who was persecuting Christians, meets Jesus on the road to Damascus and is told that it is futile to fight against God.

1. The futility of fighting against the will of God.

2. The power of God to change even the most hardened sinner.

1. Romans 8:31 - What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us?

2. Psalm 33:11 - The counsel of the Lord standeth for ever, the thoughts of his heart to all generations.

Acts 9:6 And he trembling and astonished said, Lord, what wilt thou have me to do? And the Lord said unto him, Arise, and go into the city, and it shall be told thee what thou must do.

A man asks the Lord what he should do, and the Lord tells him to go to the city to find out what he must do.

1. Knowing God's Will - Proverbs 3:5-6

2. Following God's Direction - Romans 12:2

1. Psalm 32:8 - "I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will guide you with My eye."

2. Isaiah 30:21 - "Your ears shall hear a word behind you, saying, “This is the way, walk in it,” Whenever you turn to the right hand Or whenever you turn to the left."

Acts 9:7 And the men which journeyed with him stood speechless, hearing a voice, but seeing no man.

The men who were traveling with Saul heard a voice but could not see anyone.

1. The Power of God's Voice: Experiencing God's Presence in Unexpected Ways

2. Respecting the Unseen: Understanding the Power of Faith

1. Isaiah 55:8-9 "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts."

2. Ephesians 3:20-21 "Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen."

Acts 9:8 And Saul arose from the earth; and when his eyes were opened, he saw no man: but they led him by the hand, and brought him into Damascus.

Saul had a dramatic encounter with the Lord, which changed his life forever.

1. God's power can bring amazing transformation in our lives.

2. We must be willing to open our hearts to the Lord and allow Him to guide us.

1. Romans 12:2 - "And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God."

2. Philippians 3:13-14 - "Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus."

Acts 9:9 And he was three days without sight, and neither did eat nor drink.

Saul was temporarily blinded and did not eat or drink for three days.

1. The Power of Faith: Saul's journey to Damascus and the transformative power of faith

2. Refusing to Give Up: The importance of perseverance in times of trial

1. John 9:1-3 - Jesus heals a man born blind

2. Romans 5:1-5 - The hope that comes through suffering and perseverance

Acts 9:10 And there was a certain disciple at Damascus, named Ananias; and to him said the Lord in a vision, Ananias. And he said, Behold, I am here, Lord.

Ananias is a disciple in Damascus who is visited by the Lord in a vision.

1. The Lord Calls Us to Follow Him: Ananias' Story

2. God is Always at Work: The Faith of Ananias

1. John 10:27 - "My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me."

2. 1 Corinthians 10:13 - "No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it."

Acts 9:11 And the Lord said unto him, Arise, and go into the street which is called Straight, and enquire in the house of Judas for one called Saul, of Tarsus: for, behold, he prayeth,

The Lord instructs Ananias to go to Saul and find him praying.

1. The Lord's Call to Follow Him: Ananias and Saul

2. Praying with Boldness and Faith

1. Matthew 4:19 - "And he saith unto them, Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men"

2. Hebrews 11:1 - "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen"

Acts 9:12 And hath seen in a vision a man named Ananias coming in, and putting his hand on him, that he might receive his sight.

Saul is blinded by a vision from God, and is told to seek out Ananias in Damascus to receive his sight back.

1. The Power of Faith: How God Used Ananias to Restore Saul’s Sight

2. When God Gives a Vision: How We Should Respond

1. Romans 10:17 - “So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.”

2. John 3:16-17 - “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through

him.”

Acts 9:13 Then Ananias answered, Lord, I have heard by many of this man, how much evil he hath done to thy saints at Jerusalem:

The Lord is aware of the evil done to the saints at Jerusalem.

1. God is aware of our struggles, and He is with us in our suffering.

2. Remember that no matter the evil we face, God will always be our protector.

1. Psalm 34:17-19 "When the righteous cry for help, the Lord hears and delivers them out of all their troubles. The Lord is near to the brokenhearted and saves the crushed in spirit. Many are the afflictions of the righteous, but the Lord delivers him out of them all."

2. Isaiah 41:10 "Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand."

Acts 9:14 And here he hath authority from the chief priests to bind all that call on thy name.

Saul, who was previously persecuting Christians, has been converted and the chief priests have granted him authority to arrest those who call upon the name of Jesus.

1. God's Amazing Love: How Saul's Conversion Reflects God's Unconditional Love

2. The Power of Redemption: How Saul's Change of Heart Reveals God's Saving Grace

1. Romans 5:8 - “But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”

2. 1 Corinthians 15:10 - “But by the grace of God I am what I am: and his grace which was bestowed upon me was not in vain; but I laboured more abundantly than they all: yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me.”

Acts 9:15 But the Lord said unto him, Go thy way: for he is a chosen vessel unto me, to bear my name before the Gentiles, and kings, and the children of Israel:

God chose Saul to be a vessel of his name to the Gentiles, kings, and the children of Israel.

1. God Chooses the Unlikely - Acts 9:15

2. God's Calling on Our Lives - Acts 9:15

1. Jeremiah 1:5 - “Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations.”

2. 1 Corinthians 1:27 - “But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong.”

Acts 9:16 For I will shew him how great things he must suffer for my name's sake.

Saul's conversion to Christianity was not an easy one, as God informed him that he would need to suffer greatly for the sake of God's name.

1. To suffer for Christ is a great honor.

2. The power of God's grace can lead us through any trial.

1. Romans 8:18 - For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us.

2. John 15:13 - Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends.

Acts 9:17 And Ananias went his way, and entered into the house; and putting his hands on him said, Brother Saul, the Lord, even Jesus, that appeared unto thee in the way as thou camest, hath sent me, that thou mightest receive thy sight, and be filled with the Holy Ghost.

Ananias was sent by Jesus to Saul to restore his sight and fill him with the Holy Spirit.

1: We are called to carry out the mission of God through the power of the Holy Spirit.

2: God is constantly working in our lives to bring about his will.

1: Acts 1:8 - “But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

2: Luke 24:49 - “Behold, I send the Promise of My Father upon you; but tarry in the city of Jerusalem until you are endued with power from on high.”

Acts 9:18 And immediately there fell from his eyes as it had been scales: and he received sight forthwith, and arose, and was baptized.

Paul was healed and converted to Christianity.

1: No matter how far we've strayed, God will always be there to bring us back.

2: God can work through even the most unexpected circumstances.

1: John 8:12 - "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

2: Romans 10:9 - "If you declare with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved."

Acts 9:19 And when he had received meat, he was strengthened. Then was Saul certain days with the disciples which were at Damascus.

Saul was strengthened by the disciples in Damascus.

1. The Power of Community: How Fellowship Can Strengthen Us

2. The Strength of Faith: How Belief in God Can Reinvigorate Us

1. Hebrews 10:24-25 - And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

2. Romans 12:10 - Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor.

Acts 9:20 And straightway he preached Christ in the synagogues, that he is the Son of God.

Saul of Tarsus immediately began preaching about Jesus Christ in the synagogues, proclaiming Him to be the Son of God.

1. The Power of a Changed Life: Examining Saul's Conversion in Acts 9:20

2. Jesus: The Son of God: Proclaiming His Identity from Acts 9:20

1. Romans 10:9-10 - "If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved."

2. Matthew 16:13-17 - "Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?” And they said, “Some say John the Baptist, others say Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” Simon Peter replied, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.” And Jesus answered him, “Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven.”

Acts 9:21 But all that heard him were amazed, and said; Is not this he that destroyed them which called on this name in Jerusalem, and came hither for that intent, that he might bring them bound unto the chief priests?

People were amazed to hear Saul speaking in favor of Jesus, as he had previously been a persecutor of those who followed Him in Jerusalem.

1. We must never give up on those who have strayed from the path of righteousness and love.

2. God can work through any person, no matter who they have been in the past.

1. Luke 15:11-32, Parable of the Prodigal Son

2. Romans 5:8, But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Acts 9:22 But Saul increased the more in strength, and confounded the Jews which dwelt at Damascus, proving that this is very Christ.

Saul, also known as Paul, went to Damascus and was able to prove to the Jews there that Jesus was the Messiah.

1. Proclaiming the Lord: How Paul Preached the Good News

2. The Strength of Faith: Paul's Bold Witness of Jesus

1. 1 Corinthians 15:1-8 - The Resurrection of Christ

2. Romans 1:16-17 - The Power of the Gospel for Salvation

Acts 9:23 And after that many days were fulfilled, the Jews took counsel to kill him:

The Jews plotted to kill Paul after many days.

1. The Power of Perseverance - In the face of adversity, Paul stayed true to his faith and persevered.

2. The Strength of God's Plan - Despite the Jews plotting to kill Paul, God's plan for him was fulfilled.

1. Philippians 4:13 - I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.

2. Romans 8:28 - And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.

Acts 9:24 But their laying await was known of Saul. And they watched the gates day and night to kill him.

Saul's plan to kill the believers was known, and they guarded the gates constantly to

protect him.

1. God's Protection in Times of Persecution

2. Fear Not: Knowing God's Sovereignty

1. Psalm 23:4 Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

2. Romans 8:31-32 What, then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things?

Acts 9:25 Then the disciples took him by night, and let him down by the wall in a basket.

The disciples of Jesus secretly took Saul out of Damascus and lowered him down from the wall in a basket.

1. God's faithfulness in unexpected circumstances

2. The power of faith in a seemingly impossible situation

1. Isaiah 41:10 - "So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand."

2. Philippians 4:13 - "I can do all this through him who gives me strength."

Acts 9:26 And when Saul was come to Jerusalem, he assayed to join himself to the disciples: but they were all afraid of him, and believed not that he was a disciple.

Saul's conversion to Christianity was met with skepticism and fear.

1. "God's Love is Unconditional"

2. "The Power of Forgiveness"

1. Romans 5:8 - But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

2. Ephesians 4:32 - Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.

Acts 9:27 But Barnabas took him, and brought him to the apostles, and declared unto them how he had seen the Lord in the way, and that he had spoken to him, and how he had preached boldly at Damascus in the name of Jesus.

Barnabas brought Saul to the apostles and told them of his experience with the Lord and how he had been preaching boldly in Jesus' name in Damascus.

1. Bold Faith: Taking Courageous Steps in Our Walk with Christ

2. The Power of Testimony: Sharing Our Experiences with Others

1. Matthew 10:27-28 - What I tell you in the dark, speak in the daylight; what is whispered in your ear, proclaim from the roofs.

2. Hebrews 11:1-3 - Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.

Acts 9:28 And he was with them coming in and going out at Jerusalem.

Saul stayed with the disciples in Jerusalem and went to and from with them.

1. God's grace is sufficient in times of persecution.

2. Believers should remain steadfast in their faith despite opposition.

1. 2 Corinthians 12:9-10 - But he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ’s power may rest on me.

2. Romans 8:35 - Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword?

Acts 9:29 And he spake boldly in the name of the Lord Jesus, and disputed against the Grecians: but they went about to slay him.

Saul spoke boldly in the name of the Lord Jesus and argued with the Greeks, who attempted to kill him.

1. The Power of Faith: Standing Firm in the Face of Adversity

2. Living a Life of Courage: Standing Up for What You Believe in

1. 2 Timothy 1:7 "For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind."

2. Isaiah 41:10 "Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness."

Acts 9:30 Which when the brethren knew, they brought him down to Caesarea, and sent him forth to Tarsus.

The disciples brought Saul to Caesarea and sent him to Tarsus.

1. The Power of Obedience: Saul's Journey to Tarsus.

2. The Importance of Serving Others: The Disciples' Aid to Saul.

1. Romans 8:28: "And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose."

2. Philippians 2:3-4: "Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others."

Acts 9:31 Then had the churches rest throughout all Judaea and Galilee and Samaria, and were edified; and walking in the fear of the Lord, and in the comfort of the Holy Ghost, were multiplied.

The churches of Judaea, Galilee, and Samaria experienced a period of rest and growth due to the guidance of the Lord and the Holy Spirit.

1. Walking in the Fear of the Lord- Proverbs 3:5-6

2. The Comfort of the Holy Spirit- John 14:15-18

1. Isaiah 11:2- The Spirit of the Lord will rest upon Him- anointing Him with the Spirit of knowledge, wisdom, understanding, counsel, might, and fear of the Lord.

2. Romans 15:13- May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.

Acts 9:32 And it came to pass, as Peter passed throughout all quarters, he came down also to the saints which dwelt at Lydda.

Peter went to Lydda to visit the saints there.

1. The Power of Kindness: How Peter's Visit to Lydda Changed Lives

2. True Unity: The Saints of Lydda Unite in Faith

1. John 13:34-35, "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."

2. Romans 12:10, "Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving p to one another."

Acts 9:33 And there he found a certain man named Aeneas, which had kept his bed eight years, and was sick of the palsy.

Aeneas was a man who had been paralyzed for eight years.

1. The Power of Faith: Aeneas' story of trust in God

2. Overcoming Adversity: Aeneas' example of perseverance

1. Matthew 9:2-7 - Jesus healing a man with palsy

2. Matthew 11:28-30 - Jesus' invitation to come to him for rest and refreshment

Acts 9:34 And Peter said unto him, Aeneas, Jesus Christ maketh thee whole: arise, and make thy bed. And he arose immediately.

Peter encourages Aeneas to be healed through Jesus Christ.

1. God's Healing Power: How Jesus Christ Heals Us

2. Trusting in Jesus Christ: Relying on His Strength and Mercy

1. Isaiah 53:4-5 – “Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.”

2. James 5:14-15 – “Is any sick among you? let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord: And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him.”

Acts 9:35 And all that dwelt at Lydda and Saron saw him, and turned to the Lord.

All the people who lived in Lydda and Saron saw a man and were converted to the Lord.

1: No matter what hardships we face in life, God is always there for us and will bring us through.

2: We can all be a light to those around us, and our actions can have a profound effect on others.

1: Isaiah 40:31 But those who wait on the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.

2: 2 Corinthians 5:17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!

Acts 9:36 Now there was at Joppa a certain disciple named Tabitha, which by interpretation is called Dorcas: this woman was full of good works and almsdeeds which she did.

Tabitha, also known as Dorcas, was an exemplary Christian disciple living in Joppa who demonstrated her faith through good works and generous giving.

1. A call to imitate Tabitha's example of good works and generosity.

2. Remembering Tabitha's legacy as a faithful disciple.

1. Luke 6:38 "Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you."

2. James 2:17-18 "In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead. But someone will say, “You have faith; I have deeds.” Show me your faith without deeds, and I will show you my faith by my deeds."

Acts 9:37 And it came to pass in those days, that she was sick, and died: whom when they had washed, they laid her in an upper chamber.

A woman became sick and died in the days of the Apostle Paul. The people washed her body and laid her in an upper chamber to be mourned.

1. Reflecting on the Life of a Loved One: What We Can Learn from Acts 9:37

2. The Comfort of Knowing Our Loved Ones Rest in God's Care

1. John 11:25-26 “Jesus said to her, ‘I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die’”

2. 1 Thessalonians 4:13-14 “But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about

those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep”.

Acts 9:38 And forasmuch as Lydda was nigh to Joppa, and the disciples had heard that Peter was there, they sent unto him two men, desiring him that he would not delay to come to them.

The disciples of Lydda, located near Joppa, heard that Peter was there and sent two men to ask him to come back to them without delay.

1. God will providentially use people to accomplish His will.

2. The importance of maintaining strong relationships with fellow believers.

1. John 15:12-17 - Jesus's teaching on how to live in unity with other believers.

2. Romans 12:10 - The importance of loving one another with brotherly affection.

Acts 9:39 Then Peter arose and went with them. When he was come, they brought him into the upper chamber: and all the widows stood by him weeping, and shewing the coats and garments which Dorcas made, while she was with them.

Peter visited the widows with the other apostles and saw the garments Dorcas had made.

1. We should be generous with our time and talents and serve others like Dorcas did.

2. Even in grief, we can be inspired and comforted by the examples of those who have gone before us.

1. Mark 10:43-44 “But so shall it not be among you: but whosoever will be great among you, shall be your minister: And whosoever of you will be the chiefest, shall be servant of all.”

2. 2 Corinthians 9:8 “And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work.”

Acts 9:40 But Peter put them all forth, and kneeled down, and prayed; and turning him to

the body said, Tabitha, arise. And she opened her eyes: and when she saw Peter, she sat up.

Peter prayed for Tabitha and she opened her eyes and sat up when she saw him.

1. The Power of Prayer: Trusting God to Answer Our Prayers

2. The Miraculous Power of Jesus: Living Out His Ministry in Our Lives

1. James 5:16 - Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed.

2. Mark 11:24 - Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them.

Acts 9:41 And he gave her his hand, and lifted her up, and when he had called the saints and widows, presented her alive.

Peter raised a dead woman to life by calling for the saints and widows to help him.

1. God's Power Over Death - Embracing Life and Faith in Christ

2. Hoping for Miracles - Trusting in the Lord's Love and Provision

1. Romans 8:38-39 - For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

2. Hebrews 11:1 - Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.

Acts 9:42 And it was known throughout all Joppa; and many believed in the Lord.

This passage speaks of how the news of Jesus' power and goodness spread throughout the city of Joppa, and many people believed in the Lord.

1. The Power of Testimony: How the Story of Jesus Spreads

2. Believe and Be Saved: The Miracle of Joppa

1. Isaiah 43:10-11: “You are my witnesses,” declares the Lord, “and my servant whom I have chosen, so that you may know and believe me and understand that I am he. Before me no god was formed, nor will there be one after me.

2. Matthew 28:18-20: Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

Acts 9:43 And it came to pass, that he tarried many days in Joppa with one Simon a tanner.

Peter stayed in Joppa for a long time with a tanner named Simon.

1. Understanding God's Purpose in Every Situation

2. Choosing Obedience in Difficult Circumstances

1. Romans 8:28 - And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.

2. 1 Peter 5:6-7 - Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you, casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you.

Acts 10 recounts the vision of Peter and the conversion of Cornelius, a Roman centurion, marking a significant turning point in the early Christian church with the gospel message spreading to non-Jews.

1st Paragraph: The chapter begins with Cornelius, a Roman Centurion living in Caesarea who was devout and God-fearing. One afternoon he had a vision where an angel of God called him by name. The angel told him that his prayers and gifts to the poor have been remembered by God and instructed him to send men to Joppa to bring back Simon known as Peter (Acts 10:1-6). Cornelius obeyed and sent two servants and a soldier who was devout towards God.

2nd Paragraph: While they were on their way, Peter went up on roof pray became hungry wanted something eat fell into trance saw heaven opened something like large sheet being let down earth by its four corners contained all kinds four-footed animals reptiles earth birds sky voice told 'Get up Peter kill eat' but replied 'Surely not Lord! I have never eaten anything impure unclean.' Voice spoke second time 'Do not call anything impure that God has made clean.' This happened three times then it was pulled up heaven again (Acts 10:9-16). While Peter was wondering about meaning vision men sent by Cornelius found where Simon's house stopped gate called asked if Simon known as Peter staying there. Spirit said to him 'Simon three men looking for you so get up go downstairs do not hesitate go them for I have sent them' (Acts 10:17-20).

3rd Paragraph: So Peter went down greeted men next day accompanied them others from Joppa went meet Cornelius who waiting for them gathered relatives close friends. As entered home Cornelius fell feet worship but Peter made stand said 'I am only man myself' talking went inside found large gathering people told them how unlawful Jewish man associate visit anyone another nation but God shown should not call any person impure unclean (Acts 10:23-28). Then Cornelius explained why he had sent for him, recounting his vision of an angel telling him send Joppa bring Simon known as Peter would give message through which whole household would be saved (Acts 10:30-33). Then Peter began speak realization truth God does not show favoritism accepts every nation one does what right He preached good news peace through Jesus Christ Lord all while speaking Holy Spirit came all heard message circumcised believers who come with Peter were astonished gift Holy Spirit poured out even Gentiles they heard them speaking tongues praising God then asked anyone could withhold water these being baptized received Holy Spirit just we have ordered baptized name Jesus Christ then asked stay few days (Acts 10:34-48).

Acts 10:1 There was a certain man in Caesarea called Cornelius, a centurion of the band called the Italian band,

Cornelius, a Roman centurion stationed in Caesarea, was a man of faith.

1. God's faithfulness transcends cultural and religious divides.

2. The power of faith to transform lives.

1. Acts 11:19 - “Now those who were scattered because of the persecution that occurred in connection with Stephen made their way to Phoenicia, Cyprus, and Antioch, speaking the word to no one except Jews.”

2. Romans 10:12 - “For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; for the same Lord is Lord of all, bestowing his riches on all who call on him.”

Acts 10:2 A devout man, and one that feared God with all his house, which gave much alms to the people, and prayed to God alway.

This passage describes a man who was devoted to God and showed his faith in a practical way by giving generously to others and praying regularly.

1. Living a Life of Devotion: How to Practice Your Faith Practically

2. The Benefits of Giving and Praying: Experiencing True Blessing in Life

1. James 2:17-18, "Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone. Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: shew me thy faith without thy works, and I will shew thee my faith by my works."

2. 1 John 3:17-18, "But whoso hath this world's good, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him? My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth."

Acts 10:3 He saw in a vision evidently about the ninth hour of the day an angel of God coming in to him, and saying unto him, Cornelius.

Cornelius has a vision from God in which he is addressed directly by an angel.

1. We can all receive direct communication from God in unexpected ways.

2. We can all be called by God to do great things.

1. John 10:27 - "My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me."

2. Joshua 1:9 - "Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go."

Acts 10:4 And when he looked on him, he was afraid, and said, What is it, Lord? And he said unto him, Thy prayers and thine alms are come up for a memorial before God.

Cornelius receives a vision from God, and is told that his prayers and acts of charity have been remembered by God.

1. The Power of Prayer: How Acts of Faith Lead to God's Grace

2. Generosity Leads to Spiritual Fulfillment.

1. James 5:16 - "The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much."

2. 2 Corinthians 9:7 - "So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver."

Acts 10:5 And now send men to Joppa, and call for one Simon, whose surname is Peter:

God sends a messenger to the city of Joppa to find a man named Simon Peter.

1. God Is Always Leading Us - How God guides us through our lives even when we don't realize it.

2. The Power of Prayer - How prayer can help us find answers to our questions.

1. John 16:13 - "When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come."

2. Proverbs 3:6 - "In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths."

Acts 10:6 He lodgeth with one Simon a tanner, whose house is by the sea side: he shall tell thee what thou oughtest to do.

The passage tells of a man named Simon, a tanner who is lodging with another man and could tell him what he needs to do.

1. How our actions can be guided by wisdom from others.

2. The importance of seeking out counsel.

1. Proverbs 11:14 - "Where no counsel is, the people fall: but in the multitude of counsellors there is safety."

2. James 1:5 - "If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him."

Acts 10:7 And when the angel which spake unto Cornelius was departed, he called two of his household servants, and a devout soldier of them that waited on him continually;

The angel spoke to Cornelius and then departed, leaving Cornelius with two of his servants and a soldier.

1. The importance of obedience to the Lord’s commands.

2. The power of a devoted servant of God.

1. Luke 6:46-49 - “Why do you call me ‘Lord, Lord,’ and not do what I tell you?”

2. Isaiah 1:19 - “If you are willing and obedient, you will eat the good of the land.”

Acts 10:8 And when he had declared all these things unto them, he sent them to Joppa.

Cornelius was instructed by an angel to send for Peter so that he could share the gospel with him. He sent his servants to Joppa to find Peter.

1. God's Guidance: Recognizing and Following God's Plan

2. The Power of Witnessing: Sharing the Gospel with Others

1. Romans 10:14-15 - "How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? And how are they to preach unless they are sent?"

2. Matthew 28:19-20 - "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in

the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

Acts 10:9 On the morrow, as they went on their journey, and drew nigh unto the city, Peter went up upon the housetop to pray about the sixth hour:

Peter went up to the roof to pray at noon the next day as he and his companions were traveling to the nearby city.

1. The Practice of Prayer: The Example of Peter

2. Making Time for God: Prioritizing Prayer

1. Colossians 4:2 — "Continue earnestly in prayer, being vigilant in it with thanksgiving."

2. 1 Thessalonians 5:16–18 — "Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you."

Acts 10:10 And he became very hungry, and would have eaten: but while they made ready, he fell into a trance,

While Cornelius was hungry, he fell into a trance before he could eat.

1. God's timing is perfect: understanding the power of patience in times of need.

2. Seeking the Lord in times of hunger: learning to rely on God's provision.

1. Isaiah 55:8-9 - "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts."

2. Psalm 37:25 - "I have been young, and now am old; yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed begging bread."

Acts 10:11 And saw heaven opened, and a certain vessel descending unto him, as it had been a great sheet knit at the four corners, and let down to the earth:

In Acts 10:11, Peter saw a vision in which heaven opened and a vessel descended to him, resembling a large sheet.

1. The Power of Visions: How God Uses Them to Speak to His People

2. From Heaven to Earth: Experiencing God's Presence in Our Lives

1. Isaiah 6:1-8 - Isaiah's vision of the Lord in the temple

2. Revelation 11:19 - The opening of the temple in heaven

Acts 10:12 Wherein were all manner of fourfooted beasts of the earth, and wild beasts, and creeping things, and fowls of the air.

God's creation is abundant with all manner of animals, from land animals to wild beasts, from reptiles to birds of the air.

1. The Wonders of God's Creation

2. The Beauty of Nature

1. Psalm 104:24 “O Lord, how manifold are your works! In wisdom have you made them all; the earth is full of your creatures.”

2. Genesis 1:20-25 “And God said, ‘Let the waters swarm with swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the expanse of the heavens.’ So God created the great sea creatures and every living creature that moves, with which the waters swarm, according to their kinds, and every winged bird according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. And God blessed them, saying, ‘Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth.’ And there was evening and there was morning, the fifth day. And God said, ‘Let the earth bring forth living creatures according to their kinds—livestock and creeping things and beasts of the earth according to their kinds.’ And it was so.”

Acts 10:13 And there came a voice to him, Rise, Peter; kill, and eat.

The passage recounts a conversation between the voice of God and Peter. God instructs Peter to kill and eat.

1. We must be willing to obey God's commands, no matter how difficult or uncomfortable, in order to follow His will.

2. We must remain open to the leading of God's spirit in our lives to ensure we do His will.

1. Matthew 4:4 - "But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God."

2. Romans 12:2 - "And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God."

Acts 10:14 But Peter said, Not so, Lord; for I have never eaten any thing that is common or unclean.

Peter refuses to accept the vision from God that he should not call anything impure which God has made clean.

1. God's Grace: A reminder to not judge what God has made clean

2. Recognizing God's Will: How to discern God's commands and when to follow them

1. Romans 14:14 - "I know and am persuaded by the Lord Jesus that there is nothing unclean of itself: but to him that esteemeth any thing to be unclean, to him it is unclean."

2. Ephesians 2:8 - "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God."

Acts 10:15 And the voice spake unto him again the second time, What God hath cleansed, that call not thou common.

God has given us the power to cleanse and purify ourselves; we should not reject or despise this gift.

1. The Power of God's Cleansing: Claiming the Blessing of Purity

2. The Heart of Purity: Embracing God's Gift of Cleansing

1. Isaiah 1:18 - “Come now, let us reason together,” says the Lord. “Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red as crimson, they shall be like wool.”

2. 1 John 1:9 - If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Acts 10:16 This was done thrice: and the vessel was received up again into heaven.

This passage from Acts 10:16 describes Peter's vision of a vessel being received up into heaven three times.

1: God is always in control; He is the one true source of power and strength.

2: God's power is infinite - we must always strive to follow Him and His will.

1: Psalm 18:2 - The Lord is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer, my God, my rock, in whom I take refuge, my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.

2: Isaiah 40:28 - Have you not known? Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable.

Acts 10:17 Now while Peter doubted in himself what this vision which he had seen should mean, behold, the men which were sent from Cornelius had made enquiry for Simon's house, and stood before the gate,

Peter received a vision from God instructing him to not judge people based on their background.

1. Trust God's direction and embrace all of His children, regardless of their background.

2. Don't let our preconceived notions prevent us from following God's will.

1. Acts 10:17

2. Galatians 3:28 - "There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus."

Acts 10:18 And called, and asked whether Simon, which was surnamed Peter, were lodged there.

Cornelius, a Roman centurion, sent two of his servants to find the apostle Peter who was staying in the house of Simon the tanner.

1. Following God's Leading: We can trust that God will guide us on our path.

2. Serving the Lord: We should be willing to follow God's commands even when it is difficult.

1. Isaiah 55:8-9 “For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.”

2. John 14:15 “If you love me, you will keep my commandments.”

Acts 10:19 While Peter thought on the vision, the Spirit said unto him, Behold, three men seek thee.

The Lord sent a vision to Peter, and the Holy Spirit instructed him that three men were looking for him.

1. The Lord is Always Guiding: How to Listen for the Lord's Voice

2. Following God's Lead: Learning to Respond to His Guidance

1. Isaiah 30:21 - Whether you turn to the right or to the left, your ears will hear a voice behind you, saying, “This is the way; walk in it.”

2. Proverbs 3:5-6 - Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.

Acts 10:20 Arise therefore, and get thee down, and go with them, doubting nothing: for I have sent them.

Peter was commanded by God to go with the men sent by Cornelius and not to doubt.

1. God calls us to trust and obey.

2. The power of having faith in God's plan.

1. Hebrews 11:1-3 - Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.

2. Proverbs 3:5-6 - Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding.

Acts 10:21 Then Peter went down to the men which were sent unto him from Cornelius; and said, Behold, I am he whom ye seek: what is the cause wherefore ye are come?

Peter meets with a group of men sent from Cornelius and inquires why they have come.

1. The importance of taking initiative in doing God's work

2. Being hospitable and welcoming to strangers

1. John 4:35-36 - "Say not ye, There are yet four months, and then cometh harvest? behold, I say unto you, Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest. And he that reapeth receiveth wages, and gathereth fruit unto life eternal: that both he that soweth and he that reapeth may rejoice together."

2. Luke 10:2-3 - "Therefore said he unto them, The harvest truly is great, but the labourers are few: pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he would send forth labourers into his harvest. Go your ways: behold, I send you forth as lambs among wolves."

Acts 10:22 And they said, Cornelius the centurion, a just man, and one that feareth God, and of good report among all the nation of the Jews, was warned from God by an holy angel to send for thee into his house, and to hear words of thee.

Cornelius, a just and God-fearing man of good reputation among the Jews, was warned by an angel from God to invite Peter to his house to hear his words.

1. God's love and justice is extended to all who seek Him.

2. God will use anyone to accomplish His will.

1. Luke 1:5-25 - The angel Gabriel's visit to Zechariah to announce the birth of John the Baptist.

2. Acts 17:26-27 - God's sovereignty over all nations, and His intention to save them.

Acts 10:23 Then called he them in, and lodged them. And on the morrow Peter went away with them, and certain brethren from Joppa accompanied him.

The apostle Peter was invited to lodge with some gentiles and the next morning he left with certain brethren from Joppa.

1. We are called to accept and embrace those who are different from us, no matter their background.

2. We are not alone in our faith; rely on the strength of those around you.

1. Galatians 2:11-14 - "But when Peter came to Antioch, I opposed him to his face, because he was clearly in the wrong. Before certain men came from James, he used to eat with the Gentiles. But when they arrived, he began to draw back and separate himself from the Gentiles because he was afraid of those who belonged to the circumcision group. The other Jews joined him in his hypocrisy, so that by their hypocrisy even Barnabas was led astray. When I saw that they were not acting in line with the truth of the gospel, I said to Peter in front of them all, 'You are a Jew, yet you live like a Gentile and not like a Jew. How is it, then, that you force Gentiles to follow Jewish customs?'"

2. Acts 11:1-3 - "The apostles and the believers throughout Judea heard that the Gentiles also had received the word of God. So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcised believers criticized him and said, 'You went into the house of uncircumcised men and ate with them.' Peter began and explained everything to them precisely as it had happened:"

Acts 10:24 And the morrow after they entered into Caesarea. And Cornelius waited for them, and had called together his kinsmen and near friends.

Cornelius invited his family and close friends and waited for them the day after entering Caesarea.

1. God is faithful and will bring together those He has connected.

2. We should always be ready to welcome those who come into our lives.

1. Romans 8:38-39 - For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

2. Hebrews 10:24-25 - And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

Acts 10:25 And as Peter was coming in, Cornelius met him, and fell down at his feet, and worshipped him.

Cornelius met Peter and fell down to worship him when he arrived.

1. The Power of Humility: The Example of Cornelius

2. Living a Life of Worship: How Cornelius Showed Us the Way

1. Philippians 2:3-4 - "Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others."

2. Romans 12:1-2 - "I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect."

Acts 10:26 But Peter took him up, saying, Stand up; I myself also am a man.

Peter encouraged Cornelius to stand up, reassuring him that he too was a man.

1. The Dignity of Every Person: A Study of Peter's Encouragement to Cornelius

2. Self-Reflection and the Power of Encouragement

1. John 13:34-35, "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

2. Galatians 3:28, "There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus."

Acts 10:27 And as he talked with him, he went in, and found many that were come together.

Cornelius had many visitors when Peter arrived at his home.

1. The Power of Friendship: Understanding the Value of Visiting Others

2. The Importance of Community: A Study of Acts 10:27

1. Romans 12:10-13: Love one another with brotherly affection; outdo one another in showing honor. Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer.

2. Ecclesiastes 4:9-12: Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their toil. For if they fall, one will lift up his fellow. But woe to him who is alone when he falls and has not another to lift him up! Again, if two lie together, they keep warm, but how can one keep warm alone? And though a man might prevail against one who is alone, two will withstand him—a threefold cord is not quickly broken.

Acts 10:28 And he said unto them, Ye know how that it is an unlawful thing for a man that is a Jew to keep company, or come unto one of another nation; but God hath shewed me that I should not call any man common or unclean.

Peter is told by God that he should not consider any person as impure or unclean.

1. God's Love Does Not Discriminate

2. The Unconditional Love of God

1. Galatians 3:28 - "There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus."

2. John 3:16 - "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."

Acts 10:29 Therefore came I unto you without gainsaying, as soon as I was sent for: I ask therefore for what intent ye have sent for me?

Cornelius requested for Peter to come to him and Peter asked Cornelius why he was sent for.

1. How to Respond When Called Upon By Others

2. Learning to Ask Questions When Confused

1. Matthew 5:41 "And whosoever shall compel thee to go a mile, go with him twain."

2. Acts 17:11 "These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so."

Acts 10:30 And Cornelius said, Four days ago I was fasting until this hour; and at the ninth hour I prayed in my house, and, behold, a man stood before me in bright clothing,

Cornelius's prayer was answered when an angel appeared to him.

1. God hears and answers all prayers.

2. Pray without ceasing and trust in God's timing.

1. 1 Thessalonians 5:17 - "Pray without ceasing."

2. Jeremiah 29:11-13 - "For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope."

Acts 10:31 And said, Cornelius, thy prayer is heard, and thine alms are had in remembrance in the sight of God.

Cornelius had prayed and his almsgiving was remembered by God.

1. The Power of Prayer: How Our Prayers are Heard and Remembered by God

2. The Value of Almsgiving: How Giving to Others is Remembered by God

1. 1 Thessalonians 5:17 - Pray without ceasing.

2. James 1:27 - Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world.

Acts 10:32 Send therefore to Joppa, and call hither Simon, whose surname is Peter; he is lodged in the house of one Simon a tanner by the sea side: who, when he cometh, shall speak unto thee.

Cornelius is instructed to send for Simon Peter, who is staying in the house of a tanner by the sea in Joppa.

1. The Power of Obedience: How Following God's Instructions Can Lead to Great Things

2. God's Unfailing Provision: How God Always Provides for His People

1. James 4:17 - "So whoever knows the right thing to do and fails to do it, for him it is sin."

2. Isaiah 55:11 - "so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it."

Acts 10:33 Immediately therefore I sent to thee; and thou hast well done that thou art come. Now therefore are we all here present before God, to hear all things that are commanded thee of God.

Cornelius, a Roman centurion, has called for a meeting of his family and friends in order to hear the words of God from Peter.

1. God is Calling Each of Us to Listen to His Word

2. Taking Action to Follow God's Word

1. Jeremiah 29:13 - "You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart."

2. James 1:22 - "But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves."

Acts 10:34 Then Peter opened his mouth, and said, Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons:

Peter declares that God does not discriminate against any person based on their background.

1. God is the Great Equalizer: He shows no partiality

2. God Loves All: No matter the Race or Background

1. Galatians 3:28 - There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

2. John 3:16 - For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

Acts 10:35 But in every nation he that feareth him, and worketh righteousness, is accepted with him.

This passage emphasizes that God accepts those who fear Him and do what is right, regardless of nationality.

1. The Power of Faithfulness: How Righteous Living Earns God's Acceptance

2. No Matter Who You Are, God Accepts Those Who Fear Him and Do What is Right

1. Isaiah 66:2 - “This is the one I esteem: he who is humble and contrite in spirit, and trembles at my word.”

2. Matthew 7:21 - “Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven.”

Acts 10:36 The word which God sent unto the children of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ: (he is Lord of all:)

God sent a message of peace to the Israelites through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all.

1. God's Message of Peace 2. Jesus Christ, Lord of All

1. Ephesians 2:14-17 - For he himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility. 2. Romans 10:9-13 - If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

Acts 10:37 That word, I say, ye know, which was published throughout all Judaea, and began from Galilee, after the baptism which John preached;

After John the Baptist preached the baptism of repentance, news of the gospel spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee.

1. The Gospel of Repentance: The Spread of a Message of Hope

2. The Power of Testimony: How One Message Can Change the World

1. Isaiah 40:3-5 - A voice of one calling: “In the wilderness prepare the way for the Lord; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. 4 Every valley shall be raised up, every mountain and hill made low; the rough ground shall become level, the rugged places a plain. 5 And the glory of the Lord will be revealed, and all people will see it together.

2. Mark 1:14-15 - After John was put in prison, Jesus went into Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God. 15 “The time has come,” he said. “The kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news!”

Acts 10:38 How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him.

God anointed Jesus with the Holy Ghost and power to do good and heal those oppressed by the devil.

1: Recognizing and Relying on God's Anointing

2: Being Set Free from the Oppression of the Devil

1: Isaiah 61:1 - The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me; because the Lord hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; he hath sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound;

2: James 5:14 - Is any sick among you? let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord.

Acts 10:39 And we are witnesses of all things which he did both in the land of the Jews, and in Jerusalem; whom they slew and hanged on a tree:

The passage recounts the witness of the Apostles to the events of Jesus' life, including his death on the cross.

1. The Power of Witness: Recognizing and Applying Our Spiritual Testimony

2. Unashamed: Living Bravely in the Face of Adversity

1. Romans 1:16 - For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes.

2. Hebrews 12:1-2 - Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith.

Acts 10:40 Him God raised up the third day, and shewed him openly;

God raised Jesus from the dead and showed him to all.

1. The Power of Resurrection: How God Can Overcome Death

2. Jesus: The Example of the Resurrected Life

1. John 11:25-26 - Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die.

2. Romans 6:4-5 - We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.

Acts 10:41 Not to all the people, but unto witnesses chosen before of God, even to us, who did eat and drink with him after he rose from the dead.

God has chosen certain people to witness his power and glory through Jesus Christ.

1. The Power of Jesus: Exploring the Lord's Resurrection and its Impact on the Chosen Witnesses

2. God's Choice: Recognizing His Selection of Special People to Witness His Miracles

1. John 20:19-31 – Jesus appears to the disciples on the evening of his resurrection

2. Mark 16:14-18 – Jesus appears to the disciples after his resurrection and commissions them to spread the gospel

Acts 10:42 And he commanded us to preach unto the people, and to testify that it is he which was ordained of God to be the Judge of quick and dead.

He commanded us to preach the Gospel and testify that Jesus is the Judge of quick and dead.

1. Jesus: The Judge of All

2. Preaching the Gospel: Our God-Given Commandment

1. John 3:17-18, “For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God.”

2. Romans 14:10-12, “Why do you pass judgment on your brother? Or you, why do you despise your brother? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God; for it is written, ‘As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God.’ So then each of us will give an account of himself to God.”

Acts 10:43 To him give all the prophets witness, that through his name whosoever believeth in him shall receive remission of sins.

All who believe in Jesus receive forgiveness of their sins.

1: The Grace of Forgiveness in Jesus

2: God's Gift of Redemption

1: Colossians 1:13-14 - He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

2: Romans 3:23-24 - For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus.

Acts 10:44 While Peter yet spake these words, the Holy Ghost fell on all them which heard the word.

Peter was speaking and the Holy Spirit descended upon everyone who heard the Word.

1. "God's Favor Rains Down on Those Who Listen to His Word"

2. "The Power of Listening to the Word of God"

1. Isaiah 55:10-11 - "For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven and do not return there but water the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it."

2. Romans 10:17 - "So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ."

Acts 10:45 And they of the circumcision which believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because that on the Gentiles also was poured out the gift of the Holy Ghost.

The Jewish believers were shocked to see that the Holy Spirit had also been given to the Gentiles.

1. God's love is for everyone, no matter their heritage or background.

2. God's grace is greater than our expectations.

1. Ephesians 2:8-9 - For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.

2. Romans 5:8 - But God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Acts 10:46 For they heard them speak with tongues, and magnify God. Then answered Peter,

Peter's to the Gentiles showed that God's plan of salvation was available to them as well.

1. God's love is vast and open to all, regardless of their background or beliefs.

2. Salvation is available to everyone through Jesus Christ.

1. John 3:16 - For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

2. Romans 10:9-10 - if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved.

Acts 10:47 Can any man forbid water, that these should not be baptized, which have received the Holy Ghost as well as we?

The people of Cornelius asked whether they should be baptized after having received the Holy Ghost, to which Peter replied that no one can forbid them from being baptized.

1. The Power of the Holy Spirit: Understanding the Gift of Salvation

2. The Importance of Baptism: Taking a Step of Faith in Obedience

1. Romans 6:3-5 - "Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life."

2. Acts 16:33 - "And he took them the same hour of the night and washed their wounds; and he was baptized at once, he and all his family."

Acts 10:48 And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord. Then prayed they him to tarry certain days.

The Apostles commanded Cornelius and his household to be baptized in the name of the Lord, then asked him to stay awhile.

1. The Importance of Baptism in the Name of the Lord

2. Why We Should Tarry in the Lord

1. Matthew 28:19-20 - "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen."

2. Acts 1:4 - "And, being assembled together with them, commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father, which, saith he,

ye have heard of me."

Acts 11 recounts Peter's explanation of the gospel being for Gentiles as well, and the establishment of the church in Antioch.

1st Paragraph: The chapter begins with apostles believers throughout Judea hearing that Gentiles also received word God. When Peter went up Jerusalem circumcised believers criticized him saying 'You went into house uncircumcised men ate them.' In response, Peter explained in detail what had happened - his vision of unclean animals and voice telling him not to call anything impure that God has made clean, three men arriving from Caesarea at same moment vision ended, Spirit telling him to go with them without hesitation. He also recounted how six brothers had accompanied him to Cornelius' house where an angel had told Cornelius send Joppa bring Simon known as Peter who would tell message through which whole household would be saved. As he began speak Holy Spirit came on them just as on us at beginning remembered words Lord said 'John baptized water but you will be baptized Holy Spirit.' So if God gave them same gift he gave us believed Lord Jesus Christ who was I think could stand way God?' When they heard this they had no further objections praised God saying 'So then even Gentiles God has granted repentance leads life' (Acts 11:1-18).

2nd Paragraph: Meanwhile those who had been scattered by persecution broke out over Stephen traveled far Phoenicia Cyprus Antioch spreading word only among Jews some men Cyprus Cyrene however went Antioch began speak Greeks also telling good news about Lord Jesus hand Lord was with them large number people believed turned Lord (Acts 11:19-21). News this reached church Jerusalem they sent Barnabas Antioch when arrived saw evidence grace God glad encouraged all remain true Lord hearts he was good man full Holy Spirit faith large number people brought Lord (Acts 11:22-24).

3rd Paragraph: Then Barnabas went Tarsus look Saul when found brought him Antioch So year met together church taught great numbers people disciples were called Christians first Antioch (Acts 11:25-26). During this time some prophets came down from Jerusalem to Antioch one named Agabus stood up through Spirit predicted severe famine would spread over entire Roman world happened during reign Claudius disciples each according ability decided provide help brothers sisters living Judea did sending their gift elders care Barnabas Saul (Acts 11:27-30).

Acts 11:1 And the apostles and brethren that were in Judaea heard that the Gentiles had also received the word of God.

The news spread that the Gentiles had accepted the message of God.

1. The Good News of Salvation is for Everyone

2. Unity Through the Gospel

1. Ephesians 2:14-18 - For He Himself is our peace, who has made both one and has broken down the middle wall of division between us.

2. Romans 10:12-13 - For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek, for the same Lord over all is rich to all who call upon Him.

Acts 11:2 And when Peter was come up to Jerusalem, they that were of the circumcision contended with him,

The Jewish believers in Jerusalem challenged Peter's mission to the Gentiles.

1: God's love is for everyone, no matter their background.

2: We need to have humility when engaging with those who are different from us.

1: Galatians 3:26-28 - For in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith. For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

2: Colossians 3:11 - In Christ, there is no distinction between Jew and Greek, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave and free, but Christ is all and in all.

Acts 11:3 Saying, Thou wentest in to men uncircumcised, and didst eat with them.

Peter defends his decision to eat with uncircumcised men to the apostles in Jerusalem.

1. "God's Love for All People"

2. "Living a Life of Acceptance"

1. Romans 2:11-16

2. Galatians 3:26-29

Acts 11:4 But Peter rehearsed the matter from the beginning, and expounded it by order unto them, saying,

Peter recounted the events of his encounter with the Holy Spirit to the apostles.

1. We must be open to the leading of the Holy Spirit, no matter how unusual it may seem to us.

2. We should be ready to share our faith and experiences with others.

1. Acts 11:4 - But Peter rehearsed the matter from the beginning, and expounded it by order unto them, saying,

2. John 14:26 - But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you.

Acts 11:5 I was in the city of Joppa praying: and in a trance I saw a vision, A certain vessel descend, as it had been a great sheet, let down from heaven by four corners; and it came even to me:

A man in Joppa had a vision of a great sheet descending from heaven.

1. God's plans are greater than our own.

2. Through prayer, we can receive God's guidance.

1. Isaiah 55:8-9 ???□or my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.??

2. James 1:5-6 ???□f any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him. But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea that is driven and tossed by the wind.??

Acts 11:6 Upon the which when I had fastened mine eyes, I considered, and saw fourfooted beasts of the earth, and wild beasts, and creeping things, and fowls of the air.

While looking closely, the narrator of Acts 11:6 saw fourfooted beasts of the earth, wild beasts, creeping things, and fowls of the air.

1. God's Creation: A Miracle to Behold

2. The Wonders of Nature: Seeing God's Hand Around Us

1. Psalm 8:3-9

2. Isaiah 40:25-26

Acts 11:7 And I heard a voice saying unto me, Arise, Peter; slay and eat.

Peter was instructed by a heavenly voice to eat food that was previously forbidden according to Jewish laws.

1. God's grace is greater than our rules - Romans 6:14

2. Following God's instructions leads to blessing - Acts 11:18

1. Romans 6:14 For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace.

2. Acts 11:18 When they heard these things, they held their peace, and glorified God, saying, Then hath God also to the Gentiles granted repentance unto life.

Acts 11:8 But I said, Not so, Lord: for nothing common or unclean hath at any time entered into my mouth.

God commands us to not be afraid to take risks to spread His message, even in strange and unfamiliar circumstances.

1. "Have No Fear: Boldly Proclaiming the Gospel"

2. "Trust in God: Stepping Out in Faith"

1. Joshua 1:9 - "Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go."

2. Isaiah 43:1 - "But now, this is what the Lord says?□e who created you, Jacob, he who formed you, Israel: ?□o not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have summoned you by name; you are mine."

Acts 11:9 But the voice answered me again from heaven, What God hath cleansed, that call not thou common.

God's holiness is not subject to man's understanding.

1: God transcends our understanding and His decisions should be accepted without question.

2: We should recognize and accept the authority of God in our lives.

1: Joshua 24:15 - "Choose you this day whom you will serve..."

2: Isaiah 55:8-9 - "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts."

Acts 11:10 And this was done three times: and all were drawn up again into heaven.

A vision was seen three times by an angel from heaven, and each time the angel was drawn back into heaven.

1. God's Mercy and Grace in Visions

2. The Power of Prayer in Revealing God's Will

1. John 14:18 ?□ will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you.??

2. Genesis 28:12-13 ?□nd he dreamed, and behold a ladder set up on the earth, and the top of it reached to heaven: and behold the angels of God ascending and descending on it. And, behold, the Lord stood above it.??

Acts 11:11 And, behold, immediately there were three men already come unto the house where I was, sent from Caesarea unto me.

The Apostle Peter was visited by three men sent from Caesarea.

1. God can use unexpected visitors to show us his will.

2. God will provide us with help and guidance when needed.

1. Matthew 2:1-12 - The visit of the Wise Men to Jesus.

2. Isaiah 41:10 - Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.

Acts 11:12 And the Spirit bade me go with them, nothing doubting. Moreover these six brethren accompanied me, and we entered into the man's house:

The Spirit of God told the Apostle Peter to go with the men that came to him, and he went with them along with six other brethren.

1. God's will is often unexpected and should be followed without hesitation.

2. When God calls us to do something, He will provide the strength and companionship we need.

1. Hebrews 11:8 - By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to the place which he would receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going.

2. Isaiah 43:2 - When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you.

Acts 11:13 And he shewed us how he had seen an angel in his house, which stood and said unto him, Send men to Joppa, and call for Simon, whose surname is Peter;

The vision of the angel leads Cornelius to send for Peter.

1: God's guidance is powerful and clear, and He will always lead us in the right direction.

2: The importance of trusting God's guidance as we journey through life.

1: Proverbs 3:5-6 - "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight."

2: Psalm 32:8 - "I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you with my loving eye on you."

Acts 11:14 Who shall tell thee words, whereby thou and all thy house shall be saved.

Peter explains to the people that God has sent him to proclaim the gospel so that they and their households can be saved.

1. The Power of God's Word to Save

2. The Importance of Family Salvation

1. Romans 10:13-14 - "For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher?"

2. 2 Corinthians 5:17-18 - "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new. And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation."

Acts 11:15 And as I began to speak, the Holy Ghost fell on them, as on us at the beginning.

The Holy Spirit fell on the Gentiles, just as it had on the apostles at the beginning of their ministry.

1. "The Spirit of God is for All"

2. "The Promise of the Father"

1. Luke 24:49 - And, behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high.

2. Acts 2:38-39 - Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call.

Acts 11:16 Then remembered I the word of the Lord, how that he said, John indeed baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost.

The Lord predicted that believers would be baptized with the Holy Spirit.

1: The importance of the Holy Spirit and the power it has to transform our lives.

2: The importance of living according to the Word of God.

1: Ephesians 5:18, ?□nd be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit.??

2: Romans 8:9, ?□ut ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.??

Acts 11:17 Forasmuch then as God gave them the like gift as he did unto us, who believed on the Lord Jesus Christ; what was I, that I could withstand God?

God's grace is given to all who believe in Jesus Christ.

1. The Power of God's Grace

2. The Inclusiveness of God's Grace

1. Ephesians 2:8-9 - "For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast."

2. Titus 3:5-7 - "He saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life."

Acts 11:18 When they heard these things, they held their peace, and glorified God, saying, Then hath God also to the Gentiles granted repentance unto life.

God has granted repentance to all, both Gentiles and Jews.

1: God desires all people to repent and be saved.

2: God's grace is for everyone, not just the Jews.

1: John 3:16 - For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

2: 2 Peter 3:9 - The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.

Acts 11:19 Now they which were scattered abroad upon the persecution that arose about Stephen travelled as far as Phenice, and Cyprus, and Antioch, preaching the word to none but unto the Jews only.

The disciples of Stephen were scattered abroad due to persecution and traveled to Phenice, Cyprus, and Antioch, and preached the word only to Jews.

1. God's protection through persecution

2. The importance of preaching to the right audience

1. Acts 8:4 - "Therefore they that were scattered abroad went every where preaching the word."

2. Matthew 28:19 - "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost."

Acts 11:20 And some of them were men of Cyprus and Cyrene, which, when they were come to Antioch, spake unto the Grecians, preaching the LORD Jesus.

The men of Cyprus and Cyrene preached the Lord Jesus in Antioch to the Grecians.

1. The Power of Preaching the Gospel

2. Proclaiming Jesus in Every Nation

1. Acts 1:8 - "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

2. Matthew 28:19-20 - "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.??

Acts 11:21 And the hand of the Lord was with them: and a great number believed, and turned unto the Lord.

The hand of the Lord was with believers, causing many to turn to the Lord.

1. God?□ Hand is Always with Us

2. Responding to God?□ Call

1. Romans 8:31 - ?□hat then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us???

2. Psalm 23:4 - ?□ven though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.??

Acts 11:22 Then tidings of these things came unto the ears of the church which was in Jerusalem: and they sent forth Barnabas, that he should go as far as Antioch.

The Church in Jerusalem sent Barnabas to Antioch to spread the news.

1. The Power of Spreading Good News

2. The Importance of Christian Missionaries

1. Matthew 28:19-20 - "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

2. Isaiah 6:8 - "Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, ?□hom shall I send? And who will go for us???And I said, ?□ere am I. Send me!??

Acts 11:23 Who, when he came, and had seen the grace of God, was glad, and exhorted them all, that with purpose of heart they would cleave unto the Lord.

Barnabas saw the grace of God and encouraged everyone to remain devoted to the Lord.

1. God's grace is a gift that should never be taken for granted.

2. Our devotion to the Lord should be a deliberate and unwavering commitment.

1. Romans 12:1-2 - Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God?□ mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God?□his is your true and proper worship.

2. Deuteronomy 6:5 - Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength.

Acts 11:24 For he was a good man, and full of the Holy Ghost and of faith: and much people was added unto the Lord.

The good man was full of the Holy Ghost and faith, leading many people to the Lord.

1. The Power of Faith and the Holy Ghost

2. The Impact of Good People on the Kingdom of God

1. Romans 10:17 - So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.

2. Matthew 5:14-16 - ?ou are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.

Acts 11:25 Then departed Barnabas to Tarsus, for to seek Saul:

Barnabas went in search of Saul to Tarsus.

1. God's providential hand at work - that Barnabas found Saul in Tarsus.

2. The importance of faithful fellowship - Barnabas seeking out Saul.

1. Proverbs 16:9 - The heart of man plans his way, but the Lord establishes his steps.

2. Romans 8:28 - And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.

Acts 11:26 And when he had found him, he brought him unto Antioch. And it came to pass, that a whole year they assembled themselves with the church, and taught much people. And the disciples were called Christians first in Antioch.

Barnabas found Saul and brought him to the church in Antioch. The two of them taught the people for a whole year and the people there were the first to call the disciples Christians.

1. The Church of Antioch: A Model of Missionary Work

2. Being a Disciple of Christ: What Does it Mean?

1. Acts 11:26

2. Matthew 28:18-20 - ?□nd Jesus came and said to them, ?□ll authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.?□□?

Acts 11:27 And in these days came prophets from Jerusalem unto Antioch.

Prophets from Jerusalem had come to Antioch during this time.

1. The Power of Prophecy: How God's Word Can Change Lives

2. The Importance of Following God's Call: An Examination of Acts 11:27

1. Acts 11:27 - "And in these days came prophets from Jerusalem unto Antioch."

2. Isaiah 55:11 - "So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it."

Acts 11:28 And there stood up one of them named Agabus, and signified by the Spirit that there should be great dearth throughout all the world: which came to pass in the days of Claudius Caesar.

Agabus was a prophet who predicted a great famine in the days of Claudius Caesar, which ultimately came to pass.

1. The Power of Prophecy: Understanding Agabus's Message

2. The Sovereignty of God: How God Used the Famine to Fulfill His Plan

1. Habakkuk 2:3 - For still the vision awaits its appointed time; it hastens to the end?□t will not lie. If it seems slow, wait for it; it will surely come; it will not delay.

2. Amos 3:7 - For the Lord God does nothing without revealing his secret to his servants the prophets.

Acts 11:29 Then the disciples, every man according to his ability, determined to send

relief unto the brethren which dwelt in Judaea:

The disciples shared their resources with the believers in Judea.

1. Sharing is Caring: The Example of the Disciples

2. The Blessing of Generosity: The Example of the Disciples

1. Galatians 6:10 Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.

2. Romans 12:13 Share with God? people who are in need. Practice hospitality.

Acts 11:30 Which also they did, and sent it to the elders by the hands of Barnabas and Saul.

This passage describes how Barnabas and Saul, sent a financial offering from the Gentiles to the elders in Jerusalem.

1. The Power of Generosity: How We Can Learn from Barnabas and Saul

2. The Priority of Community: How We Can Support Each Other

1. Proverbs 11:25, "A generous person will prosper; whoever refreshes others will be refreshed."

2. 2 Corinthians 9:7, "Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver."

Acts 12 recounts the persecution of the early church by King Herod, the miraculous escape of Peter from prison, and the death of Herod.

1st Paragraph: The chapter begins with King Herod Agrippa I persecuting some members of the church. He had James, brother John put to death sword seeing pleased Jews proceeded seize Peter also during Festival Unleavened Bread after arresting him put him in prison handing him over be guarded by four squads four soldiers each intention was bring him out public trial after Passover (Acts 12:1-4). So Peter was kept in prison, but earnest prayer for him was made to God by church.

2nd Paragraph: On night before Herod was bring him trial Peter sleeping between two soldiers bound chains sentries stood guard entrance Suddenly angel Lord appeared light shone cell struck Peter side wake up 'Quick get up!' chains fell off wrists angel said 'Put on your clothes sandals' did so wrapped cloak around followed angel knew what doing really happening thought he seeing vision passed first second guards came iron gate leading city opened them itself they went through walked length one street suddenly angel left him (Acts 12:6-10). Realizing what had happened went house Mary mother John also called Mark where many people gathered praying told Rhoda came answer door excited recognize Peter's voice she ran back without opening door exclaiming 'Peter is at door!' They said she was out mind kept insisting it true they said 'It must be his angel.' But Peter kept knocking when they opened door saw were astonished he motioned them with his hand to be silent described how Lord brought out prison told report these things James other brothers then left went another place (Acts 12:11-17).

3rd Paragraph: In morning there no small commotion among soldiers as what had become Peter. After Herod had thorough search made for him didn't find ordered guards executed. Then Herod went from Judea to Caesarea stayed there a while. He had been quarreling with people Tyre Sidon now joined together sought audience secured support Blastus trusted personal servant king asking peace because their country depended king's country food supply On appointed day Herod wearing royal robes sat throne delivered public address people shouted 'This voice god not man.' Immediately because did not give praise God an angel Lord struck down eaten worms died word God continued spread flourish Barnabas Saul completed their mission returned Jerusalem taking them John also called Mark (Acts 12:18-25).

Acts 12:1 Now about that time Herod the king stretched forth his hands to vex certain of the church.

King Herod persecuted certain members of the church.

1. Let us not be discouraged in times of persecution, but remain strong in our faith.

2. In the face of adversity, let us remain focused on our purpose and mission.

1. Matthew 5:10-12 “Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

2. Hebrews 10:32-34 “But recall the former days when, after you were enlightened, you endured a hard struggle with sufferings, sometimes being publicly exposed to reproach

and affliction, and sometimes being partners with those so treated. For you had compassion on those in prison, and you joyfully accepted the plundering of your property, since you knew that you yourselves had a better possession and an abiding one.”

Acts 12:2 And he killed James the brother of John with the sword.

Herod Agrippa I had James, the brother of John, killed with a sword.

1. A reminder that we must never forget to stay humble and recognize the power of God in our lives.

2. A lesson on the power of love and forgiveness, even in the face of death.

1. James 4:10 - "Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up."

2. Matthew 5:43-45 - "You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you."

Acts 12:3 And because he saw it pleased the Jews, he proceeded further to take Peter also. (Then were the days of unleavened bread.)

Herod Agrippa I arrested Peter during the days of unleavened bread, as it pleased the Jews.

1: In times of difficulty, we must remain steadfast in our faith, trusting in the Lord to lead us through hardship.

2: We must be careful to not let the desires of people lead us to compromise our faith in God.

1: Romans 8:28 - "And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose."

2: Psalm 46:10 - "Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth."

Acts 12:4 And when he had apprehended him, he put him in prison, and delivered him to four quaternions of soldiers to keep him; intending after Easter to bring him forth to the people.

After arresting Peter, Herod put him in prison and assigned four groups of soldiers to guard him. He planned to bring Peter out to the people after Easter.

1. Relying on God's Power During Difficult Times

2. Standing Firm in Faith When Life Gets Hard

1. Romans 8:31 - What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?

2. 2 Corinthians 12:9 - But he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.”

Acts 12:5 Peter therefore was kept in prison: but prayer was made without ceasing of the church unto God for him.

The church prayed without ceasing for Peter to be released from prison.

1. The Power of Prayer - How our prayers can help us in times of need.

2. The Power of Faith - How faith in God can help us overcome any difficulty.

1. James 5:16b - "The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working."

2. Matthew 21:22 - "And whatever you ask in prayer, you will receive, if you have faith."

Acts 12:6 And when Herod would have brought him forth, the same night Peter was sleeping between two soldiers, bound with two chains: and the keepers before the door kept the prison.

Peter was arrested and put in prison, where he was guarded by two soldiers and two chains while he slept.

1. God's protection is often found in the most unexpected places.

2. We must remain faithful to God, even in the midst of difficult circumstances.

1. Psalm 91:11 - For he shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways.

2. Isaiah 41:10 - Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness.

Acts 12:7 And, behold, the angel of the Lord came upon him, and a light shined in the prison: and he smote Peter on the side, and raised him up, saying, Arise up quickly. And his chains fell off from his hands.

An angel of the Lord appeared to Peter while he was in prison, striking him and telling him to rise up. His chains then fell from his hands.

1. The Power of God: How God Can Free Us from Our Chains

2. An Unexpected Miracle: Finding Hope in Difficult Times

1. Isaiah 61:1 - The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me to bring good news to the afflicted; He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to captives and freedom to prisoners.

2. Psalm 146:7 - He sustains the lowly, and casts the wicked down to the ground.

Acts 12:8 And the angel said unto him, Gird thyself, and bind on thy sandals. And so he did. And he saith unto him, Cast thy garment about thee, and follow me.

An angel instructs Peter to put on his sandals and clothing and follow him.

1. Obedience: The Example of Peter

2. Preparedness: Be Ready to Follow God

1. Isaiah 52:7 - "How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him that bringeth good tidings, that publisheth peace; that bringeth good tidings of good, that publisheth salvation; that saith unto Zion, Thy God reigneth!"

2. Matthew 4:20 - "And they straightway left their nets, and followed him."

Acts 12:9 And he went out, and followed him; and wist not that it was true which was done by the angel; but thought he saw a vision.

The angel's guidance was not recognized by the person who followed him, as he thought he was seeing a vision.

1. God's Guidance: Recognizing the Hand of the Lord in our Lives

2. The Power of Faith: Learning to Trust in the Lord

1. Matthew 28:20 - “Teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

2. Hebrews 11:1 - “Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.”

Acts 12:10 When they were past the first and the second ward, they came unto the iron gate that leadeth unto the city; which opened to them of his own accord: and they went out, and passed on through one street; and forthwith the angel departed from him.

An angel opened the iron gate that led to the city and guided Peter through one street before departing from him.

1. The Faithfulness of God's Angels

2. Experiencing God's Guidance in Unexpected Ways

1. Psalm 91:11-12 - For he will command his angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways; they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.

2. Isaiah 30:21 - Whether you turn to the right or to the left, your ears will hear a voice

behind you, saying, “This is the way; walk in it.”

Acts 12:11 And when Peter was come to himself, he said, Now I know of a surety, that the LORD hath sent his angel, and hath delivered me out of the hand of Herod, and from all the expectation of the people of the Jews.

Peter was sure that the Lord had sent an angel to save him from the hands of Herod and the Jews.

1. God is always in control, even in the midst of difficult circumstances.

2. God's protection is always available when we seek it in faith.

1. Isaiah 41:10 - "So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand."

2. Psalm 34:7 - "The angel of the Lord encamps around those who fear him, and he delivers them."

Acts 12:12 And when he had considered the thing, he came to the house of Mary the mother of John, whose surname was Mark; where many were gathered together praying.

The early church gathered together for prayer.

1. A Community of Prayer: The Power of Uniting in Prayer

2. The Power of Prayer: Why We Pray and What It Accomplishes

1. Ephesians 6:18 - "Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;"

2. James 5:16 - "Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much."

Acts 12:13 And as Peter knocked at the door of the gate, a damsel came to hearken, named Rhoda.

Peter knocked at the door of the gate and was greeted by a young woman named Rhoda.

1. Listen to the Knock: Hearing God's Call in Our Lives

2. Opening the Door of Faith: Responding to God's Invitation

1. Hebrews 11:6 - "And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him."

2. Luke 11:9 - "So I say to you: Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you."

Acts 12:14 And when she knew Peter's voice, she opened not the gate for gladness, but ran in, and told how Peter stood before the gate.

Peter's arrival at the house of Mary and Rhoda was unexpected, and when Mary heard his voice, she was so overjoyed that she ran inside to tell Rhoda.

1. God always provides unexpected joy in life.

2. The power of recognizing God's voice.

1. Psalm 30:11 - "Thou hast turned for me my mourning into dancing: thou hast loosed my sackcloth, and girded me with gladness."

2. John 10:3-5 - "To him the porter openeth; and the sheep hear his voice: and he calleth his own sheep by name, and leadeth them out. And when he putteth forth his own sheep, he goeth before them, and the sheep follow him: for they know his voice."

Acts 12:15 And they said unto her, Thou art mad. But she constantly affirmed that it was even so. Then said they, It is his angel.

People thought Mary was mad when she told them Peter was still alive, but she continued to affirm that it was true. They then said it must be his angel.

1. Trusting in God's Unfailing Promises

2. Facing Unbelief with Faith

1. Luke 1:45 - “Blessed is she who has believed that the Lord would fulfill his promises to her!”

2. Hebrews 11:1 - “Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.”

Acts 12:16 But Peter continued knocking: and when they had opened the door, and saw him, they were astonished.

Peter knocked on the door and when it was opened, the people were shocked to see him.

1. The Astonishing Power of Faith - Exploring Peter's unshakeable faith in challenging times.

2. Miracles Do Happen - Examining how the impossible is made possible through faith.

1. Matthew 17:20 - "He replied, “Because you have so little faith. Truly I tell you, if you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, ‘Move from here to there,’ and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you.”

2. Luke 5:5 - "Simon answered, “Master, we’ve worked hard all night and haven’t caught anything. But because you say so, I will let down the nets.”"

Acts 12:17 But he, beckoning unto them with the hand to hold their peace, declared unto them how the Lord had brought him out of the prison. And he said, Go shew these things unto James, and to the brethren. And he departed, and went into another place.

Peter escaped prison with the help of the Lord and instructed the people to inform James and the other believers of his deliverance.

1. The Power of Faith: How Peter Overcame Seemingly Impossible Odds

2. The Lord's Provision: Experiencing God's Protection in Difficult Times

1. 1 Peter 5:7 - Cast all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you.

2. Psalm 34:7 - The angel of the Lord encamps around those who fear him, and delivers them.

Acts 12:18 Now as soon as it was day, there was no small stir among the soldiers, what was become of Peter.

The soldiers were greatly confused when they found that Peter was missing from where they had kept him.

1. God can do the impossible if we trust in Him

2. Even in the darkest of times, our faith can help us overcome

1. Matthew 19:26 - But Jesus looked at them and said, “With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.”

2. Romans 8:28 - And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.

Acts 12:19 And when Herod had sought for him, and found him not, he examined the keepers, and commanded that they should be put to death. And he went down from Judaea to Caesarea, and there abode.

Herod sought for Peter, but he could not be found. As a result, he put the keepers to death and then moved from Judaea to Caesarea.

1. God's Grace is Sufficient: The story of Peter and Herod highlights how God's grace is sufficient to protect us even when we are in danger.

2. The Power of Faith: The story of Peter and Herod teaches us the power of faith and how it can allow us to overcome any obstacle.

1. 1 Corinthians 10:13 - “No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.”

2. Isaiah 41:10 - “Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.”

Acts 12:20 And Herod was highly displeased with them of Tyre and Sidon: but they came with one accord to him, and, having made Blastus the king's chamberlain their friend, desired peace; because their country was nourished by the king's country.

The people of Tyre and Sidon made a diplomatic effort to establish peace with Herod by securing the friendship of Blastus, the king's chamberlain, since their country was dependent on the king's country.

1. The Power of Diplomacy: How God Uses Peaceful Solutions to Resolve Conflict

2. The Challenge of Dependence: Finding Security and Stability in an Unstable World

1. Isaiah 2:4 - He will judge between the nations and will settle disputes for many peoples. They will beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not take up sword against nation, nor will they train for war anymore.

2. Proverbs 3:29-30 - Do not plan harm against your neighbor, who lives trustfully near you. Do not contend with a person without cause, when he has done you no harm.

Acts 12:21 And upon a set day Herod, arrayed in royal apparel, sat upon his throne, and made an oration unto them.

Herod is seen giving a speech in royal apparel.

1: The importance of clothing in conveying power and authority.

2: The power of words and the significance of public speaking.

1: Proverbs 17:27-28 - "He who has knowledge spares his words, and a man of understanding is of a calm spirit. Even a fool is counted wise when he holds his peace; when he shuts his lips, he is considered perceptive.”

2: Colossians 3:12-14 - "Therefore, as God’s chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all

together in perfect unity.”

Acts 12:22 And the people gave a shout, saying, It is the voice of a god, and not of a man.

The people of Jerusalem recognized that the voice they heard belonged to a god, not a man.

1. Recognizing God's Voice in Our Lives

2. Learning to Follow God's Voice

1. John 10:27 - "My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me."

2. Jeremiah 29:13 - "You will seek me and find me, when you seek me with all your heart."

Acts 12:23 And immediately the angel of the Lord smote him, because he gave not God the glory: and he was eaten of worms, and gave up the ghost.

King Herod did not give God the glory and was punished with death.

1: We must be careful to always give God the glory for the things He does in our lives.

2: We must be careful to not become prideful and forget to give God the glory for all that He does.

1: James 4:6 But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble.

2: 1 Corinthians 10:31 Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God.

Acts 12:24 But the word of God grew and multiplied.

The Word of God spread and grew in number.

1. The Power of the Word: How the Gospel of Christ Spreads and Multiplies

2. The Unlimited Potential of God's Word: How God's Word Expands and Strengthens

1. Matthew 28:19-20 - “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you.”

2. Isaiah 55:11 - “So shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it.”

Acts 12:25 And Barnabas and Saul returned from Jerusalem, when they had fulfilled their ministry, and took with them John, whose surname was Mark.

The Apostles Barnabas and Saul completed their mission in Jerusalem and returned with John Mark.

1: God's faithfulness is seen throughout Scripture as He provides us with companions on our spiritual journeys.

2: We must be reminded of the importance of having people in our lives who help to guide us in our faith walk.

1: Ecclesiastes 4:9-10 - Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their labor: If either of them falls down, one can help the other up.

2: Proverbs 27:17 - Iron sharpens iron, and one man sharpens another.

Acts 13 recounts the beginning of Paul's missionary journey, his sermon in Antioch of Pisidia, and the opposition he faced.

1st Paragraph: The chapter begins with the church at Antioch having prophets and teachers. While they were worshiping Lord fasting Holy Spirit said 'Set apart for me Barnabas Saul work to which I have called them.' So after fasting praying placed their hands on them sent them off (Acts 13:1-3). Sent on their way by Holy Spirit, they went down to Seleucia and sailed from there to Cyprus. When they arrived at Salamis, they proclaimed word God Jewish synagogues John was with them as helper (Acts 13:4-5).

They traveled through whole island until came Paphos where met Jewish sorcerer false prophet named Bar-Jesus who was attendant governor Sergius Paulus intelligent man governor called Barnabas Saul because wanted hear word God but Elymas sorcerer opposed them tried turn governor faith (Acts 13:6-8).

2nd Paragraph: Then Saul also known as Paul filled with Holy Spirit looked straight at Elymas said 'You are child devil enemy everything right full kinds deceit trickery will never stop perverting right ways Lord? Now hand Lord upon you will be blind for time not even able see light sun.' Immediately mist darkness came over him he groped about seeking someone lead him by hand when governor saw what had happened believed astonished teaching about Lord (Acts 13:9-12). From Paphos Paul and his companions sailed to Perga in Pamphylia where John left them return Jerusalem from Perga went on Antioch Pisidia On Sabbath entered synagogue sat down reading law prophets leaders synagogue sent word 'Brothers if you have word exhortation people please speak' (Acts 13:13-15).

3rd Paragraph: Standing up motioning silence began speak giving brief history Israel's rescue from Egyptian slavery their wilderness wanderings raising up King David then coming Savior Jesus as promised descendant David He also spoke John Baptist's ministry baptism repentance then preached good news Jesus crucifixion resurrection forgiveness sins justification faith everyone who believes without distinction between Jew Gentile. The people invited them back next Sabbath almost whole city gathered hear word Lord when Jews saw crowds filled jealousy began contradict what Paul saying blaspheming then Paul Barnabas answered boldly 'We had speak word God first since reject do not consider yourselves worthy eternal life we now turn Gentiles' (Acts 13:16-46). The Gentiles were glad when they heard this honored word Lord all appointed eternal life believed word spread throughout whole region Jews however incited God-fearing women high standing leading men city stirred up persecution against Paul Barnabas expelled from their region so shook dust off feet protest against them went Iconium disciples filled joy Holy Spirit (Acts 13:48-52).

Acts 13:1 Now there were in the church that was at Antioch certain prophets and teachers; as Barnabas, and Simeon that was called Niger, and Lucius of Cyrene, and Manaen, which had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch, and Saul.

The church at Antioch had prophets and teachers such as Barnabas, Simeon, Lucius, Manaen and Saul.

1. God calls us to be prophets and teachers to serve the church

2. The importance of being faithful to God's calling

1. Isaiah 6:8 - “Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, “Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?” And I said, “Here am I. Send me!”

2. 1 Corinthians 12:28 - And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then miracles, then gifts of healing, helping, administrating, and various kinds of tongues.

Acts 13:2 As they ministered to the Lord, and fasted, the Holy Ghost said, Separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them.

The Holy Spirit called Barnabas and Saul to a special work.

1. The Power of the Holy Spirit to Call and Send People

2. Responding to the Call of the Holy Spirit

1. Isaiah 6:8 - “Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, “Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?” And I said, “Here am I. Send me!”

2. Romans 10:13-15 - “for, “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.” How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? And how can anyone preach unless they are sent? As it is written: “How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!”

Acts 13:3 And when they had fasted and prayed, and laid their hands on them, they sent them away.

The disciples in Antioch fasted and prayed together, then laid hands on two of their members and sent them away.

1. The Power of Corporate Prayer

2. The Importance of Laying Hands

1. James 5:14-15 – Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord.

2. 1 Timothy 4:14 – Do not neglect the gift you have, which was given you by prophecy when the council of elders laid their hands on you.

Acts 13:4 So they, being sent forth by the Holy Ghost, departed unto Seleucia; and from thence they sailed to Cyprus.

The disciples were sent out by the Holy Spirit to go to Seleucia and then to Cyprus.

1. The Power of the Holy Spirit: Empowering Us to Fulfill God's Mission

2. Trusting in the Holy Spirit: Relying on the Power of the Spirit to Complete God's Work

1. Isaiah 6:8 – “Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, ‘Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?’ And I said, ‘Here am I. Send me!’”

2. John 16:13 – “When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come.”

Acts 13:5 And when they were at Salamis, they preached the word of God in the synagogues of the Jews: and they had also John to their minister.

The apostles Paul and Barnabas preached the word of God in the synagogues of the Jews in Salamis, with John as their assistant.

1. A Call to Preach the Gospel

2. The Power of Preaching the Word of God

1. Romans 10:14-15 - How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!

2. Matthew 28:19-20 - Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.

Acts 13:6 And when they had gone through the isle unto Paphos, they found a certain sorcerer, a false prophet, a Jew, whose name was Barjesus:

The Apostles Paul and Barnabas find a false prophet named Barjesus on the island of Paphos.

1. The Dangers of False Prophets

2. The Power of the Gospel

1. Jeremiah 23:16-17 - "Thus saith the LORD of hosts, Hearken not unto the words of the prophets that prophesy unto you: they make you vain: they speak a vision of their own heart, and not out of the mouth of the LORD."

2. Acts 17:10-11 - "And the brethren immediately sent away Paul and Silas by night unto Berea: who coming thither went into the synagogue of the Jews. These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so."

Acts 13:7 Which was with the deputy of the country, Sergius Paulus, a prudent man; who called for Barnabas and Saul, and desired to hear the word of God.

The deputy of the country, Sergius Paulus, called for Barnabas and Saul to hear the word of God.

1. The Power of Persistence: Barnabas and Saul's Faithful Pursuit

2. The Value of Listening: The Example of Sergius Paulus

1. James 1:19-20 - "Know this, my beloved brothers: let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger; for the anger of man does not produce the righteousness of God."

2. Jeremiah 33:3 - "Call to me and I will answer you, and will tell you great and hidden things that you have not known."

Acts 13:8 But Elymas the sorcerer (for so is his name by interpretation) withstood them, seeking to turn away the deputy from the faith.

Elymas the sorcerer attempted to prevent the deputy from embracing the Christian faith.

1. The Power of Faith Overcoming Obstacles

2. Standing Strong Against Adversity

1. Isaiah 55:10-11 - “For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven and do not return there but water the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it.”

2. Hebrews 11:1 - “Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.”

Acts 13:9 Then Saul, (who also is called Paul,) filled with the Holy Ghost, set his eyes on him,

Saul was filled with the Holy Ghost and set his eyes on someone.

1. The importance of being filled with the Holy Spirit

2. The power of a single gaze

1. Colossians 3:16 - Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God.

2. Philippians 4:8 - Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.

Acts 13:10 And said, O full of all subtilty and all mischief, thou child of the devil, thou enemy of all righteousness, wilt thou not cease to pervert the right ways of the Lord?

Paul confronted Elymas the sorcerer for trying to turn the governor away from the faith.

1. The Power of Confrontation in Standing for Righteousness

2. Recognizing and Rejecting the Deceit of the Enemy

1. Proverbs 28:4-5 "They are estranged from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, due to their hardness of heart. They have become callous and have given themselves up to sensuality, greedy to practice every kind of impurity."

2. Ephesians 6:11-13 “Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm.”

Acts 13:11 And now, behold, the hand of the Lord is upon thee, and thou shalt be blind, not seeing the sun for a season. And immediately there fell on him a mist and a darkness; and he went about seeking some to lead him by the hand.

Paul was miraculously struck with temporary blindness as a result of the Lord's hand.

1. The Power of the Lord's Hand: A Powerful Reminder of His Presence and Authority

2. A Call to Dependence: The Lord's Hand Leads Us When We Cannot See

1. Isaiah 41:10 - Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.

2. Psalm 119:105 - Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.

Acts 13:12 Then the deputy, when he saw what was done, believed, being astonished at the doctrine of the Lord.

The deputy was amazed and believed in the Lord's doctrine after witnessing a miraculous healing.

1. The Power of Faith: How Belief in the Lord's Doctrine Can Lead to Miracles

2. Wonders of the Lord: How the Lord's Teachings Can Inspire Miracles

1. Hebrews 11:1 - "Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of

things not seen."

2. James 2:19 - "You believe that God is one; you do well. Even the demons believe—and shudder!"

Acts 13:13 Now when Paul and his company loosed from Paphos, they came to Perga in Pamphylia: and John departing from them returned to Jerusalem.

Paul and his companions left Paphos and arrived in Perga in Pamphylia. John, however, left them and returned to Jerusalem.

1. The importance of staying true to your mission despite temptations

2. God's guidance in our life journeys

1. Philippians 3:14 - I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.

2. Proverbs 3:5-6 - Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to Him, and He will make your paths straight.

Acts 13:14 But when they departed from Perga, they came to Antioch in Pisidia, and went into the synagogue on the sabbath day, and sat down.

Paul and Barnabas went from Perga to Antioch in Pisidia and attended the synagogue on the Sabbath.

1. The importance of spending time in fellowship with the church.

2. The importance of keeping the Sabbath day holy.

1. Hebrews 10:25 - Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.

2. Isaiah 58:13 - If thou turn away thy foot from the sabbath, from doing thy pleasure on my holy day; and call the sabbath a delight, the holy of the LORD, honourable; and shalt honour him, not doing thine own ways, nor finding thine own pleasure, nor speaking

thine own words.

Acts 13:15 And after the reading of the law and the prophets the rulers of the synagogue sent unto them, saying, Ye men and brethren, if ye have any word of exhortation for the people, say on.

The rulers of the synagogue asked the apostles to speak and give a word of encouragement to the people after reading the law and the prophets.

1. The Power of Encouragement

2. The Courage to Speak for the People

1. Psalm 138:2, "I will worship toward thy holy temple, and praise thy name for thy lovingkindness and for thy truth: for thou hast magnified thy word above all thy name."

2. James 1:19, "Wherefore, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath."

Acts 13:16 Then Paul stood up, and beckoning with his hand said, Men of Israel, and ye that fear God, give audience.

Paul addressed the people of Israel, asking them to listen to him.

1. Fear God, Obey Him and Reap the Benefits.

2. Obedience to God Always Brings Blessing.

1. Proverbs 16:20 - He that handleth a matter wisely shall find good: and whoso trusteth in the LORD, happy is he.

2. Deuteronomy 10:12-13 - And now, Israel, what doth the LORD thy God require of thee, but to fear the LORD thy God, to walk in all his ways, and to love him, and to serve the LORD thy God with all thy heart and with all thy soul.

Acts 13:17 The God of this people of Israel chose our fathers, and exalted the people when they dwelt as strangers in the land of Egypt, and with an high arm brought he them out of it.

God chose the Israelites as His chosen people and delivered them from enslavement in Egypt with His mighty arm.

1. The Power of God's Love and Deliverance

2. The Faithfulness of God to His People

1. Exodus 3:7-10 - God speaks to Moses from the burning bush and sends him to deliver the Israelites from slavery in Egypt.

2. Psalm 136:10-12 - A song of praise to God for His faithfulness and love in delivering His people from bondage.

Acts 13:18 And about the time of forty years suffered he their manners in the wilderness.

God endured the Israelites' disobedience in the wilderness for forty years.

1. Trust in God to get you through difficult times.

2. Persevere through temptations and trials with faith.

1. Hebrews 11:17-19 "By faith Abraham, when he was tried, offered up Isaac: and he that had received the promises offered up his only begotten son. Of whom it was said, That in Isaac shall thy seed be called: Accounting that God was able to raise him up, even from the dead; from whence also he received him in a figure."

2. James 1:2-4 "My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing."

Acts 13:19 And when he had destroyed seven nations in the land of Chanaan, he divided their land to them by lot.

God destroyed seven nations in the land of Canaan and gave the land to the Israelites by allotment.

1. "The Power of God's Providence"

2. "The Faithfulness of God's Promises"

1. Deuteronomy 32:8-9 "When the Most High gave the nations their inheritance, when he divided all mankind, he set up boundaries for the peoples according to the number of the sons of Israel. For the Lord’s portion is his people, Jacob his allotted inheritance."

2. Joshua 21:43-45 "And the Lord gave to Israel all the land he had sworn to give their ancestors, and they took possession of it and settled there. The Lord gave them rest on every side, just as he had sworn to their ancestors. Not one of their enemies withstood them; the Lord handed all their enemies over to them. Not one of all the Lord’s good promises to Israel failed; every one was fulfilled."

Acts 13:20 And after that he gave unto them judges about the space of four hundred and fifty years, until Samuel the prophet.

God gave the people of Israel judges to rule over them for 450 years until the prophet Samuel.

1. God's Providence: Understanding God's Plan for His People

2. The Importance of Obedience: Learning from the Example of Israel

1. Romans 8:28 - And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.

2. Joshua 24:15 - And if it seem evil unto you to serve the LORD, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.

Acts 13:21 And afterward they desired a king: and God gave unto them Saul the son of Cis, a man of the tribe of Benjamin, by the space of forty years.

God gave the people of Israel a king, Saul, from the tribe of Benjamin for forty years.

1. God's Sovereignty: The Power of God in Appointing a King

2. The Goodness of God in Providing for His People

1. Daniel 4:35 - "And all the inhabitants of the earth are reputed as nothing: and he doeth according to his will in the army of heaven, and among the inhabitants of the earth: and none can stay his hand, or say unto him, What doest thou?"

2. Psalm 25:8-10 - "Good and upright is the Lord: therefore will he teach sinners in the way. The meek will he guide in judgment: and the meek will he teach his way. All the paths of the Lord are mercy and truth unto such as keep his covenant and his testimonies."

Acts 13:22 And when he had removed him, he raised up unto them David to be their king; to whom also he gave testimony, and said, I have found David the son of Jesse, a man after mine own heart, which shall fulfil all my will.

God chose David to be their king and testified to his faithfulness and obedience.

1: Our faithfulness and obedience to God will be rewarded.

2: God chooses us for a purpose and we must strive to fulfill it.

1: Ephesians 2:10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.

2: Philippians 2:13 For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure.

Acts 13:23 Of this man's seed hath God according to his promise raised unto Israel a Saviour, Jesus:

God has provided a Saviour, Jesus, to Israel according to His promise.

1. "The Promised Saviour: God's Gift of Jesus"

2. "The Unfailing Covenant of God: The Fulfillment of His Promise in Jesus"

1. Galatians 3:16 - "Now to Abraham and his seed were the promises made. He saith not, And to seeds, as of many; but as of one, And to thy seed, which is Christ."

2. Isaiah 9:6-7 - "For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this."

Acts 13:24 When John had first preached before his coming the baptism of repentance to all the people of Israel.

John preached a message of repentance to the people of Israel before Jesus' arrival.

1. The Power of Repentance: A Call to Change

2. The Message of Repentance: A Call to Action

1. Jeremiah 31:18-20 - I have surely heard Ephraim bemoaning himself thus; Thou hast chastised me, and I was chastised, as a bullock unaccustomed to the yoke: turn thou me, and I shall be turned; for thou art the Lord my God.

2. Luke 5:31-32 - And Jesus answering said unto them, They that are whole need not a physician; but they that are sick. I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.

Acts 13:25 And as John fulfilled his course, he said, Whom think ye that I am? I am not he. But, behold, there cometh one after me, whose shoes of his feet I am not worthy to loose.

John the Baptist recognized Jesus as the Messiah and his humble servant.

1. How can we, like John the Baptist, recognize Jesus as the Messiah and humbly serve him?

2. What does it mean to be worthy of loosening the shoes of Jesus' feet?

1. Matthew 3:11-12 - "I baptize you with water for repentance, but he who is coming after

me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.

2. Philippians 2:5-8 - Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

Acts 13:26 Men and brethren, children of the stock of Abraham, and whosoever among you feareth God, to you is the word of this salvation sent.

This passage is about God sending the word of salvation to those who fear Him, particularly the children of the stock of Abraham.

1. "The Unchanging Word of Salvation"

2. "The Call of Abraham's Children"

1. Romans 10:13 - "For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved."

2. Psalm 33:18 - "Behold, the eye of the Lord is on those who fear Him, on those who hope in His mercy."

Acts 13:27 For they that dwell at Jerusalem, and their rulers, because they knew him not, nor yet the voices of the prophets which are read every sabbath day, they have fulfilled them in condemning him.

The people of Jerusalem, including their rulers, condemned Jesus without understanding the words of the prophets, which were read during Sabbath services.

1: God's Word is still relevant today, and it is essential to understand the prophecies and messages of scripture in order to make righteous decisions.

2: Just as the people of Jerusalem failed to understand the prophecies of scripture and condemned Jesus, it is important to be sure that we are not making similar mistakes today in our decisions.

1: Isaiah 53:1-5 - Who hath believed our report? and to whom is the arm of the Lord

revealed?

2: Romans 10:14-17 - How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher?

Acts 13:28 And though they found no cause of death in him, yet desired they Pilate that he should be slain.

The Jews accused Jesus of having committed a crime, but Pilate found no fault in him. Nevertheless, the Jews asked Pilate to crucify him.

1. "The Danger of False Accusations"

2. "The Power of Unbelief"

1. Matthew 27:17-26 - Pilate's attempted release of Jesus

2. John 19:1-16 - Pilate's decision to crucify Jesus

Acts 13:29 And when they had fulfilled all that was written of him, they took him down from the tree, and laid him in a sepulchre.

The people fulfilled everything written about Jesus and laid him in a sepulchre.

1. Jesus' faithfulness to the Father's will through His death and resurrection.

2. The power of Jesus' sacrificial death and burial to bring salvation.

1. 1 Corinthians 15:3-4 - "For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures."

2. Romans 4:25 - "Who was delivered up because of our offences, and was raised because of our justification."

Acts 13:30 But God raised him from the dead:

Paul's in Acts 13 speaks of Jesus' resurrection.

1. The Power of Jesus' Resurrection: Our Hope in Times of Crisis

2. Jesus' Resurrection: The Turning Point of History

1. Romans 6:4-11 - Christ's death and resurrection as a way of new life.

2. Colossians 2:12-15 - The power of Jesus' resurrection in victory over death.

Acts 13:31 And he was seen many days of them which came up with him from Galilee to Jerusalem, who are his witnesses unto the people.

Paul's teachings were witnessed by the people who had traveled with him from Galilee to Jerusalem.

1. God's Word is Proven through Witnesses

2. Living a Life that Witnesses for Christ

1. Matthew 28:19-20 “Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

2. Hebrews 12:1 “Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us.”

Acts 13:32 And we declare unto you glad tidings, how that the promise which was made unto the fathers,

God fulfilled His promise to the fathers through Jesus Christ.

1: God's Promise of Salvation Through Jesus Christ

2: The Gift of Grace and Redemption in Jesus Christ

1: Romans 3:23-24 - For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus.

2: Galatians 3:13 - Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us—for it is written, “Cursed is everyone who is hanged on a tree.”

Acts 13:33 God hath fulfilled the same unto us their children, in that he hath raised up Jesus again; as it is also written in the second psalm, Thou art my Son, this day have I begotten thee.

God has fulfilled his promise to us and our ancestors by raising Jesus from the dead, as it is written in Psalm 2.

1: Jesus fulfilled God's promise by rising from the dead - a reminder of the power of God's love and grace.

2: Jesus' resurrection is a sign of hope and a promise of eternal life.

1: Psalm 2:7 - "I will proclaim the Lord's decree: He said to me, 'You are my son; today I have become your Father.'"

2: Romans 4:25 - "He was delivered over to death for our sins and was raised to life for our justification."

Acts 13:34 And as concerning that he raised him up from the dead, now no more to return to corruption, he said on this wise, I will give you the sure mercies of David.

God raised Jesus from the dead and promised to give us the sure mercies of David.

1. The Blessed Assurance of God's Promises

2. The Hope of the Resurrection

1. Isaiah 55:3: "Incline your ear, and come unto me: hear, and your soul shall live; and I will make an everlasting covenant with you, even the sure mercies of David."

2. Ephesians 1:18-20: "The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints, And what is the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power, Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places."

Acts 13:35 Wherefore he saith also in another psalm, Thou shalt not suffer thine Holy One to see corruption.

In the book of Acts, Paul quotes Psalm 16:10 which states that God will not allow His Holy One to decay.

1. The Power of God's Protection

2. The Unfailing Promise of God

1. Psalm 16:10 - "For you will not abandon my soul to Sheol; neither will you allow your holy one to see corruption."

2. Isaiah 53:9 - "And he made his grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death; because he had done no violence, neither was any deceit in his mouth."

Acts 13:36 For David, after he had served his own generation by the will of God, fell on sleep, and was laid unto his fathers, and saw corruption:

David served God's will during his lifetime and then died and was buried.

1. Serving God's Will: How to Live a Life of Fulfillment and Contentment

2. The Legacy of David: Setting an Example for Future Generations

1. Romans 11:36 - For from him and through him and to him are all things.

2. Ecclesiastes 12:13-14 - The end of the matter; all has been heard. Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man.

Acts 13:37 But he, whom God raised again, saw no corruption.

Paul preached in Antioch that Jesus rose from the dead and did not experience corruption.

1. The Power of the Resurrection: Exploring the Effects of God's Miraculous Intervention

2. The Hope of Eternal Life: Embracing the Promise of Jesus' Resurrection

1. Romans 6:4-5 – “We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.”

2. 1 Corinthians 15:20-22 – “But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive.”

Acts 13:38 Be it known unto you therefore, men and brethren, that through this man is preached unto you the forgiveness of sins:

This passage from Acts 13:38 explains that through Jesus, people can receive forgiveness from their sins.

1. "The Gift of Forgiveness"

2. "The Power of Grace"

1. Romans 5:8 - But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

2. Ephesians 1:7 - In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God’s grace.

Acts 13:39 And by him all that believe are justified from all things, from which ye could not be justified by the law of Moses.

All believers are justified by Jesus Christ and not by the Law of Moses.

1. Living in Faith: Justified through Jesus, Not the Law

2. Salvation: Receiving Justification through Jesus

1. Romans 3:20-22 - Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law is the knowledge of sin.

2. Galatians 3:11 - But that no man is justified by the law in the sight of God, it is evident: for, The just shall live by faith.

Acts 13:40 Beware therefore, lest that come upon you, which is spoken of in the prophets;

God's warning against disobedience: Heed the warnings of the prophets or face consequences.

1. "The Voice of the Prophets - Heeding God's Warnings of Consequences"

2. "Walk in Obedience - Avoiding the Consequences of Disobedience"

1. Jeremiah 17:9-10 - "The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it? I the Lord search the heart, I try the reins, even to give every man according to his ways, and according to the fruit of his doings."

2. Psalm 37:27 - "Depart from evil, and do good; and dwell for evermore."

Acts 13:41 Behold, ye despisers, and wonder, and perish: for I work a work in your days, a work which ye shall in no wise believe, though a man declare it unto you.

God works in mysterious ways and will not be denied.

1: God's plans cannot be hindered, and it is up to us to trust in Him.

2: We must have faith and not doubt, even when it seems impossible.

1: Philippians 4:13 - "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me."

2: Isaiah 40:31 - "But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint."

Acts 13:42 And when the Jews were gone out of the synagogue, the Gentiles besought that these words might be preached to them the next sabbath.

The Gentiles wanted the Jews to preach to them the next Sabbath.

1. “God’s Call to All Nations”

2. “God’s Love for All People”

1. Matthew 28:19-20 “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you.”

2. Romans 10:12 “For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all, bestowing his riches on all who call on him.”

Acts 13:43 Now when the congregation was broken up, many of the Jews and religious proselytes followed Paul and Barnabas: who, speaking to them, persuaded them to continue in the grace of God.

Paul and Barnabas addressed the congregation and encouraged them to remain in the grace of God, many of the Jews and religious converts followed them.

1. Understanding the Grace of God - How to Remain Steadfast

2. Living in the Grace of God - Reaping the Rewards

1. Romans 5:20-21 - Moreover the law entered, that the offence might abound. But where sin abounded, grace did much more abound.

2. Ephesians 2:8-10 - For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast.

Acts 13:44 And the next sabbath day came almost the whole city together to hear the word of God.

On the following Sabbath, most of the city gathered to hear the Word of God.

1. "God's Word: A Source of Hope and Comfort"

2. "The Power of Community in Engaging the Word of God"

1. Hebrews 4:12 - For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

2. Psalm 1:2 - But his delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law he meditates day and night.

Acts 13:45 But when the Jews saw the multitudes, they were filled with envy, and spake against those things which were spoken by Paul, contradicting and blaspheming.

The Jews were envious when they saw the multitude of people following Paul and spoke against him, contradicting and blaspheming his teachings.

1. We should not be jealous of what God is doing in the lives of others.

2. We cannot allow envy and jealousy to prevent us from hearing what God has to say.

1. James 3:14-16 - But if ye have bitter envying and strife in your hearts, glory not, and lie not against the truth.

2. Proverbs 14:30 - A sound heart is the life of the flesh: but envy the rottenness of the bones.

Acts 13:46 Then Paul and Barnabas waxed bold, and said, It was necessary that the word of God should first have been spoken to you: but seeing ye put it from you, and judge yourselves unworthy of everlasting life, lo, we turn to the Gentiles.

Paul and Barnabas boldly declared God's word to the Jews, but after the Jews rejected it, they turned to the Gentiles instead.

1. Rejecting God's Word Has Consequences

2. Heed the Word of God or Risk Rejection

1. Hebrews 3:7-11 - Therefore, as the Holy Spirit says: “Today, if you hear His voice, do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion, in the day of trial in the wilderness.

2. Matthew 7:21-23 - “Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven.

Acts 13:47 For so hath the Lord commanded us, saying, I have set thee to be a light of the Gentiles, that thou shouldest be for salvation unto the ends of the earth.

God has commanded the apostles to bring the light of salvation to the Gentiles, to the ends of the earth.

1. The Power of God to Bring Salvation to All Nations

2. God's Command for All to Preach the Gospel

1. Matthew 28:19-20 - Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.

2. Isaiah 49:6 - And he said, It is a light thing that thou shouldest be my servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob, and to restore the preserved of Israel: I will also give thee for a light to the Gentiles, that thou mayest be my salvation unto the end of the earth.

Acts 13:48 And when the Gentiles heard this, they were glad, and glorified the word of the Lord: and as many as were ordained to eternal life believed.

The Gentiles were glad to hear the Word of the Lord and many of those who were ordained to eternal life believed.

1. Living Life to the Fullest Through Faith in the Lord

2. Experiencing Abundance Through Believing in the Word of God

1. John 3:16 - For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

2. Romans 10:17 - Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word about Christ.

Acts 13:49 And the word of the Lord was published throughout all the region.

The Word of the Lord spread throughout the region.

1. God's Word Has Power to Reach All People

2. The Gospel is for Everyone

1. Romans 10:18 - "But I ask, have they not heard? Of course they have: “Their voice has gone out into all the earth, their words to the ends of the world.”

2. Isaiah 55:11 - "so shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; it shall not return to Me void, but it shall accomplish what I please, and it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it."

Acts 13:50 But the Jews stirred up the devout and honourable women, and the chief men of the city, and raised persecution against Paul and Barnabas, and expelled them out of their coasts.

The Jews stirred up the people of the city against Paul and Barnabas and caused them to be persecuted and expelled from the city.

1. Persecution: Standing Strong in the Midst of Opposition

2. The Power of Influence: Using Our Voices for Righteous Purposes

1. Isaiah 54:17 - "No weapon formed against you shall prosper, and every tongue which rises against you in judgment You shall condemn. This is the heritage of the servants of the Lord, and their righteousness is from Me," says the Lord.

2. James 5:16 - Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.

Acts 13:51 But they shook off the dust of their feet against them, and came unto Iconium.

Paul and Barnabas left Antioch and preached the gospel in many cities. When the Jews in Pisidian Antioch rejected their message, they shook off the dust from their feet in protest and went to Iconium.

1. Do not be discouraged when faced with rejection, instead shake it off and move forward.

2. Staying true to your convictions will be met with opposition, but the Lord will guide your path.

1. Isaiah 55:11 - "So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it."

2. Romans 8:28 - "And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose."

Acts 13:52 And the disciples were filled with joy, and with the Holy Ghost.

The disciples of Jesus were filled with joy and the Holy Spirit.

1. The Joy of the Lord is our Strength - Nehemiah 8:10

2. Rejoice in the Lord Always - Philippians 4:4

1. Psalm 16:11 - You make known to me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

2. Galatians 5:22-23 - But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.

Acts 14 recounts the continuation of Paul and Barnabas' missionary journey, the miracles they performed, and the opposition they faced.

1st Paragraph: At Iconium, Paul and Barnabas went as usual into Jewish synagogue. There they spoke so effectively that a great number of Jews and Greeks believed. But Jews who refused believe stirred up Gentiles poisoned their minds against brothers So Paul Barnabas spent considerable time there speaking boldly for Lord confirmed message his grace enabling them perform signs wonders (Acts 14:1-3). The people of city were divided some sided with Jews others with apostles plot arose among Gentiles Jews their leaders mistreat stone them learning it fled Lycaonian cities Lystra Derbe surrounding country where continued preach gospel (Acts 14:4-7).

2nd Paragraph: In Lystra there sat man lame from birth had never walked heard Paul speaking looking directly him seeing he had faith be healed called out loud voice 'Stand up your feet!' At that man jumped up began walk When crowd saw what Paul done shouted Lycaonian language 'The gods have come down us human form!' They called Barnabas Zeus Paul Hermes because he was chief speaker priest Zeus temple just outside city brought bulls wreaths front gates wanted offer sacrifice crowd along with apostles when apostles Barnabas Paul heard this tore clothes rushed out into crowd shouting 'Friends why are you doing this? We too are only human like you! We are bringing you good news telling turn from these worthless things living God who made heaven earth sea everything in them.' Even these words barely kept crowds offering sacrifice to them (Acts 14:8-18).

3rd Paragraph: Then some Jews came from Antioch Iconium won crowd over stoned Paul dragged him outside city thinking he was dead disciples gathered around him got up went back into city next day left for Derbe After preaching gospel that city making large number disciples returned Lystra Iconium Antioch strengthening disciples encouraging remain true faith saying 'We must go through many hardships enter kingdom God.' They appointed elders each church prayed fasting committed them Lord whom they had put their trust After going through Pisidia came Pamphylia preached word Perga then went down Attalia From there sailed back Antioch where been committed grace God work now completed arrival gathered church together reported all God done through how opened door faith Gentiles stayed long time disciples (Acts 14:19-28).

Acts 14:1 And it came to pass in Iconium, that they went both together into the synagogue of the Jews, and so spake, that a great multitude both of the Jews and also of the Greeks believed.

Paul and Barnabas went to Iconium and both preached in the synagogue, resulting in a

great multitude of Jews and Greeks believing in the gospel.

1. The Power of Preaching: How Paul and Barnabas were Able to Change Lives

2. The Strength of Unity: How Working Together Can Lead to Unprecedented Outcomes

1. Acts 1:8 “But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

2. Matthew 28:19 “Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.”

Acts 14:2 But the unbelieving Jews stirred up the Gentiles, and made their minds evil affected against the brethren.

Jews stirred up Gentiles and influenced them to be hostile towards the Christians.

1. Resisting Temptation - How to remain faithful amidst persecution

2. Responding to Hostility - How to exhibit love and grace in the face of hatred

1. 1 John 4:7-21 - God's love and how it can overcome evil

2. Matthew 5:43-48 - Loving your enemies and praying for those who persecute you

Acts 14:3 Long time therefore abode they speaking boldly in the Lord, which gave testimony unto the word of his grace, and granted signs and wonders to be done by their hands.

The apostles spoke boldly in the Lord, testifying to the grace of God and performing signs and wonders.

1) The Power of Boldly Speaking God's Word

2) The Miracles of God's Grace

1) Romans 10:14-15 - "How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? And how are they to preach unless they are sent?"

2) Matthew 17:20 - "He said to them, “Because of your little faith. For truly, I say to you, if you have faith like a grain of mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, ‘Move from here to there,’ and it will move, and nothing will be impossible for you.”

Acts 14:4 But the multitude of the city was divided: and part held with the Jews, and part with the apostles.

The city was divided between those who held with the Jews and those who held with the Apostles.

1. The Power of Perseverance in the Face of Division

2. The Necessity of Standing Firm in Our Faith Despite Opposition

1. Ephesians 6:10-20 - Put on the whole armor of God that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil

2. James 1:2-4 - Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance.

Acts 14:5 And when there was an assault made both of the Gentiles, and also of the Jews with their rulers, to use them despitefully, and to stone them,

The Gentiles and Jews, along with their rulers, attempted to mistreat and stone the apostles Paul and Barnabas.

1. Standing Firm in the Face of Persecution

2. The Power of Faith in Difficult Times

1. Hebrews 11:24-27 - By faith Moses, when he was come to years, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter; Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season.

2. Romans 8:31-39 - What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us?

Acts 14:6 They were ware of it, and fled unto Lystra and Derbe, cities of Lycaonia, and unto the region that lieth round about:

The apostles spread the gospel to the cities of Lystra and Derbe and the surrounding region.

1. The Power of Faith: How the Apostles Spread the Gospel

2. The Importance of Sharing our Faith with Others

1. Romans 10:14-15 "How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? And how are they to preach unless they are sent?"

2. Matthew 28:19-20 "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

Acts 14:7 And there they preached the gospel.

Paul and Barnabas preached the gospel in Lystra.

1. Fear not, for God is with us - Isaiah 41:10

2. Believe in the Lord Jesus and you will be saved - Acts 16:30-31

1. Isaiah 41:10 - "Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand."

2. Acts 16:30-31 - "Then he brought them out and said, “Sirs, what must I do to be saved?” And they said, “Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household.”

Acts 14:8 And there sat a certain man at Lystra, impotent in his feet, being a cripple from his mother's womb, who never had walked:

A man in Lystra was crippled from birth and had never walked.

1. The Power of Faith: How God Can Transform Our Lives

2. Overcoming Adversity: When Life Gets Tough, Keep Going

1. Jeremiah 29:11 – “For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.”

2. Philippians 4:13 – “I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.”

Acts 14:9 The same heard Paul speak: who stedfastly beholding him, and perceiving that he had faith to be healed,

The man heard Paul speaking and saw that he had faith to be healed.

1. Faith is the foundation of healing.

2. Believe in the power of God and be healed.

1. Hebrews 11:1 “Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.”

2. James 5:14-15 “Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer of faith will save the one who is sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven.”

Acts 14:10 Said with a loud voice, Stand upright on thy feet. And he leaped and walked.

The apostle Paul healed a man who was lame, causing him to stand up and walk.

1. God is powerful and can heal us of physical ailments.

2. Even when confronted with seemingly insurmountable odds, God is still capable of providing us with strength and hope.

1. Isaiah 40:31 - "But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint."

2. Matthew 11:28-30 - "Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

Acts 14:11 And when the people saw what Paul had done, they lifted up their voices, saying in the speech of Lycaonia, The gods are come down to us in the likeness of men.

The people of Lycaonia saw Paul perform many miracles and believed the gods had come to them in the form of men.

1. God uses ordinary people to accomplish extraordinary things.

2. We should never forget the power of God and His ability to move through us.

1. Isaiah 55:8-9 - For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

2. Luke 10:19 - Behold, I have given you authority to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall hurt you.

Acts 14:12 And they called Barnabas, Jupiter; and Paul, Mercurius, because he was the chief speaker.

Barnabas and Paul were given the names Jupiter and Mercurius, respectively, as they were preaching in Lystr.

1. The Power of God's Word: Exploring the Life of Barnabas and Paul

2. Following the Call of God: Barnabas and Paul's Example of Faith

1. Isaiah 55:11 “So shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it.”

2. 2 Corinthians 4:7 “But we have this treasure in jars of clay, to show that the surpassing power belongs to God and not to us.”

Acts 14:13 Then the priest of Jupiter, which was before their city, brought oxen and garlands unto the gates, and would have done sacrifice with the people.

The priest of Jupiter attempted to offer sacrifices to the people at the city gates.

1. God is the only one worthy of our worship and devotion.

2. We should not be swayed by the false promises of idolatry.

1. Exodus 20:3-5 - "You shall have no other gods before me. You shall not make for yourself an image in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below. You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God."

2. Romans 1:18-25 - "For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth. For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse. For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened. Claiming to be wise, they became fools, and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man and birds and animals and creeping things."

Acts 14:14 Which when the apostles, Barnabas and Paul, heard of, they rent their clothes, and ran in among the people, crying out,

The apostles, Barnabas and Paul, heard of a plot to stone them and it caused them to be greatly distressed.

1. When faced with adversity, instead of running away, stand firm in your faith and trust in God.

2. God is with us in the midst of our suffering and will provide strength to go through it.

1. Isaiah 41:10 - "Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand."

2. Romans 8:28 - "And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose."

Acts 14:15 And saying, Sirs, why do ye these things? We also are men of like passions with you, and preach unto you that ye should turn from these vanities unto the living God, which made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and all things that are therein:

The apostles Paul and Barnabas explain to the people in Lystra that they are no different than anyone else, and urge them to turn away from false gods and worship the living God who created the heavens and the earth.

1. God is the Creator of All Things and Deserves Our Worship

2. We Are All of Like Passions and Must Turn Away from False Gods

1. Isaiah 40:25-26 - To whom then will ye liken me, or shall I be equal? saith the Holy One. Lift up your eyes on high, and behold who hath created these things, that bringeth out their host by number: he calleth them all by names by the greatness of his might, for that he is strong in power; not one faileth.

2. Psalm 19:1 - The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork.

Acts 14:16 Who in times past suffered all nations to walk in their own ways.

In this passage, Paul and Barnabas preach to the people of Lystra, reminding them that God has given all nations the freedom to follow their own ways.

1. Understanding the Sovereignty of God in Our Lives

2. God's Love for All Nations

1. John 3:16 - “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.”

2. Romans 9:15 - “For he saith to Moses, I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion.”

Acts 14:17 Nevertheless he left not himself without witness, in that he did good, and gave us rain from heaven, and fruitful seasons, filling our hearts with food and gladness.

God's goodness and provision are evident in all of creation.

1. The Abundance of God's Provision

2. Experiencing God's Goodness

1. Psalm 145:9 - The Lord is good to all, and his mercy is over all that he hath made.

2. James 1:17 - Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.

Acts 14:18 And with these sayings scarce restrained they the people, that they had not done sacrifice unto them.

Paul and Barnabas, two apostles, had to restrain the people from offering sacrifices to them, as they were not gods.

1. Recognizing the Difference between Human and Divine

2. Rejecting Idolatry and Following the True God

1. Psalm 115:1-8 "Not unto us, O LORD, not unto us, but unto thy name give glory, for thy mercy, and for thy truth's sake.

2. Isaiah 45:5-6 "I am the LORD, and there is none else, there is no God beside me: I girded thee, though thou hast not known me: That they may know from the rising of the sun, and from the west, that there is none beside me. I am the LORD, and there is none else."

Acts 14:19 And there came thither certain Jews from Antioch and Iconium, who persuaded the people, and, having stoned Paul, drew him out of the city, supposing he had been dead.

Certain Jews from Antioch and Iconium stoned Paul and dragged him out of the city, believing him to be dead.

1. The Power of Persuasion - Acts 14:19

2. Standing Firm in Our Faith - Acts 14:19

1. James 1:12 - Blessed is the one who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love him.

2. Hebrews 10:25 - Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another — and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

Acts 14:20 Howbeit, as the disciples stood round about him, he rose up, and came into the city: and the next day he departed with Barnabas to Derbe.

Paul was miraculously healed from an injury and returned to the city, leaving the next day with Barnabas for Derbe.

1. The Power of God's Healing - Exploring the miracles that God can perform in our lives

2. God's Guidance - Understanding how God leads us and guides us through our lives.

1. Psalm 147:3 - "He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds."

2. Romans 8:28 - "And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose."

Acts 14:21 And when they had preached the gospel to that city, and had taught many, they returned again to Lystra, and to Iconium, and Antioch,

Paul and Barnabas preached the gospel and taught many in the city before returning to Lystra, Iconium, and Antioch.

1. Rekindling Our Mission: Reaching Out with the Gospel

2. Renewing Our Faith: Rediscovering the Power of the Gospel

1. Romans 10:14-15 - “How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? And how are they to preach unless they are sent?”

2. Matthew 28:19-20 - “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

Acts 14:22 Confirming the souls of the disciples, and exhorting them to continue in the faith, and that we must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God.

The disciples must remain devoted to the faith, despite the tribulations that they will face.

1: Remain steadfast in your faith through any tribulation.

2: Do not be deterred by the trials and tribulations of life - keep your faith strong.

1: James 1:2-4 - “Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.”

2: Romans 5:3-4 - “Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope.”

Acts 14:23 And when they had ordained them elders in every church, and had prayed with fasting, they commended them to the Lord, on whom they believed.

The Apostles Paul and Barnabas ordained elders in each church by praying and fasting, and commended them to the Lord in whom they believed.

1. Learning to Lead: The Power of Prayer and Fasting

2. The Gift of Submission: Relying on the Lord and Committing to Him

1. Matthew 6:16-18 - "And when you fast, do not look gloomy like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces that their fasting may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, that your fasting may not be seen by others but by your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

2. 1 Peter 5:5-7 - Likewise, you who are younger, be subject to the elders. Clothe yourselves, all of you, with humility toward one another, for "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble." Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you, casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you.

Acts 14:24 And after they had passed throughout Pisidia, they came to Pamphylia.

Paul and Barnabas travelled through Pisidia and arrived in Pamphylia.

1. A Journey of Faith: How Trusting in God's Plan Leads to Fulfillment

2. Following God's Path: Learning from Paul and Barnabas' Example

1. Isaiah 40:31: "But they who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint."

2. Philippians 3:13-14: "Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus."

Acts 14:25 And when they had preached the word in Perga, they went down into Attalia:

Paul and Barnabas preached the word in Perga and then proceeded to Attalia.

1. Persevering in Preaching: A Look at Paul and Barnabas

2. Unwavering Faith: Following the Examples of Paul and Barnabas

1. Hebrews 10:35-36 - “So do not throw away your confidence; it will be richly rewarded. You need to persevere so that when you have done the will of God, you will receive what he has promised.”

2. 2 Timothy 4:2 - “Preach the word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage—with great patience and careful instruction.”

Acts 14:26 And thence sailed to Antioch, from whence they had been recommended to the grace of God for the work which they fulfilled.

Paul and Barnabas sailed to Antioch from Lystra, where they had been commended for their work by God.

1. "The Power of Commendation"

2. "The Value of Good Work"

1. Colossians 3:23-24 - "Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ."

2. Proverbs 27:21 - "The crucible is for silver, and the furnace is for gold, and the Lord tests hearts."

Acts 14:27 And when they were come, and had gathered the church together, they rehearsed all that God had done with them, and how he had opened the door of faith unto the Gentiles.

Paul and Barnabas reported to the church all that God had done for them and how he had opened the door of faith to the Gentiles.

1. The Open Door of Faith: How God Opens the Way to Salvation

2. The Power of Witness: How God Uses His People to Spread the Good News

1. Ephesians 2:8-9 For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God,

2. Romans 10:14-15 How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching?

Acts 14:28 And there they abode long time with the disciples.

Paul and Barnabas stayed with the disciples in Lystra for an extended period of time.

1. "Loving the Lost Through Prolonged Presence"

2. "Integrating Discipleship into Everyday Life"

1. Romans 12:13: "Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality."

2. 1 John 4:7-21: "Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God."

Acts 15 recounts the Jerusalem Council's decision on Gentile Christians' obligation to the Law of Moses, and the disagreement between Paul and Barnabas.

1st Paragraph: The chapter begins with some believers who belonged to the party of Pharisees coming down from Judea to Antioch, teaching that Gentiles must be circumcised according to custom taught by Moses in order be saved. This caused great dissension debate Paul Barnabas church decided send Paul Barnabas others up Jerusalem apostles elders about question (Acts 15:1-2). After being sent on their way by church passed through Phoenicia Samaria describing conversion Gentiles brought great joy all brothers when arrived Jerusalem were welcomed church apostles elders where they reported everything God done through them (Acts 15:3-4).

2nd Paragraph: But some believers who belonged to party Pharisees stood up said 'Gentiles must be circumcised required obey law Moses.' Apostles elders met consider question after much discussion Peter stood addressed them recounting how God chose him be one through whom Gentiles would hear message gospel believe emphasizing that God knows heart accepted them giving Holy Spirit just as he did us made no distinction between us them purifying their hearts faith challenged why test God putting yoke disciples necks neither ancestors nor could bear affirmed belief saved grace Lord Jesus just as they are (Acts 15:5-11). Then whole assembly became silent listened Barnabas Paul telling about signs wonders God done among Gentiles through them (Acts 15:12).

3rd Paragraph: After they finished James spoke up saying 'Brothers listen me Simon described us how God first intervened choose people for his name from Gentiles words prophets agree this.' He quoted Amos affirming that this was in accordance with prophecy. He suggested not make it difficult for Gentiles turning God but write them abstain food polluted idols sexual immorality meat strangled animals blood things offensive Jewish believers scattered among cities where synagogues read law every Sabbath (Acts 15:13-21). The council agreed with James' proposal sent letter by chosen men Judas Barsabbas Silas along with Paul Barnabas expressing their decision causing great joy among Gentile believers. Sometime later, however, disagreement arose between Paul and Barnabas over whether take John also called Mark with them on another journey because had deserted them Pamphylia not continued work resulted such sharp disagreement parted company Barnabas took Mark sailed Cyprus while Paul chose Silas left commended brothers grace Lord went Syria Cilicia strengthening churches (Acts 15:22-41).

Acts 15:1 And certain men which came down from Judaea taught the brethren, and said, Except ye be circumcised after the manner of Moses, ye cannot be saved.

Certain men from Judaea taught the believers that unless they were circumcised according to the laws of Moses, they could not be saved.

1. God's Mercy and Salvation - How God's love and grace saves us despite our shortcomings

2. The Law and Faith - Exploring how the law and faith are intertwined, and how we can live faithfully in both

1. Romans 3:21-24 - But now the righteousness of God without the law is manifested, being witnessed by the law and the prophets;

2. Galatians 3:23-25 - But before faith came, we were kept under the law, shut up unto the faith which should afterwards be revealed.

Acts 15:2 When therefore Paul and Barnabas had no small dissension and disputation with them, they determined that Paul and Barnabas, and certain other of them, should go up to Jerusalem unto the apostles and elders about this question.

Paul and Barnabas had a disagreement with some other people, so they decided to go to Jerusalem to talk to the apostles and elders about the issue.

1. "The Power of Working Through Conflict"

2. "The Importance of Having Wise Counsel"

1. James 1:19-20, "Know this, my beloved brothers: let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger; for the anger of man does not produce the righteousness of God."

2. Proverbs 11:14, "Where there is no guidance, a people falls, but in an abundance of counselors there is safety."

Acts 15:3 And being brought on their way by the church, they passed through Phenice and Samaria, declaring the conversion of the Gentiles: and they caused great joy unto all the brethren.

This passage describes the joy of the brethren when the apostles declared the conversion of the Gentiles.

1. Joy Comes in Sharing the Good News - Acts 15:3

2. Rejoicing in the Salvation of Others - Acts 15:3

1. John 15:11 - ?□hese things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full.??

2. Romans 15:13 - ?□ow the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that ye may abound in hope, through the power of the Holy Ghost.??

Acts 15:4 And when they were come to Jerusalem, they were received of the church, and of the apostles and elders, and they declared all things that God had done with them.

The apostles and elders in Jerusalem welcomed the new believers and heard of the great things God had done for them.

1. Faithful Followers: The Power of Obedience in the Church

2. Standing on the Shoulders of Giants: Recognizing the Impact of Our Predecessors

1. Hebrews 13:7 - Remember them which have the rule over you, who have spoken unto you the word of God: whose faith follow, considering the end of their conversation.

2. 1 Thessalonians 5:12-13 - And we beseech you, brethren, to know them which labour among you, and are over you in the Lord, and admonish you; And to esteem them very highly in love for their work's sake. And be at peace among yourselves.

Acts 15:5 But there rose up certain of the sect of the Pharisees which believed, saying, That it was needful to circumcise them, and to command them to keep the law of Moses.

Some of the Pharisees who had become believers argued that the Gentiles needed to be circumcised and obey the law of Moses.

1. The Importance of Obeying God's Law

2. The Power of Faith in Jesus Christ

1. Galatians 3:10 - For all who rely on the works of the law are under a curse, as it is written: ?□ursed is everyone who does not continue to do everything written in the Book of the Law.??

2. Romans 3:28 - For we maintain that a person is justified by faith apart from the works of the law.

Acts 15:6 And the apostles and elders came together for to consider of this matter.

The apostles and elders met to discuss a matter.

1. The Importance of Unity in the Church

2. Making Decisions in Accordance With God?□ Will

1. Ephesians 4:3-6 ?□aking every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.??

2. James 1:5 ?□f any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you.??

Acts 15:7 And when there had been much disputing, Peter rose up, and said unto them, Men and brethren, ye know how that a good while ago God made choice among us, that the Gentiles by my mouth should hear the word of the gospel, and believe.

Peter addressed the gathered crowd and reminded them of how God had chosen him to preach the Gospel to the Gentiles.

1. God chooses the most unlikely of people to do His work.

2. How we can trust in God's plans for us, even when they don't make sense.

1. Jeremiah 29:11 - For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope.

2. Romans 10:14-15 - How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, ?□ow beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!??

Acts 15:8 And God, which knoweth the hearts, bare them witness, giving them the Holy Ghost, even as he did unto us;

God's love is evident in the gift of the Holy Spirit.

1: The Gift of the Holy Spirit, Acts 15:8

2: The Unconditional Love of God, Acts 15:8

1: Romans 5:5 - ?□ow hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us.??

2: 1 Corinthians 2:10 - ?□ut God has revealed them to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God.??

Acts 15:9 And put no difference between us and them, purifying their hearts by faith.

The early Church showed no distinction between Jew and Gentile and instead focused on purifying everyone's hearts through faith in Christ.

1. "The Power of Faith: Purifying Our Hearts"

2. "No Distinction: Unification Through Love"

1. John 14:6 ?□ am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.??

2. Galatians 3:26-28 ?□or you are all children of God through faith in Christ Jesus. For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female?□or all of you are one in Christ Jesus.??

Acts 15:10 Now therefore why tempt ye God, to put a yoke upon the neck of the disciples, which neither our fathers nor we were able to bear?

The early church discussed the necessity of circumcision on Gentile believers, but ultimately decided that it was not necessary.

1: We should not attempt to put burdens on others which we ourselves cannot bear.

2: We should seek God?□ will and trust in his judgement.

1: Matthew 11:28-30 - Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.

2: Galatians 5:1 - For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.

Acts 15:11 But we believe that through the grace of the LORD Jesus Christ we shall be saved, even as they.

The apostles in the book of Acts believe that salvation comes through the grace of Jesus Christ.

1: God's Grace Is Sufficient - 2 Corinthians 12:9

2: Justified by Faith - Romans 5:1-2

1: Ephesians 2:8-9 - For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith? nd this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God??

2: Titus 3:5 - He saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit.

Acts 15:12 Then all the multitude kept silence, and gave audience to Barnabas and Paul, declaring what miracles and wonders God had wrought among the Gentiles by them.

This passage describes how the audience of Barnabas and Paul was awestruck by the miracles and wonders God had worked through them.

1. God's Power to Work Wonders and Miracles

2. The Impact of God's Miracles on His People

1. Ephesians 3:20 - "Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us"

2. John 10:37-38 - "Do not believe me unless I do the works of my Father. But if I do them, even though you do not believe me, believe the works, that you may know and understand that the Father is in me, and I in the Father."

Acts 15:13 And after they had held their peace, James answered, saying, Men and brethren, hearken unto me:

The apostles and elders gathered to discuss the issue of circumcision in the early church. James spoke up to address the issue.

1. The Power of Discourse in the Church: How James' Address Changed History

2. The Significance of Circumcision in the Early Church: A Study of James' Words

1. Ephesians 4:15-16 - Speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ. From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.

2. 1 Corinthians 12:25-26 - so that there may be no division in the body, but that the members may have the same care for one another. If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together.

Acts 15:14 Simeon hath declared how God at the first did visit the Gentiles, to take out of them a people for his name.

God has chosen people from all backgrounds to be part of His name.

1: We are all part of God's family, no matter our differences, and He calls us together to share His love with one another.

2: We are all part of God's plan, and He has chosen us to be part of His name.

1: Galatians 3:26-28 - "For you are all children of God through faith in Christ Jesus. And all who have been united with Christ in baptism have put on Christ, like putting on new clothes. There is no longer Jew or Gentile, slave or free, male and female. For you are all one in Christ Jesus."

2: Ephesians 2:14-18 - "For Christ himself has brought peace to us. He united Jews and Gentiles into one people when, in his own body on the cross, he broke down the wall of hostility that separated us. He did this by ending the system of Jewish law that excluded the Gentiles. He made peace between Jews and Gentiles by creating in himself one new people from the two groups. Together as one body, Christ reconciled both groups to God by means of his death on the cross, and our hostility toward each other was put to death."

Acts 15:15 And to this agree the words of the prophets; as it is written,

The passage is about how the words of the prophets agree with the words of the apostles in Acts 15:15.

1. The Power of Agreement: How Unity Unites Us

2. The Unifying Power of the Prophets: Listening to God's Word

1. Psalm 133:1 - "Behold, how good and pleasant it is when brothers dwell in unity!"

2. Ephesians 4:3 - "eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace."

Acts 15:16 After this I will return, and will build again the tabernacle of David, which is fallen down; and I will build again the ruins thereof, and I will set it up:

God promises to rebuild the tabernacle of David which has fallen down.

1. God's Promise of Restoration

2. The Hope of a New Day

1. Isaiah 61:4 - They shall build the old wastes, they shall raise up the former desolations, and they shall repair the waste cities, the desolations of many generations.

2. Haggai 2:9 - The glory of this latter house shall be greater than of the former, saith the Lord of hosts: and in this place will I give peace, saith the Lord of hosts.

Acts 15:17 That the residue of men might seek after the Lord, and all the Gentiles, upon whom my name is called, saith the Lord, who doeth all these things.

This verse from Acts 15:17 emphasizes that God desires all men to seek Him, both Jews and Gentiles.

1. "God's Unconditional Love: Seeking the Lord No Matter Who You Are"

2. "The Power of the Lord: His Works Across All Nations"

1. Isaiah 45:22 "Look unto me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth: for I am God, and there is none else."

2. Romans 10:13 "For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved."

Acts 15:18 Known unto God are all his works from the beginning of the world.

This passage from Acts 15:18 states that God knows all of His works, from the beginning of the world.

1. God's Omniscience: Knowing All Things

2. The Power and Wisdom of God's Works

1. Job 37:16 - "Do you know the balancings of the clouds, the wondrous works of Him who is perfect in knowledge?"

2. Psalm 139:4 - "Even before a word is on my tongue, behold, O LORD, you know it altogether."

Acts 15:19 Wherefore my sentence is, that we trouble not them, which from among the Gentiles are turned to God:

The apostles and elders in the church of Jerusalem agree to not put additional burden on Gentile Christians who have converted to the faith.

1. Trusting in God's Grace: Embracing the Inclusion of Gentiles in the Church

2. Our Responsibility to Welcome the Gentiles: Showing Compassion and Understanding

1. Romans 10:14-15 - How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher?

2. Ephesians 2:11-13 - Therefore remember that at one time you Gentiles in the flesh, called ?he uncircumcision??by what is called the circumcision, which is made in the flesh by hands??remember that you were at that time separated from Christ, alienated from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world.

Acts 15:20 But that we write unto them, that they abstain from pollutions of idols, and from fornication, and from things strangled, and from blood.

The Apostles and Elders in the Church of Jerusalem instructed the Gentile converts to abstain from pollutions of idols, fornication, things strangled, and blood.

1. The Power of the Church: Finding Strength in Unity

2. The Power of Abstinence: Choosing Holiness over Sin

1. Ephesians 5:3-7 - ?□ut among you there must not be even a hint of sexual immorality, or of any kind of impurity, or of greed, because these are improper for God?□ holy people. Nor should there be obscenity, foolish talk or coarse joking, which are out of place, but rather thanksgiving. For of this you can be sure: No immoral, impure or greedy person?□uch a person is an idolater?□as any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God. Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of such things God?□ wrath comes on those who are disobedient. Therefore do not be partners with them.??

2. 1 Corinthians 8:1-13 - ?□ow about food sacrificed to idols: We know that ?□e all possess knowledge.??But knowledge puffs up while love builds up. Those who think they know something do not yet know as they ought to know. But whoever loves God is known by God. Therefore, as to the eating of food offered to idols, we know that ?□n idol has no real existence,??and that ?□here is no God but one.??For although there may be so-called gods in heaven or on earth?□s indeed there are many ?□ods??and many ?□ords?□ □?yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist. However, not all possess this knowledge. But some, through former association with idols, eat food as really offered to an idol, and their conscience, being weak, is defiled. Food will not commend us to God. We are no worse off if we do not eat, and no better off if we do. But take care that this right of yours does not somehow become a stumbling block to the weak. For if anyone sees you who have knowledge eating in an idol?□ temple, will he not be encouraged, if his conscience is weak, to eat food offered to idols? So this weak brother, for whom Christ died, is destroyed by your knowledge. When you thus sin against your brothers and wound their weak conscience, you sin against Christ. Therefore, if food makes my brother stumble, I will never eat meat, lest I make my brother stumble.??

Acts 15:21 For Moses of old time hath in every city them that preach him, being read in the synagogues every sabbath day.

Moses' teachings are preached in cities around the world and read during Sabbath services.

1. The Power of Preaching: How We Can Use Moses' Teachings to Impact Our Communities

2. Understanding the Sabbath: How to Make the Most of the Day of Rest

1. Luke 4:16-21 - Jesus reads Isaiah in the synagogue

2. Exodus 20:8-11 - The Ten Commandments

Acts 15:22 Then pleased it the apostles and elders, with the whole church, to send chosen men of their own company to Antioch with Paul and Barnabas; namely, Judas surnamed Barsabas, and Silas, chief men among the brethren:

The apostles and elders, with the whole church, chose Judas Barsabas and Silas to accompany Paul and Barnabas to Antioch.

1. The Power of Unity in the Church

2. The Importance of Serving Together

1. Philippians 2:2-4 - ?omplete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.??

2. Ephesians 4:1-3 - ? therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.??

Acts 15:23 And they wrote letters by them after this manner; The apostles and elders and brethren send greeting unto the brethren which are of the Gentiles in Antioch and Syria and Cilicia:

The apostles and elders sent greetings to Gentile brethren in Antioch, Syria, and Cilicia.

1: Love thy neighbour regardless of religion.

2: Do not discriminate against others.

1: Micah 6:8 He hath shewed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the Lord require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?

2: Romans 12:18 If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men.

Acts 15:24 Forasmuch as we have heard, that certain which went out from us have troubled you with words, subverting your souls, saying, Ye must be circumcised, and keep the law: to whom we gave no such commandment:

Certain men from the church had troubled the Gentiles with words, telling them that they had to be circumcised and keep the law, though the church had not given such a commandment.

1. The Danger of False Teaching - Acts 15:24

2. Why We Must Exercise Discernment - Acts 15:24

1. Colossians 2:8 - Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ.

2. 1 John 4:1 - Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world.

Acts 15:25 It seemed good unto us, being assembled with one accord, to send chosen men unto you with our beloved Barnabas and Paul,

The early church gathered together to send Barnabas and Paul to share the Gospel.

1. The Power of Unity - Romans 12:5

2. The Importance of Witnessing - Matthew 28:19-20

1. Ephesians 4:3 - Making every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.

2. 1 Peter 2:9 - But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God? special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.

Acts 15:26 Men that have hazarded their lives for the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The passage discusses those who have risked their lives for the name of Jesus Christ.

1. ?The Courage of Faith??

2. ?The Power of a Name??

1. Hebrews 11:32-34 ???And what more shall I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets??33 who through faith conquered kingdoms, enforced justice, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, 34 quenched the power of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, were made strong out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight.??

2. Matthew 10:39 ???Whoever finds their life will lose it, and whoever loses their life for my sake will find it.??

Acts 15:27 We have sent therefore Judas and Silas, who shall also tell you the same things by mouth.

The apostles sent Judas and Silas to tell the Gentile believers the same message they had heard from the apostles.

1. The Power of the Word: The importance of delivering the same message to all believers.

2. Following God's Mission: How following God's will can bring unity and understanding.

1. Matthew 28:18-20 - And Jesus came and said to them, ?All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.??

2. Romans 15:5-6 - May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Acts 15:28 For it seemed good to the Holy Ghost, and to us, to lay upon you no greater

burden than these necessary things;

The early church leaders recognized that only some necessary things should be required of believers, and that the Holy Spirit agreed.

1. God's Guidance Brings Freedom

2. The Necessity of Following God's Will

1. Matthew 11:28-30 - Jesus' invitation to come to Him for rest

2. Galatians 5:1-15 - Freedom in Christ and living by the Spirit's guidance

Acts 15:29 That ye abstain from meats offered to idols, and from blood, and from things strangled, and from fornication: from which if ye keep yourselves, ye shall do well. Fare ye well.

The church in Jerusalem gave instructions to the Gentile believers to abstain from four things: eating food offered to idols, consuming blood, eating animals strangled, and fornication.

1. Abstain from Idolatry: A Closer Look at Acts 15:29

2. The Power of Abstinence: The Importance of Self-Control

1. 1 Corinthians 10:14-22 - Paul's instruction to the church in Corinth about abstaining from idolatry.

2. Romans 13:11-14 - Paul's instruction to the church in Rome on how to live in a manner pleasing to God.

Acts 15:30 So when they were dismissed, they came to Antioch: and when they had gathered the multitude together, they delivered the epistle:

The apostles delivered a letter to the multitude in Antioch.

1. The power of written communication

2. The importance of obedience

1. James 1:22 - "But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves."

2. 2 Corinthians 3:4-6 - "Such is the confidence that we have through Christ toward God. Not that we are sufficient in ourselves to claim anything as coming from us, but our sufficiency is from God, who has made us competent to be ministers of a new covenant, not of the letter but of the Spirit. For the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life."

Acts 15:31 Which when they had read, they rejoiced for the consolation.

The people rejoiced after reading the words of consolation in Acts 15:31.

1. Rejoicing in the Lord's Message of Comfort

2. Embracing the Consolation of God's Word

1. Isaiah 40:1-2 - Comfort, comfort my people, says your God.

2. Psalm 147:3 - He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds.

Acts 15:32 And Judas and Silas, being prophets also themselves, exhorted the brethren with many words, and confirmed them.

The apostles Judas and Silas encouraged the brethren with words and confirmed them.

1. Speak Words of Encouragement - 1 Thessalonians 5:11 Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing.

2. Confirm the Brethren - Romans 15:14 I myself am satisfied about you, my brothers, that you yourselves are full of goodness, filled with all knowledge and able to instruct one another.

1. 1 Thessalonians 5:11 Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just

as you are doing.

2. Romans 15:14 I myself am satisfied about you, my brothers, that you yourselves are full of goodness, filled with all knowledge and able to instruct one another.

Acts 15:33 And after they had tarried there a space, they were let go in peace from the brethren unto the apostles.

The Apostles and the brethren remained in fellowship for a while before departing in peace.

1: Through fellowship, we can experience peace.

2: Spend time in fellowship to experience God's peace.

1: Philippians 4:7 - And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

2: Colossians 3:15 - And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful.

Acts 15:34 Notwithstanding it pleased Silas to abide there still.

Silas chose to remain in Antioch.

1. Making Choices in Life: How to Discern God's Will

2. Living with Flexibility and Humility in Mind.

1. Proverbs 3:5-6 - "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to Him, and He will make your paths straight."

2. James 4:7-8 - "Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Come near to God and He will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded."

Acts 15:35 Paul also and Barnabas continued in Antioch, teaching and preaching the word of the Lord, with many others also.

Paul and Barnabas preached the word of the Lord in Antioch with many others.

1. The Power of Preaching the Gospel Together

2. The Strength of Community in Spreading the Word of God

1. Philippians 1:27 - "Only let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving side by side for the faith of the gospel,"

2. Matthew 28:19-20 - "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.??

Acts 15:36 And some days after Paul said unto Barnabas, Let us go again and visit our brethren in every city where we have preached the word of the LORD, and see how they do.

Paul suggested to Barnabas that they should revisit the places they had preached the word of God and observe how the people were doing.

1. Going back to where you have been blessed: Remember the places where God has blessed you and go back to show them God's love.

2. The importance of revisiting: Revisiting places where you have preached the word of God is important to show your continued support and remind them of God's love.

1. 1 Thessalonians 3:10 - So that we may be comforted together by the mutual faith both of you and me.

2. Hebrews 10:24-25 - And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

Acts 15:37 And Barnabas determined to take with them John, whose surname was Mark.

This passage explains that Barnabas decided to take John, whose surname was Mark, with them.

1. God often sends seemingly unlikely people on mission trips to spread His Word.

2. We should always trust in God's will and follow His plans, even if they don't make sense to us.

1. Isaiah 55:8-9 - ?□or my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways,??declares the Lord. ?□s the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

2. Proverbs 16:9 - In their hearts humans plan their course, but the Lord establishes their steps.

Acts 15:38 But Paul thought not good to take him with them, who departed from them from Pamphylia, and went not with them to the work.

Paul did not want to take a certain individual with them, as they had parted ways in Pamphylia and not gone with them to do the work.

1. The Importance of Staying United and Following Through

2. The Power of Making Difficult Decisions

1. Ephesians 4:1-3 - I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

2. Proverbs 16:9 - The heart of man plans his way, but the LORD establishes his steps.

Acts 15:39 And the contention was so sharp between them, that they departed asunder one from the other: and so Barnabas took Mark, and sailed unto Cyprus;

The sharp contention between Barnabas and Paul caused them to separate, and Barnabas took Mark with him to Cyprus.

1) True unity in Christ is not a matter of simply agreeing, but of loving and respecting one another even in disagreement.

2) God can work through our differences to bring about His will.

1) Romans 12:18 - "If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men."

2) Ephesians 4:3 - "Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace."

Acts 15:40 And Paul chose Silas, and departed, being recommended by the brethren unto the grace of God.

Paul and Silas were recommended by the brethren to the grace of God.

1. The Power of Unity: How Working Together Can Lead to God's Grace

2. The Value of Recommendation: How a Good Word Can Bring Us Closer to God

1. Ephesians 4:3 - Endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

2. Proverbs 21:1 - The king's heart is in the hand of the Lord, as the rivers of water: he turneth it whithersoever he will.

Acts 15:41 And he went through Syria and Cilicia, confirming the churches.

Paul traveled through Syria and Cilicia to encourage and strengthen the churches.

1. The Strength We Find in Encouragement - Acts 15:41

2. The Power of Uniting Our Faith - Acts 15:41

1. Hebrews 10:24-25 - And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

2. Romans 1:11-12 - For I long to see you, that I may impart to you some spiritual gift to strengthen you??that is, that we may be mutually encouraged by each other's faith, both yours and mine.

Acts 16 recounts the addition of Timothy to Paul's missionary team, the conversion of Lydia and her household, and Paul and Silas' imprisonment in Philippi.

1st Paragraph: The chapter begins with Paul coming to Derbe and then to Lystra, where a disciple named Timothy lived. His mother was Jewish believer but his father was Greek Jews knew his father was Greek yet because his mother Jewish he well spoken by brothers Lystra Iconium wanted take him along journey so circumcised him because Jews lived areas they were going through knew father had been Greek (Acts 16:1-3). As they traveled from town town delivered decisions reached apostles elders Jerusalem for people obey so churches were strengthened faith grew daily in numbers (Acts 16:4-5).

2nd Paragraph: They went throughout Phrygia Galatian region having been kept by Holy Spirit from preaching word province Asia when came border Mysia tried enter Bithynia Spirit Jesus would not allow them pass through Mysia went down Troas during night Paul had vision man Macedonia standing begging him 'Come over Macedonia help us.' After Paul seen vision we got ready once leave for Macedonia concluding that God had called us preach gospel them (Acts 16:6-10). From Troas sailed straight Samothrace next day Neapolis following day Philippi Roman colony leading city district Macedonia stayed there several days Sabbath we went outside city gate river where we expected find place prayer met Lydia dealer purple cloth city Thyatira worshiper God Lord opened heart respond message given by Paul she her household baptized invited stay at her home if considered faithful Lord agreed (Acts 16:11-15).

3rd Paragraph: As they were going place prayer met slave girl who had spirit prediction earned great deal money for owners fortune-telling followed Paul rest shouting 'These men servants Most High God telling way be saved.' She kept this up many days finally Paul became so annoyed turned around said spirit 'In name Jesus Christ command you come out her!' At that moment spirit left her. When owners realized hope their profit gone seized Paul Silas dragged them marketplace face authorities brought them before magistrates said 'These men Jews throwing our city into an uproar advocating customs unlawful us Romans accept practice.' Mob joined attack against them magistrates ordered stripped beaten after severe flogging thrown into prison jailer commanded guard them carefully upon receiving such orders put them inner cell fastened feet stocks about midnight praying singing hymns God other prisoners listening suddenly violent earthquake foundations prison shaken once all prison doors flew open everyone's chains came loose jailer woke saw prison doors open drew sword about kill himself thought prisoners escaped but shouted 'Don't harm yourself! We are all here!' Jailer called lights rushed fell trembling before Paul Silas brought out asked 'Sirs what must do be saved?' They replied 'Believe Lord Jesus you will be saved—you your household.' Then spoke word Lord him all others house hour night washed wounds immediately he all family baptized rejoiced because had come believe God. When it was daylight magistrates sent officers tell jailer release those men jailer told this news Paul said magistrates have ordered let go now tell leave find another way officers reported saying magistrates

alarmed learned were Roman citizens sent apologize personally escorted them out requested leave city after meeting Lydia woman where staying left (Acts 16:16-40).

Acts 16:1 Then came he to Derbe and Lystra: and, behold, a certain disciple was there, named Timotheus, the son of a certain woman, which was a Jewess, and believed; but his father was a Greek:

Paul visited Derbe and Lystra, where he encountered a disciple named Timothy, whose mother was Jewish and believed in Jesus, but had a Greek father.

1. The Power of Believing: How Timothy's Faith Changed His Life

2. Embracing Diversity: How Timothy's Unique Background Demonstrated God's Love

1. John 3:16 - "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."

2. Galatians 3:28 - "There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus."

Acts 16:2 Which was well reported of by the brethren that were at Lystra and Iconium.

Paul and Silas’s ministry was well received in Lystra and Iconium.

1. The Power of a Good Report - How a Good Testimony Can Lead to a Positive Outcome

2. Rejoice in a Good Report - Celebrating the Good News of Paul and Silas

1. Romans 12:15 - Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep.

2. Proverbs 18:21 - Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and those who love it will eat its fruit.

Acts 16:3 Him would Paul have to go forth with him; and took and circumcised him because of the Jews which were in those quarters: for they knew all that his father was a Greek.

Paul and Silas accepted Timothy, a Greek, and circumcised him to gain acceptance from the Jewish people in the area.

1: God cares for all people, regardless of their background or cultural differences.

2: We should accept those from other cultures and backgrounds in our own communities, just as Paul and Silas did.

1: Galatians 3:28 - There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus.

2: Romans 10:12 - For there is no difference between the Jew and the Greek: for the same Lord over all is rich unto all that call upon him.

Acts 16:4 And as they went through the cities, they delivered them the decrees for to keep, that were ordained of the apostles and elders which were at Jerusalem.

The apostles and elders at Jerusalem ordained decrees for the cities to keep.

1: Obey the Laws of the Lord

2: Abide by the Decrees of the Apostles

1: Romans 13:1-2 "Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God. Whosoever therefore resisteth the power, resisteth the ordinance of God."

2: 1 Peter 2:13-14 "Submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake: whether it be to the king, as supreme; Or unto governors, as unto them that are sent by him for the punishment of evildoers, and for the praise of them that do well."

Acts 16:5 And so were the churches established in the faith, and increased in number daily.

The churches in the faith were established and grew in number daily.

1. God's faithfulness is evident in the growth of the early churches.

2. The power of fellowship and community in the church.

1. Romans 1:16-17, “For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile. For in the gospel the righteousness of God is revealed—a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: “The righteous will live by faith.”

2. Galatians 6:10, “Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.”

Acts 16:6 Now when they had gone throughout Phrygia and the region of Galatia, and were forbidden of the Holy Ghost to preach the word in Asia,

Paul and his companions were forbidden to preach the word in Asia by the Holy Spirit.

1. The Power of the Holy Spirit in Our Lives

2. Obeying the Will of God

1. John 14:26 - “But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you.”

2. Isaiah 30:21 - “And your ears shall hear a word behind you, saying, ‘This is the way, walk in it,’ when you turn to the right or when you turn to the left.”

Acts 16:7 After they were come to Mysia, they assayed to go into Bithynia: but the Spirit suffered them not.

The Spirit did not allow Paul and Silas to go to Bithynia.

1: We should be willing to accept God's will, even if it takes us to unexpected places.

2: We should be obedient to God's prompting and trust Him to lead us in the right direction.

1: Proverbs 3:5-6 "Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths."

2: Isaiah 55:8-9 "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts."

Acts 16:8 And they passing by Mysia came down to Troas.

Paul and his companions passed through Mysia, coming to Troas.

1. The Power and Provisions of God's Plan: How Paul and His Companions Followed God's Leading

2. Overcoming Obstacles and Challenges: How Paul and His Companions Persevered in Their Journey

1. Philippians 4:13 - "I can do all things through him who strengthens me."

2. Isaiah 43:2 - "When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you."

Acts 16:9 And a vision appeared to Paul in the night; There stood a man of Macedonia, and prayed him, saying, Come over into Macedonia, and help us.

Paul received a vision in the night from a man of Macedonia asking for help.

1. Reaching Out to those in Need: The Call of Macedonia

2. Hearing the Voice of God: The Power of Visions

1. Isaiah 6:8 - “Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, “Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?” And I said, “Here am I. Send me!”

2. John 10:27 - “My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me.”

Acts 16:10 And after he had seen the vision, immediately we endeavoured to go into Macedonia, assuredly gathering that the Lord had called us for to preach the gospel unto them.

Paul and his companions were guided by a vision from the Lord to go to Macedonia to preach the Gospel.

1. The Lord's Call: Responding to God's Guidance in our Lives

2. The Power of Vision: Understanding the Revealed Will of God

1. Isaiah 6:8 - Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, “Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?”

2. John 6:44 - No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws them, and I will raise them up at the last day.

Acts 16:11 Therefore loosing from Troas, we came with a straight course to Samothracia, and the next day to Neapolis;

Paul and his company sailed from Troas to Samothracia and the next day to Neapolis.

1. The Power of Direction: Following God's Course in Life

2. Faithful Obedience: Staying the Course Despite Challenges

1. Proverbs 3:5-6 - Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.

2. Hebrews 11:8 - By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to a place that he was to receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going.

Acts 16:12 And from thence to Philippi, which is the chief city of that part of Macedonia, and a colony: and we were in that city abiding certain days.

The apostle Paul and his companions travelled from Troas to Philippi, the chief city of the region of Macedonia and a Roman colony.

1. The Power of Perseverance: Paul's Journey from Troas to Philippi

2. A Journey of Faith: Experiencing God's Guidance in Difficult Times

1. Romans 8:28 - And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.

2. Philippians 4:13 - I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.

Acts 16:13 And on the sabbath we went out of the city by a river side, where prayer was wont to be made; and we sat down, and spake unto the women which resorted thither.

On the Sabbath, Paul and his companions went to a river outside the city where people would pray and spoke to the women who had gathered there.

1. The Power of Prayer: How God Uses Prayer to Change Lives

2. The Power of Fellowship: How We Can Learn and Grow Together

1. Philippians 4:6-7 "Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."

2. Hebrews 10:23-25 "Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching."

Acts 16:14 And a certain woman named Lydia, a seller of purple, of the city of Thyatira, which worshipped God, heard us: whose heart the Lord opened, that she attended unto the things which were spoken of Paul.

Lydia was a God-fearing woman who listened to Paul and was moved by his words.

1: God's love and mercy can move and transform our hearts.

2: We must be ever ready to listen to God's word and open our hearts to Him.

1: Jeremiah 29:13 - "And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart."

2: Romans 10:17 - "So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God."

Acts 16:15 And when she was baptized, and her household, she besought us, saying, If ye have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come into my house, and abide there. And she constrained us.

A woman and her household were baptized and she asked the apostles to stay with her.

1. God rewards faith with hospitality

2. Being a faithful follower of Christ brings blessings

1. Luke 14:12-14: Then said he also to him that bade him, When thou makest a dinner or a supper, call not thy friends, nor thy brethren, neither thy kinsmen, nor thy rich neighbours; lest they also bid thee again, and a recompence be made thee. But when thou makest a feast, call the poor, the maimed, the lame, the blind: And thou shalt be blessed; for they cannot recompense thee: for thou shalt be recompensed at the resurrection of the just.

2. Romans 12:13: Distributing to the necessity of saints; given to hospitality.

Acts 16:16 And it came to pass, as we went to prayer, a certain damsel possessed with a spirit of divination met us, which brought her masters much gain by soothsaying:

A damsel possessed with a spirit of divination met Paul and his companions as they were on their way to prayer. The damsel's masters were receiving much gain from her soothsaying.

1. Beware of Divination and False Prophecy - Acts 16:16

2. The Cost of Disobedience - Acts 16:16

1. Jeremiah 14:14 - "And the Lord said to me: “The prophets are prophesying lies in my

name. I did not send them, nor did I command them or speak to them. They are prophesying to you a lying vision, worthless divination, and the deceit of their own minds."

2. Deuteronomy 18:10 - "There shall not be found among you anyone who burns his son or his daughter as an offering, anyone who practices divination or tells fortunes or interprets omens, or a sorcerer"

Acts 16:17 The same followed Paul and us, and cried, saying, These men are the servants of the most high God, which shew unto us the way of salvation.

Paul and his companions were heralds of the gospel, proclaiming the way of salvation to all who would listen.

1. The Power of Proclamation: Sharing the Good News of Salvation

2. God's Servants: Living a Life of Proclamation

1. Romans 10:14-17 - How shall they hear without a preacher?

2. 2 Corinthians 5:18-20 - God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting their trespasses against them.

Acts 16:18 And this did she many days. But Paul, being grieved, turned and said to the spirit, I command thee in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her. And he came out the same hour.

Paul casted out a spirit from a woman using the power of Jesus Christ.

1: We can do all things through Christ who strengthens us.

2: By faith, we can move mountains and cast out spirits.

1: Philippians 4:13 - “I can do all things through him who strengthens me.”

2: Matthew 17:20-21 - “He said to them, ‘Because of your little faith. For truly, I say to you, if you have faith like a grain of mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, ‘Move from here to there,’ and it will move, and nothing will be impossible for you.’”

Acts 16:19 And when her masters saw that the hope of their gains was gone, they caught Paul and Silas, and drew them into the marketplace unto the rulers,

Paul and Silas were unjustly seized by their masters when they saw their chance for profits was gone.

1: In times of trial, God will not let us be trampled on by those who seek to take advantage of us.

2: The Lord will always fight for us and protect us when we are unfairly treated.

1: Isaiah 54:17, "No weapon formed against you shall prosper, and every tongue which rises against you in judgment you shall condemn. This is the heritage of the servants of the Lord, and their righteousness is from Me," says the Lord.

2: Isaiah 41:10, "Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, yes, I will help you, I will uphold you with My righteous right hand."

Acts 16:20 And brought them to the magistrates, saying, These men, being Jews, do exceedingly trouble our city,

Paul and Silas were accused of disturbing the peace and taken before magistrates by locals in Philippi.

1. Don't let trouble come between you and God's will

2. The importance of persevering in faith despite opposition

1. Romans 8:28 – And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are called according to his purpose

2. Hebrews 11:1 – Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

Acts 16:21 And teach customs, which are not lawful for us to receive, neither to observe, being Romans.

Paul and Silas were arrested in Philippi for teaching customs that were not lawful for Roman citizens to observe.

1. Be mindful of the laws and customs of the land, even when it may not align with your beliefs.

2. Always stand firm in your faith and do not be swayed by external pressures.

1. Romans 13:1-7 - Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God.

2. James 4:7 - Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

Acts 16:22 And the multitude rose up together against them: and the magistrates rent off their clothes, and commanded to beat them.

The crowd rose up against Paul and Silas and the magistrates ordered them to be beaten.

1: God is with us even when we are persecuted.

2: We can find strength in Christ in the midst of suffering.

1: Isaiah 43:2 “When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you.”

2: Hebrews 12:2 “Looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.”

Acts 16:23 And when they had laid many stripes upon them, they cast them into prison, charging the jailor to keep them safely:

Paul and Silas were severely beaten and thrown in prison, with the jailer being instructed to keep them safely.

1. The Power of Perseverance: Paul and Silas’ Story

2. Understanding God's Plans in Suffering: Paul and Silas’ Experience

1. Hebrews 12:1-3 - “Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured from sinners such hostility against himself, so that you may not grow weary or fainthearted.”

2. Romans 8:28 - “And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.”

Acts 16:24 Who, having received such a charge, thrust them into the inner prison, and made their feet fast in the stocks.

The jailer throws Paul and Silas into inner prison and puts their feet in stocks.

1: Don't let your circumstances dictate your faith.

2: Be faithful in the face of adversity.

1: Romans 8:28 - And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.

2: Isaiah 40:31 - But they who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint.

Acts 16:25 And at midnight Paul and Silas prayed, and sang praises unto God: and the prisoners heard them.

At midnight, Paul and Silas prayed and sang praises to God, and even the prisoners heard them.

1. The Power of Praise - How praising God can bring joy and hope even in the darkest of times.

2. Making a Joyful Noise - The importance of singing praises to God no matter the circumstances.

1. Psalm 105:1-2 - "Oh give thanks to the Lord; call upon his name; make known his deeds among the peoples! Sing to him, sing praises to him; tell of all his wondrous works."

2. Romans 8:28 - "And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose."

Acts 16:26 And suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken: and immediately all the doors were opened, and every one's bands were loosed.

An earthquake occurred suddenly that shook the foundations of the prison, causing all the doors to open and every prisoner's shackles to be released.

1. A Mighty Deliverance – God's power demonstrated through an earthquake

2. Don't Lose Faith in Difficult Times – Even when all seems lost, God can intervene

1. Hebrews 11:1 – “Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.”

2. Isaiah 41:10 – “Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.”

Acts 16:27 And the keeper of the prison awaking out of his sleep, and seeing the prison doors open, he drew out his sword, and would have killed himself, supposing that the prisoners had been fled.

The jailor of the prison woke up to find the prison doors open and, believing the prisoners had escaped, drew his sword to kill himself.

1. The Power of Fear: Examining the jailor's response to the open prison doors.

2. Hope in the Midst of Despair: Finding courage when faced with uncertain circumstances.

1. John 16:33 - "I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world.”

2. Isaiah 41:10 - “Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.”

Acts 16:28 But Paul cried with a loud voice, saying, Do thyself no harm: for we are all here.

Paul shouts out in a loud voice, telling the jailer not to harm himself as all of them were present.

1: Don't be so quick to think the worst when danger arises, but instead trust in God and His protection.

2: We are never alone, even when it feels like it, for God is always there to protect us in our time of need.

1: Isaiah 41:10 - So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.

2: Psalm 23:4 - Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

Acts 16:29 Then he called for a light, and sprang in, and came trembling, and fell down before Paul and Silas,

The jailer was so terrified of Paul and Silas that he called for a light, jumped in, and fell down trembling before them.

1: We should always be mindful of the power of God and His ability to transform lives.

2: We should always strive to be more like Paul and Silas, who were examples of godly men.

1: Philippians 4:13 - “I can do all things through him who strengthens me.”

2: 1 Peter 5:6-7 - “Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you, casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you.”

Acts 16:30 And brought them out, and said, Sirs, what must I do to be saved?

The jailer at Philippi asked what he must do to be saved.

1: We must turn to Jesus Christ in faith and repentance in order to be saved.

2: We must accept and follow the gospel of Jesus Christ in order to be saved.

1: Romans 10:8-10 – “But what does it say? “The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart” (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved.”

2: John 3:16-17 – “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.”

Acts 16:31 And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house.

Paul and Silas encourage the jailer to believe in Jesus Christ in order to be saved.

1. The Power of Faith: How Believing in Jesus Christ Can Save You

2. The Impact of Salvation: How Accepting Jesus Christ as Your Savior Will Change Your Life

1. John 3:16 - "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."

2. Romans 10:9 - "That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved."

Acts 16:32 And they spake unto him the word of the Lord, and to all that were in his house.

Paul and Silas shared the word of the Lord with the jailer and all of his family.

1. The Power of the Word of God - How God's message can transform lives.

2. The Privilege of Sharing God's Word - The importance of spreading the Gospel.

1. Romans 10:14-15 - “How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, “How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!”

2. Matthew 28:18-20 - “And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

Acts 16:33 And he took them the same hour of the night, and washed their stripes; and was baptized, he and all his, straightway.

Paul and Silas were in prison in Philippi when a jailer came to them and asked to be saved. Paul and Silas responded by washing his wounds and baptizing him and all his household.

1. The Power of Salvation: How Paul and Silas Changed a Jailer's Life

2. The Power of Obedience: Following the Call to Love Our Neighbors

1. Romans 10:13, “For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.”

2. Galatians 6:1-2, “Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted. Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ.”

Acts 16:34 And when he had brought them into his house, he set meat before them, and rejoiced, believing in God with all his house.

Paul and Silas were welcomed into a man's home, where they were offered hospitality and the man rejoiced in his belief in God.

1. The Power of Hospitality and Joyous Belief in God

2. Finding Comfort and Strength in God's Presence

1. Romans 15:7 - Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.

2. Hebrews 13:2 - Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it.

Acts 16:35 And when it was day, the magistrates sent the serjeants, saying, Let those men go.

The magistrates allowed Paul and Silas to go free in the morning.

1. The Power of Forgiveness

2. Freedom Through Faith

1. Luke 6:37: "Judge not, and you shall not be judged. Condemn not, and you shall not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven."

2. Ephesians 2:8-9: "For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— not by works, so that no one can boast."

Acts 16:36 And the keeper of the prison told this saying to Paul, The magistrates have sent to let you go: now therefore depart, and go in peace.

The jailer told Paul that the magistrates had sent orders to release him, and Paul was allowed to depart in peace.

1. The Power of Forgiveness: How God's Mercy Can Lead to Redemption

2. Overcoming Adversity: Trusting in God During Difficult Times

1. Isaiah 40:31 - "But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint."

2. Psalm 34:17-19 - "The righteous cry, and the Lord heareth, and delivereth them out of all their troubles. The Lord is nigh unto them that are of a broken heart; and saveth such as be of a contrite spirit. Many are the afflictions of the righteous: but the Lord delivereth him out of them all."

Acts 16:37 But Paul said unto them, They have beaten us openly uncondemned, being Romans, and have cast us into prison; and now do they thrust us out privily? nay verily; but let them come themselves and fetch us out.

Paul and Silas were unjustly beaten and thrown in prison, yet they continued to trust and rely on God.

1. God is always with us, even in the midst of suffering.

2. Trust in the Lord no matter the circumstance.

1. Isaiah 43:2 - When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you.

2. Psalm 56:3 - When I am afraid, I put my trust in you.

Acts 16:38 And the serjeants told these words unto the magistrates: and they feared, when they heard that they were Romans.

The serjeants informed the magistrates that Paul and Silas were Roman citizens, causing the magistrates to be fearful.

1. Fear in the Face of Authority

2. Trust in God's Sovereignty and Protection

1. Romans 13:1-7

2. Isaiah 41:10-13

Acts 16:39 And they came and besought them, and brought them out, and desired them to depart out of the city.

Paul and Silas were released from prison after an earthquake and were asked to leave the city.

1. God is always in control and He works in mysterious ways.

2. Faithfulness has great rewards.

1. Hebrews 11:6 “But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.”

2. 2 Corinthians 12:9 “And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.”

Acts 16:40 And they went out of the prison, and entered into the house of Lydia: and when they had seen the brethren, they comforted them, and departed.

Paul and Silas were released from prison and went to Lydia's house, where they reassured the brothers before leaving.

1. God will provide a way of escape from our trials.

2. The power of encouragement and comfort.

1. Romans 8:28 - And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.

2. 1 Thessalonians 5:11 - Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.

Acts 17 recounts Paul's missionary journey through Thessalonica, Berea, and Athens, his preaching to Jews and Greeks, and his sermon at the Areopagus.

1st Paragraph: The chapter begins with Paul and Silas arriving in Thessalonica. There was a Jewish synagogue where Paul went as was his custom argued from Scriptures explaining proving Christ had suffer rise dead proclaiming 'This Jesus I am proclaiming you is Christ.' Some Jews persuaded large number God-fearing Greeks prominent women (Acts 17:1-4). But other Jews became jealous rounded up some wicked men marketplaces formed mob started riot city rushed Jason's house search Paul Silas bring them out crowd but when didn't find them dragged Jason some brothers before city officials shouting 'These men have caused trouble all over world have now come here Jason has welcomed them into his house all are defying Caesar’s decrees saying there another king one called Jesus' (Acts 17:5-7). After receiving bond from Jason others let them go.

2nd Paragraph: As soon as it was night, the brothers sent Paul and Silas away to Berea. On arriving there they went Jewish synagogue Now Berean Jews were more noble than those Thessalonica for they received message great eagerness examined Scriptures every day see if what Paul said was true many believed including number prominent Greek women many men (Acts 17:10-12). But when Jews Thessalonica learned word God proclaimed by Paul Berea they came there too agitating stirring up crowds then immediately brothers sent Paul coast left Silas Timothy behind while those escorting got him Athens then returned instructions Silas Timothy join him as soon as possible (Acts 17:13-15).

3rd Paragraph: While waiting for them in Athens, he was greatly distressed to see that the city was full of idols. So reasoned synagogue with both Jews God-fearing Greeks well marketplace day by day with those happened be there group Epicurean Stoic philosophers began debate with him some said 'What is this babbler trying say?' Others remarked 'He seems be advocating foreign gods.' They said because preached good news about Jesus resurrection took brought him meeting Areopagus where asked 'May we know this new teaching you presenting? You are bringing strange ideas our ears we would like know what these things mean' (Acts 17:16-20). Then he stood up at meeting of Areopagus gave speech explaining concept unknown god whom Athenians worshiped declaring that creator universe does not live temples made human hands gives life breath everything else since we are offspring should not think divine being like gold silver stone image made man's design skill times ignorance overlooked but now commands people everywhere repent has set day will judge world righteousness by man he appointed given proof this everyone raising him dead hearing resurrection dead some sneered others said want hear you again this subject After that left Council few men joined believed among Dionysius Areopagite woman named Damaris others with them (Acts 17:22-34).

Acts 17:1 Now when they had passed through Amphipolis and Apollonia, they came to

Thessalonica, where was a synagogue of the Jews:

Paul and Silas traveled through Amphipolis and Apollonia before arriving in Thessalonica, where they found a synagogue of the Jews.

1. The Power of Faith: Paul and Silas's Journey of Faith

2. The Importance of Synagogues: Connecting with the Jewish Community

1. Romans 8:28 - And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.

2. Hebrews 11:1 - Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.

Acts 17:2 And Paul, as his manner was, went in unto them, and three sabbath days reasoned with them out of the scriptures,

Paul spoke to people in a synagogue about the Scriptures for three days.

1. How to Study and Understand the Bible

2. The Power of Persuasion Through Scripture

1. 2 Timothy 3:16 - All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness.

2. Proverbs 18:13 - He that answereth a matter before he heareth it, it is folly and shame unto him.

Acts 17:3 Opening and alleging, that Christ must needs have suffered, and risen again from the dead; and that this Jesus, whom I preach unto you, is Christ.

Paul preached to the people of Berea that Jesus Christ must have suffered and risen from the dead, and that he is the Christ.

1: Jesus Christ Suffered and Rose Again, He Is the Christ

2: Believe in Jesus Christ, He Is Our Savior

1: Romans 10:9 - That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.

2: 1 Peter 3:18 - For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit.

Acts 17:4 And some of them believed, and consorted with Paul and Silas; and of the devout Greeks a great multitude, and of the chief women not a few.

Paul and Silas shared the gospel with people in Berea and many believed, including a great multitude of devout Greeks and some of the leading women.

1. Giving God All the Glory: How Paul and Silas Shared the Gospel with Boldness and Humility

2. The Power of Testimony: How the Bereans Responded to the Gospel with Faith and Devotion

1. 1 Corinthians 1:27-29 - God has chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God has chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty.

2. Romans 10:17 - So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

Acts 17:5 But the Jews which believed not, moved with envy, took unto them certain lewd fellows of the baser sort, and gathered a company, and set all the city on an uproar, and assaulted the house of Jason, and sought to bring them out to the people.

The Jews who did not believe stirred up trouble by enlisting people of low character to create a commotion and attack the house of Jason in order to make them an example to the people.

1. The Danger of Unbelief: How Unbelief Causes Turmoil and Division

2. The Power of Faith: How Faith Brings Peace and Unity

1. James 3:16 - For where envying and strife is, there is confusion and every evil work.

2. Philippians 4:7 - And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

Acts 17:6 And when they found them not, they drew Jason and certain brethren unto the rulers of the city, crying, These that have turned the world upside down are come hither also;

The rulers of the city attempted to find Paul and Silas, but after they could not find them, they arrested Jason and some of his companions instead.

1. We Can Experience Upside Down Living through Following Jesus

2. The Consequences We May Face for Following Jesus

1. Romans 12:2 - Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.

2. Matthew 5:10-12 - Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Acts 17:7 Whom Jason hath received: and these all do contrary to the decrees of Caesar, saying that there is another king, one Jesus.

The people of Thessalonica were refusing to obey the decrees of Caesar, claiming that Jesus was their true king.

1. Living For Jesus Above All Else

2. Following the Law of God Despite Worldly Authority

1. Matthew 6:33 - But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.

2. Romans 13:1 - Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God.

Acts 17:8 And they troubled the people and the rulers of the city, when they heard these things.

The people and rulers of the city were disturbed when they heard the news that Paul and Silas brought.

1. Don't be afraid of hearing the Gospel - Acts 17:8

2. Fear not the people who oppose the Gospel - Acts 17:8

1. John 16:33 - "In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world."

2. 2 Timothy 1:7 - "For God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control."

Acts 17:9 And when they had taken security of Jason, and of the other, they let them go.

The authorities took security from Jason and another person before letting them go.

1. God will always provide a way of escape during difficult times.

2. The power of faith in tough situations.

1. 1 Corinthians 10:13, "No temptation has overtaken you except what is common to mankind. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can endure it."

2. Matthew 17:20, "He said to them, “Because of your little faith. For truly, I say to you, if you have faith like a grain of mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, ‘Move from here to there,’ and it will move, and nothing will be impossible for you.”

Acts 17:10 And the brethren immediately sent away Paul and Silas by night unto Berea: who coming thither went into the synagogue of the Jews.

Paul and Silas were sent away by the brethren to Berea at night, where they went into the synagogue of the Jews.

1. God will provide for us even in the darkest of nights.

2. The Lord will lead us to our purpose even when we least expect it.

1. Isaiah 55:7-8 "Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the Lord, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the Lord."

2. Isaiah 40:29-31 "He giveth power to the faint; and to them that have no might he increaseth strength. Even the youths shall faint and be weary, and the young men shall utterly fall: But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint."

Acts 17:11 These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so.

The people in Berea were open-minded and eager to learn, diligently studying the scriptures to see if what they were being taught was true.

1. Have an Open Mind: Be willing to listen to new ideas and be receptive to growth and change.

2. Seek the Truth: Use the Scriptures as your guide to discovering the truth.

1. Colossians 3:10 and be renewed in the spirit of your mind;

2. Proverbs 2:3-5 Yes, if you cry out for insight, and lift up your voice for understanding, if you seek her as silver, and search for her as for hidden treasures; then you will understand the fear of the Lord, and find the knowledge of God.

Acts 17:12 Therefore many of them believed; also of honourable women which were Greeks, and of men, not a few.

Many Greeks were convinced of the message of Christianity and converted, including people of high social standing.

1. The Power of Conversion: How the Message of the Gospel Transforms Lives

2. The Inclusivity of the Gospel: How God Works Through All People

1. Acts 2:38-39 - Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call.

2. Romans 5:8-9 - But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him.

Acts 17:13 But when the Jews of Thessalonica had knowledge that the word of God was preached of Paul at Berea, they came thither also, and stirred up the people.

The Jews of Thessalonica heard that Paul was preaching the Word of God in Berea and went there to stir up the people.

1. The Power of God's Word: The Jews' Response to Paul's Preaching

2. The Dangers of Stirring Up Trouble: The Jews' Reaction to Paul's Preaching

1. Romans 10:17 – “So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.”

2. James 3:16 – “For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there will be disorder and every vile practice.”

Acts 17:14 And then immediately the brethren sent away Paul to go as it were to the sea: but Silas and Timotheus abode there still.

The brethren sent Paul away while Silas and Timotheus stayed behind.

1. The Power of Obedience: How God has called us to obey His will

2. The Strength of Fellowship: How Teamwork can help us to reach our goals

1. Isaiah 55:11 - "So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it."

2. John 14:15 - "If ye love me, keep my commandments."

Acts 17:15 And they that conducted Paul brought him unto Athens: and receiving a commandment unto Silas and Timotheus for to come to him with all speed, they departed.

The people who were escorting Paul brought him to Athens. They were instructed to quickly bring Silas and Timothy to Paul.

1. God's plan for us often requires us to adjust and adapt to new and unexpected circumstances.

2. Never underestimate the importance of being ready to act on God's command.

1. John 14:15, "If you love me, you will keep my commandments."

2. Romans 12:2, "Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect."

Acts 17:16 Now while Paul waited for them at Athens, his spirit was stirred in him, when he saw the city wholly given to idolatry.

Paul was deeply disturbed by the idolatry he saw in Athens.

1: Sin will lead to destruction, but God offers salvation.

2: Idolatry is an affront to the one true God.

1: Jeremiah 17:9 "The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?"

2: 1 Corinthians 10:14 "Wherefore, my dearly beloved, flee from idolatry."

Acts 17:17 Therefore disputed he in the synagogue with the Jews, and with the devout persons, and in the market daily with them that met with him.

Paul preached in the synagogue and in the marketplace to share the gospel.

1. The Power of Evangelism: Preaching the Gospel Wherever You Go

2. Living Out Your Faith: Making Disciples of All Nations

1. Romans 10:14-15 - How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching?

2. Matthew 28:19-20 - Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you.

Acts 17:18 Then certain philosophers of the Epicureans, and of the Stoicks, encountered him. And some said, What will this babbler say? other some, He seemeth to be a setter forth of strange gods: because he preached unto them Jesus, and the resurrection.

Some Epicureans and Stoics encountered Paul and debated with him, wondering what he was talking about. Some accused him of setting forth strange gods because he was preaching about Jesus and the resurrection.

1. The importance of standing firm in faith despite opposition

2. Finding strength in Jesus during moments of doubt

1. Acts 17:18

2. Hebrews 11:1-3, "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. For by it the elders obtained a good report. Through faith we understand

that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear."

Acts 17:19 And they took him, and brought him unto Areopagus, saying, May we know what this new doctrine, whereof thou speakest, is?

The people of Athens brought Paul to the Areopagus and asked him to explain his new teaching.

1. How to Respond to New Teachings

2. The Power of a New Perspective

1. Philippians 4:8-9 - "Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things."

2. Hebrews 13:8 - "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever."

Acts 17:20 For thou bringest certain strange things to our ears: we would know therefore what these things mean.

The people of Berea in Acts 17:20 were amazed by the words of Paul and wanted to know more about what he was saying.

1. God's Word is Alive - How an Ancient Text Can Change Lives

2. The Power of Faith - How Belief Can Change Our Lives

1. Romans 10:17 - So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.

2. Hebrews 11:1 - Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.

Acts 17:21 (For all the Athenians and strangers which were there spent their time in nothing else, but either to tell, or to hear some new thing.)

The people of Athens were always interested in hearing new things.

1: We should always be open to new things and continually learn from our environment.

2: Don't be content with what you know, but always strive to be learning and growing.

1: Proverbs 9:9 - "Give instruction to a wise man, and he will be yet wiser: teach a just man, and he will increase in learning."

2: 2 Timothy 3:16-17 - "All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works."

Acts 17:22 Then Paul stood in the midst of Mars' hill, and said, Ye men of Athens, I perceive that in all things ye are too superstitious.

Paul addressed the people of Athens in the marketplace and criticized them for being overly superstitious.

1. Learning to Discern Between True and False Religion

2. The Danger of Blindly Following Superstition

1. 1 Thessalonians 5:21-22 - Test all things; hold fast what is good.

2. Isaiah 8:20 - To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them.

Acts 17:23 For as I passed by, and beheld your devotions, I found an altar with this inscription, TO THE UNKNOWN GOD. Whom therefore ye ignorantly worship, him declare I unto you.

Paul noticed an altar dedicated to an unknown God and used it as an opportunity to share the gospel with the people.

1. The Power of the Unknown God

2. Recognizing and Responding to God's Presence in Our Lives

1. Romans 1:19-20 - For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. Ever since the creation of the world his invisible nature, namely, his eternal power and deity, have been clearly perceived in the things that have been made.

2. Hebrews 11:6 - And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him.

Acts 17:24 God that made the world and all things therein, seeing that he is Lord of heaven and earth, dwelleth not in temples made with hands;

God does not live in man-made temples; He is the Lord of Heaven and Earth.

1. God is Sovereign Over All Creation

2. Living in the Presence of Almighty God

1. Isaiah 66:1 “Thus says the LORD: “Heaven is My throne, And earth is My footstool. Where is the house that you will build Me? And where is the place of My rest?”

2. Psalm 139:7-10 “Where can I go from Your Spirit? Or where can I flee from Your presence? If I ascend into heaven, You are there; If I make my bed in hell, behold, You are there. If I take the wings of the morning, And dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea, Even there Your hand shall lead me, And Your right hand shall hold me.”

Acts 17:25 Neither is worshipped with men's hands, as though he needed any thing, seeing he giveth to all life, and breath, and all things;

The passage emphasizes that God does not need anything from us, as he provides us with life, breath, and all things.

1. "God's Abundant Provision"

2. "The Ultimate Source of Our Lives"

1. James 1:17, "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning."

2. John 4:24, "God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth."

Acts 17:26 And hath made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth, and hath determined the times before appointed, and the bounds of their habitation;

God created all humanity from one blood, and the boundaries of where they were to live was determined by Him.

1. God's Sovereignty: Our Place on Earth

2. Unity Through Diversity: The Power of One Blood

1. Genesis 1:27 - So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.

2. Colossians 3:11 - Here there is no Gentile or Jew, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave or free, but Christ is all, and is in all.

Acts 17:27 That they should seek the Lord, if haply they might feel after him, and find him, though he be not far from every one of us:

God is near to all of us; we should seek Him.

1: God is closer than we think - Acts 17:27

2: Don't forget to seek the Lord - Acts 17:27

1. Jeremiah 29:13 - You will seek me and find me, when you seek me with all your heart.

2. Psalm 145:18 - The Lord is near to all who call upon him, to all who call upon him in truth.

Acts 17:28 For in him we live, and move, and have our being; as certain also of your own poets have said, For we are also his offspring.

God is the source of life and all living things.

1: Our lives are gifts from God that should be used to glorify him.

2: We are all part of God's family and must live in harmony with one another.

1: Colossians 3:17 - And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

2: James 2:14-17 - What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him? If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food, and one of you says to them, “Go in peace, be warmed and filled,” without giving them the things needed for the body, what good is that? So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.

Acts 17:29 Forasmuch then as we are the offspring of God, we ought not to think that the Godhead is like unto gold, or silver, or stone, graven by art and man's device.

We, as the children of God, should not think of God as something that can be created and manipulated by humans.

1. We are Created in the Image of God

2. The Idolatry of Man

1. Genesis 1:27 - So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.

2. Isaiah 40:18-20 - To whom then will ye liken God? or what likeness will ye compare unto him? The workman melteth a graven image, and the goldsmith spreadeth it over with gold, and casteth silver chains. He that is so impoverished that he hath no oblation chooseth a tree that will not rot; he seeketh unto him a cunning workman to prepare a graven image, that shall not be moved.

Acts 17:30 And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent:

God has commanded all people to repent, despite the times of ignorance He had previously overlooked.

1. The Mercy and Grace of God in Repentance

2. The Importance of Repentance in Our Lives

1. John 3:16-17 "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him."

2. 2 Peter 3:9 "The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance."

Acts 17:31 Because he hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom he hath ordained; whereof he hath given assurance unto all men, in that he hath raised him from the dead.

God has appointed a day to judge the world in righteousness through Jesus, who was raised from the dead.

1: We must prepare for the day of judgement which will come and be sure that we are ready to face the Lord.

2: By believing in Jesus and accepting Him as our Lord and Savior, we can have assurance in the judgement day that we will stand righteous before the Lord.

1: Romans 14:10-12 - For we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ.

2: Matthew 24:36-44 - Keep watch, because you do not know on what day your Lord will come.

Acts 17:32 And when they heard of the resurrection of the dead, some mocked: and others said, We will hear thee again of this matter.

Some people mocked when they heard Paul preaching about the resurrection of the dead, while others said they would hear him again on the subject.

1. The Power of Resurrection: Exploring the Hope of Eternal Life

2. The Hope of the Resurrection: Understanding the Promise of Eternal Life

1. Romans 6:4-5 - Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.

2. 1 Corinthians 15:20-22 - But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept. For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.

Acts 17:33 So Paul departed from among them.

Paul left the people and continued on his journey.

1: God calls us to live lives of faith and courage, like Paul, and to not be afraid to leave our comfort zones to follow Him.

2: We can learn from Paul's example to always be open to God's will for us, even when it means leaving the familiar.

1: Isaiah 43:2 - When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you.

2: Hebrews 13:5-6 - Keep your life free from love of money, and be content with what you have, for he has said, “I will never leave you nor forsake you.” So we can confidently say, “The Lord is my helper; I will not fear; what can man do to me?”

Acts 17:34 Howbeit certain men clave unto him, and believed: among the which was Dionysius the Areopagite, and a woman named Damaris, and others with them.

Certain people clung to Paul and believed in his message, specifically Dionysius the Areopagite, Damaris, and some others.

1. Clinging to the Lord: Our Responsibilities as Believers

2. A Faithful Few: Overcoming Fear and Doubt to Follow Jesus

1. Joshua 1:9 - “Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.”

2. Matthew 10:31-33 - “Fear not, therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows. So everyone who acknowledges me before men, I also will acknowledge before my Father who is in heaven; but whoever denies me before men, I also will deny before my Father who is in heaven.”

Acts 18 recounts Paul's missionary work in Corinth and Ephesus, his encounter with Aquila and Priscilla, and the story of Apollos.

1st Paragraph: The chapter begins with Paul leaving Athens and going to Corinth where he met a Jewish couple named Aquila and Priscilla who had recently come from Italy because Claudius had ordered all Jews to leave Rome. Paul went see them because he was tentmaker as they were stayed worked with them every Sabbath reasoned synagogue trying persuade Jews Greeks (Acts 18:1-4). When Silas Timothy came Macedonia Paul devoted himself exclusively preaching testifying Jews Jesus was Christ when opposed insulted him shook out his clothes protest said 'Your blood be on your own heads! I am clear my responsibility From now on I will go Gentiles' (Acts 18:5-6).

2nd Paragraph: Then he left there went house man named Titius Justus worshiper God whose house next synagogue Crispus synagogue leader his entire household believed Lord many Corinthians who heard him believed were baptized one night Lord spoke Paul vision 'Do not afraid keep speaking do not silent I am with you no one going attack harm you because I have many people this city.' So stayed year half teaching them word God (Acts 18:7-11). But when Gallio was proconsul Achaia Jews made united attack Paul brought him before tribunal accusing him persuading people worship God ways contrary law but just about make defense Gallio said Jews 'If it were matter wrongdoing serious crime would have reason accept complaint but since it involves questions about words names your own law settle matter yourselves. I will not be judge such things' so drove them away tribunal then crowd turned Sosthenes synagogue leader beat him front tribunal Gallio showed no concern whatever (Acts 18:12-17).

3rd Paragraph: After spending considerable time there, Paul decided to return to Syria, accompanied by Priscilla and Aquila. Before sailing from Cenchreae he cut his hair fulfilling vow made then arrived Ephesus where left Priscilla Aquila went into synagogue reasoned with Jews they asked him spend more time them declined promised 'I will come back if it is God’s will.' Then set sail from Ephesus landed Caesarea greeted church then went Antioch after spending some time there set out traveled place place throughout region Galatia Phrygia strengthening all disciples meanwhile Jew named Apollos native Alexandria came Ephesus eloquent man competent Scriptures been instructed way Lord fervent spirit spoke taught accurately things concerning Jesus though knew only baptism John began speak boldly synagogue when Priscilla Aquila heard him took aside explained

way God more adequately when wanted cross Achaia brothers encouraged wrote disciples welcome him arrival greatly helped those through grace had believed powerfully refuted Jews public showing Scriptures that Jesus was Christ (Acts 18:18-28).

Acts 18:1 After these things Paul departed from Athens, and came to Corinth;

Paul left Athens and arrived in Corinth.

1. God's Plan is Unfailing - No matter what obstacles and difficulties we face, God's plan will always be fulfilled.

2. Trusting in God's Guidance - Even when we don't understand why God takes us in a certain direction, we can trust that He knows what's best for us.

1. Isaiah 55:11 - So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it.

2. Jeremiah 29:11 - For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope.

Acts 18:2 And found a certain Jew named Aquila, born in Pontus, lately come from Italy, with his wife Priscilla; (because that Claudius had commanded all Jews to depart from Rome:) and came unto them.

Aquila and Priscilla were Jews from Pontus who had recently arrived in the area after being commanded by Claudius to leave Rome.

1. The Faithfulness of Aquila and Priscilla in Following God's Commands

2. The Importance of Respecting Authority and Following God's Law

1. Romans 13:1-2 - Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God.

2. Proverbs 3:5-6 - Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.

Acts 18:3 And because he was of the same craft, he abode with them, and wrought: for by their occupation they were tentmakers.

Paul and Aquila were tentmakers and shared the same trade, so they lived and worked together.

1. The Power of Mutual Fellowship in Our Lives

2. The Importance of Living and Working Together

1. Ecclesiastes 4:9-10 - Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their labor. For if they fall, the one will lift up his companion. But woe to him who is alone when he falls, for he has no one to help him up.

2. Galatians 6:2 - Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.

Acts 18:4 And he reasoned in the synagogue every sabbath, and persuaded the Jews and the Greeks.

Paul preached the gospel in the synagogue every Sabbath.

1. The Power of Preaching the Gospel

2. The Importance of Persuasion in Evangelism

1. Romans 10:14-15 "How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, “How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!”

2. 1 Corinthians 9:19-22 For though I am free from all, I have made myself a servant to all, that I might win more of them. To the Jews I became as a Jew, in order to win Jews. To those under the law I became as one under the law (though not being myself under the law) that I might win those under the law. To those outside the law I became as one outside the law (not being outside the law of God but under the law of Christ) that I might win those outside the law. To the weak I became weak, that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all people, that by all means I might save some.

Acts 18:5 And when Silas and Timotheus were come from Macedonia, Paul was pressed in the spirit, and testified to the Jews that Jesus was Christ.

Paul testified to the Jews that Jesus was the Christ.

1. The importance of testifying to the truth of Jesus as the Christ.

2. The courage of Paul to testify of Jesus despite opposition.

1. Matthew 28:16-20 - Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

2. Acts 1:8 - But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.

Acts 18:6 And when they opposed themselves, and blasphemed, he shook his raiment, and said unto them, Your blood be upon your own heads; I am clean: from henceforth I will go unto the Gentiles.

Paul refused to continue preaching to the Jews when they opposed and blasphemed, declaring instead to go to preach to the Gentiles.

1. God will never abandon us, even when we feel the most alone.

2. Never give up on fulfilling our God-given mission.

1. Romans 8:31-39 – “What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?”

2. Hebrews 12:1-3 – “Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us.”

Acts 18:7 And he departed thence, and entered into a certain man's house, named Justus, one that worshipped God, whose house joined hard to the synagogue.

Paul visits Justus' house, a man who worships God and whose house is close to the

synagogue.

1. The importance of keeping close to the Church and those who worship God.

2. The power of Christian fellowship and how it can draw us closer to God.

1. Hebrews 10:25 - Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.

2. 1 John 2:6 - He that saith he abideth in him ought himself also so to walk, even as he walked.

Acts 18:8 And Crispus, the chief ruler of the synagogue, believed on the Lord with all his house; and many of the Corinthians hearing believed, and were baptized.

The chief ruler of the synagogue, Crispus, and many of the Corinthians believed in the Lord and were baptized.

1. Believe in the Lord and be Baptized

2. Receive the Salvation of the Lord

1. Romans 10:9 - That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.

2. John 3:5 - Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.

Acts 18:9 Then spake the Lord to Paul in the night by a vision, Be not afraid, but speak, and hold not thy peace:

Paul was encouraged by God to speak boldly and confidently.

1. God's Call to Boldness

2. Have Courage and Speak Up

1. Isaiah 41:10 - “Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.”

2. Ephesians 6:19-20 - “And also for me, that words may be given to me in opening my mouth boldly to proclaim the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains, that I may declare it boldly, as I ought to speak.”

Acts 18:10 For I am with thee, and no man shall set on thee to hurt thee: for I have much people in this city.

Paul was encouraged by God to stay in Corinth and preach, as He had many people there.

1. God is Always with Us - Isaiah 41:10

2. God's Faithfulness - Lamentations 3:22-23

1. Romans 8:31 - What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us?

2. Psalm 37:25 - I have been young, and now am old; yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed begging bread.

Acts 18:11 And he continued there a year and six months, teaching the word of God among them.

Paul stayed in Corinth for 18 months, teaching the word of God to the people there.

1. The Importance of Teaching God's Word

2. The Power of Prolonged Discipleship

1. Deuteronomy 11:18-19 - "You shall therefore lay up these words of mine in your heart and in your soul, and you shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. 19 You shall teach them to your children, talking of them when you are sitting in your house, and when you are walking by the way, and when you

lie down, and when you rise."

2. Matthew 28:19-20 - "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

Acts 18:12 And when Gallio was the deputy of Achaia, the Jews made insurrection with one accord against Paul, and brought him to the judgment seat,

Paul was brought to the judgment seat by the Jews who had made an insurrection against him.

1. God's Sovereignty in Difficult Situations

2. Standing Firm in the Face of Opposition

1. Isaiah 40:31 - "But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint."

2. James 1:2-4 - "My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing."

Acts 18:13 Saying, This fellow persuadeth men to worship God contrary to the law.

Paul was accused of persuading people to worship God contrary to the law.

1. Paul's Courage in the Face of Opposition

2. The Power of Persuasion

1. Acts 17:22-31 - Paul's address on the Areopagus

2. Romans 1:16 - The power of the gospel to save those who believe

Acts 18:14 And when Paul was now about to open his mouth, Gallio said unto the Jews, If it were a matter of wrong or wicked lewdness, O ye Jews, reason would that I should bear with you:

Paul is acquitted by the Roman governor, Gallio, when accused of teaching against the Jews by them.

1. Paul's Example of Living and Defending the Gospel

2. How to Respond to Accusations and Persecution

1. 1 Peter 3:15 - "But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect,"

2. Matthew 5:10-12 - "Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you."

Acts 18:15 But if it be a question of words and names, and of your law, look ye to it; for I will be no judge of such matters.

Paul advises to seek God's law for questions of words and names.

1. The Importance of Seeking God's Law in Our Lives

2. Understanding the Difference between Human Law and God's Law

1. Matthew 22:36-40 - ""“Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?” And he said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets.”

2. Philippians 4:6-7 - "Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."

Acts 18:16 And he drave them from the judgment seat.

Paul's unwavering courage and faith inspired the people of Corinth to reject the false teachers who had sought to discredit him.

1: Paul's courage and faith in God shows us that we must always stand firm in our beliefs and reject false teachings.

2: Paul's example of courage and faith in God is a reminder that we should always seek God's truth and reject lies.

1: Ephesians 6:10-20 - Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil.

2: James 1:5-6 - If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him.

Acts 18:17 Then all the Greeks took Sosthenes, the chief ruler of the synagogue, and beat him before the judgment seat. And Gallio cared for none of those things.

The Greeks beat Sosthenes, the chief ruler of the synagogue, before the judgment seat and Gallio did not intervene.

1. The Need for Compassion in Leadership

2. The Power of Making Choices

1. Matthew 25:35-40 – For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me.

2. Proverbs 20:28 - Mercy and truth preserve the king, and by lovingkindness he upholds his throne.

Acts 18:18 And Paul after this tarried there yet a good while, and then took his leave of the brethren, and sailed thence into Syria, and with him Priscilla and Aquila; having shorn his head in Cenchrea: for he had a vow.

Paul stayed a good while in Cenchrea before taking his leave and setting sail with Priscilla and Aquila. He also fulfilled a vow by shaving his head.

1. The importance of keeping your vows.

2. The importance of taking time to say goodbye.

1. Ecclesiastes 5:4-5 (When you make a vow to God, do not delay in fulfilling it. He has no pleasure in fools; fulfill your vow.)

2. Romans 12:1 (Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship.)

Acts 18:19 And he came to Ephesus, and left them there: but he himself entered into the synagogue, and reasoned with the Jews.

Paul visited Ephesus and entered the synagogue to reason with the Jews.

1. The Power of Reasoning: How We Can Use Dialogue to Reach People

2. Paul's Example of Evangelism: A Model to Follow

1. Colossians 4:5-6 "Walk in wisdom toward them that are without, redeeming the time. Let your speech be always with grace, seasoned with salt, that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man."

2. Romans 10:14-15 "How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!"

Acts 18:20 When they desired him to tarry longer time with them, he consented not;

Paul refused to stay longer with the people of Corinth even though they asked him to do so.

1. God's plans for us will not always align with what is comfortable or convenient for us.

2. We must be willing to follow God's will, even when it is difficult or unpopular.

1. James 4:15 - "Instead you ought to say, “If the Lord wills, we will live and do this or that.”

2. Isaiah 55:8-9 - “For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways,” declares the Lord. “As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.”

Acts 18:21 But bade them farewell, saying, I must by all means keep this feast that cometh in Jerusalem: but I will return again unto you, if God will. And he sailed from Ephesus.

Paul returned to Jerusalem for a feast, with the promise to return to Ephesus if God willed it.

1. God's Will is Always the Best Plan - Acts 18:21

2. Put Your Faith in God's Plan - Acts 18:21

1. Isaiah 55:9 - "For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts."

2. Philippians 4:6 - "Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God."

Acts 18:22 And when he had landed at Caesarea, and gone up, and saluted the church, he went down to Antioch.

Paul visits the church of Caesarea and then travels to Antioch.

1. The journey of faith: Learning from Paul's example

2. The importance of Christian fellowship and community

1. Hebrews 10:24-25 - And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

2. Acts 2:42-47 - And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. And all who believed were together and had all things in common. And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.

Acts 18:23 And after he had spent some time there, he departed, and went over all the country of Galatia and Phrygia in order, strengthening all the disciples.

Paul spent time in the regions of Galatia and Phrygia, encouraging the followers of Christianity.

1. The Power of Encouragement: How Paul Strengthened the Disciples

2. The Resilience of Faith: Paul's Journey in Galatia and Phrygia

1. Romans 15:5 - May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus.

2. 1 Thessalonians 5:11 - Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing.

Acts 18:24 And a certain Jew named Apollos, born at Alexandria, an eloquent man, and mighty in the scriptures, came to Ephesus.

Apollos, a Jew born in Alexandria, came to Ephesus and was known for his eloquence and knowledge of the scriptures.

1. The Power of Eloquence: A Study of Apollos in Acts 18:24

2. The Value of Scripture: A Study of Apollos in Acts 18:24

1. Acts 18:24

2. Psalm 119:105 - "Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path"

Acts 18:25 This man was instructed in the way of the Lord; and being fervent in the spirit, he spake and taught diligently the things of the Lord, knowing only the baptism of John.

This passage discusses Apollos, a man instructed in the Lord's ways and passionate about teaching about the Lord, who only knew of the baptism of John.

1. The Power of Passion in Proclaiming the Gospel

2. Knowing and Understanding the Baptism of John

1. Acts 2:38 - "Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost."

2. John 3:7-8 "Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again. The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: so is every one that is born of the Spirit."

Acts 18:26 And he began to speak boldly in the synagogue: whom when Aquila and Priscilla had heard, they took him unto them, and expounded unto him the way of God more perfectly.

Paul met Aquila and Priscilla and was taught more about the way of God.

1. The importance of learning more about God.

2. Receiving guidance and instruction from spiritual mentors.

1. Proverbs 3:5-6 - "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight."

2. 1 Thessalonians 5:12 - "Now we ask you, brothers and sisters, to acknowledge those who work hard among you, who care for you in the Lord and who admonish you."

Acts 18:27 And when he was disposed to pass into Achaia, the brethren wrote, exhorting the disciples to receive him: who, when he was come, helped them much which had believed through grace:

Paul helped the disciples in Achaia to believe in grace.

1. We are Saved by Grace Alone

2. The Power of Giving and Receiving Support

1. Ephesians 2:8-9 - For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast.

2. Galatians 6:2 - Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ.

Acts 18:28 For he mightily convinced the Jews, and that publickly, shewing by the scriptures that Jesus was Christ.

Paul powerfully demonstrated to the Jews that Jesus is the Messiah using scripture.

1. The Power of Scripture: How We Can Use God's Word to Witness to Others

2. Proclaiming the Gospel: How to Share the Good News of Jesus with Confidence

1. Romans 1:16 - For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes.

2. Isaiah 61:1-2 - The Spirit of the Sovereign LORD is on me, because the LORD has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners.

Acts 19 recounts Paul's time in Ephesus, the extraordinary miracles he performed, and the riot caused by Demetrius and other silversmiths.

1st Paragraph: The chapter begins with Paul arriving in Ephesus where he found some

disciples who had only received John's baptism. When Paul asked them if they had received Holy Spirit when they believed they replied hadn't even heard there was Holy Spirit. So Paul explained to them that John’s baptism was a baptism of repentance and after hearing this, they were baptized into the name of Jesus Christ. When Paul laid his hands on them Holy Spirit came on them spoke tongues prophesied altogether about twelve men (Acts 19:1-7). He entered synagogue spoke boldly there three months arguing persuasively about kingdom God but some became obstinate refused believe publicly maligned Way so left them took disciples him held daily discussions lecture hall Tyrannus continued for two years so all Jews Greeks lived province Asia heard word Lord (Acts 19:8-10).

2nd Paragraph: God did extraordinary miracles through Paul, so that even handkerchiefs or aprons that had touched him were taken to sick their illnesses were cured evil spirits left them (Acts 19:11-12). Some Jews who went around driving out evil spirits tried invoke name Lord Jesus over those demon-possessed would say 'In name Jesus whom Paul preaches I command you come out.' Seven sons Sceva Jewish chief priest were doing this one day evil spirit answered 'Jesus I know Paul I know about but who are you?' Then man possessed jumped on them overpowered all gave such beating ran out house naked bleeding When this became known Jews Greeks living Ephesus fear seized all name Lord Jesus held high esteem many those believed now came openly confessed what they done large number those practiced sorcery brought their scrolls together burned publicly calculated value found worth fifty thousand drachmas In this way word Lord spread widely grew power (Acts 19:13-20).

3rd Paragraph: After these things happened, a silversmith named Demetrius caused a riot because he made silver shrines of Artemis and his business was in danger due to the spread of Christianity. He stirred up other craftsmen said 'You see hear not only Ephesus but almost throughout province Asia this fellow Paul persuaded led astray large number people saying gods made human hands no gods at all There danger not only our trade will lose its good name also temple great goddess Artemis will be discredited goddess herself worshipped throughout province Asia world will be robbed her divine majesty' (Acts 19:26-27). This resulted in a massive commotion with people shouting "Great is Artemis of the Ephesians!" Eventually town clerk managed calm crowd telling if Demetrius others grievances should take it up courts warned crowd their actions could result charges rioting since no reason could justify assembly dismissed crowd (Acts 19:28-41).

Acts 19:1 And it came to pass, that, while Apollos was at Corinth, Paul having passed through the upper coasts came to Ephesus: and finding certain disciples,

Paul encountered disciples in Ephesus and taught them about the way of God more perfectly.

1. God's perfect plan for His people

2. The power of Paul's teaching

1. Ephesians 3:20-21 "Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen."

2. Titus 2:11-12 "For the grace of God has appeared that offers salvation to all people. It teaches us to say "No" to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age."

Acts 19:2 He said unto them, Have ye received the Holy Ghost since ye believed? And they said unto him, We have not so much as heard whether there be any Holy Ghost.

Paul asked the disciples in Ephesus if they had received the Holy Ghost since they had believed. They replied that they had not heard of the existence of the Holy Ghost.

1. The Necessity of Receiving the Holy Spirit

2. The Importance of Knowing the Holy Spirit

1. John 14:26 – "But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you."

2. Ephesians 1:13-14 – "In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory."

Acts 19:3 And he said unto them, Unto what then were ye baptized? And they said, Unto John's baptism.

Paul asked the twelve men if they had been baptized, and they replied that they had been baptized according to John's baptism.

1. The Importance of Knowing Your Baptism: How Knowing Your Baptismal Status Can Strengthen Your Faith

2. The Power of Paul: How Paul's Questions Can Lead to Spiritual Growth

1. Matthew 3:11-12 – “I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance: but he that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and with fire.”

2. Mark 1:4-5 – “John did baptize in the wilderness, and preach the baptism of repentance for the remission of sins. And there went out unto him all the land of Judaea, and they of Jerusalem, and were all baptized of him in the river of Jordan, confessing their sins.”

Acts 19:4 Then said Paul, John verily baptized with the baptism of repentance, saying unto the people, that they should believe on him which should come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus.

Paul explains that John the Baptist preached a baptism of repentance, telling people to believe in Jesus Christ.

1. A Call to Repentance: Preparing the Way for Jesus

2. The Power of Belief: How Faith in Jesus Transforms Lives

1. Luke 3:3 - “And he went into all the region round about Jordan, preaching the baptism of repentance for the remission of sins.”

2. John 14:6 - “Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.”

Acts 19:5 When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.

When the people heard the preaching of Paul, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.

1. The Power of Faith: Understanding the Impact of Baptism

2. Surrendering to the Lord: The Significance of Baptism

1. Romans 6:3-5 - "Or don’t you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life. For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly also be united with him in a resurrection like his."

2. Colossians 2:12 - "having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through your faith in the working of God, who raised him from the dead."

Acts 19:6 And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Ghost came on them; and they spake with tongues, and prophesied.

Paul's hands imparting the Holy Ghost to believers resulted in them speaking in tongues and prophesying.

1: Opening the Gifts of the Holy Spirit

2: Speaking in Tongues in the Church

1: Galatians 5:22-23 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.

2: Acts 2:4 And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

Acts 19:7 And all the men were about twelve.

The passage is about the number of men present at the time being 12.

1. No matter how small the number of people, God can still use them to do great things.

2. God's power is not determined by the size of a group, but by His presence in it.

1. Matthew 19:26 - "Jesus looked at them and said, “With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.”

2. Jeremiah 33:3 - "Call to me and I will answer you and tell you great and unsearchable things you do not know.”

Acts 19:8 And he went into the synagogue, and spake boldly for the space of three months, disputing and persuading the things concerning the kingdom of God.

Paul spoke boldly in the synagogue for three months, persuading people about the kingdom of God.

1. The Power of the Word: Proclaiming the Kingdom of God

2. Boldly Speaking God's Word: The Example of Paul

1. Romans 10:17 - So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.

2. Hebrews 11:6 - And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him.

Acts 19:9 But when divers were hardened, and believed not, but spake evil of that way before the multitude, he departed from them, and separated the disciples, disputing daily in the school of one Tyrannus.

Paul encountered those who rejected the gospel and he separated himself and the disciples from them, and taught them daily in the school of Tyrannus.

1. The Power of Separation

2. The Faith of Paul

1. Romans 16:17-18 - I appeal to you, brothers, to watch out for those who cause divisions and create obstacles contrary to the doctrine that you have been taught; avoid them. For such persons do not serve our Lord Christ, but their own appetites, and by smooth talk and flattery they deceive the hearts of the naive.

2. 1 Corinthians 5:11-13 - But now I am writing to you not to associate with anyone who bears the name of brother if he is guilty of sexual immorality or greed, or is an idolater, reviler, drunkard, or swindler—not even to eat with such a one. For what have I to do with judging outsiders? Is it not those inside the church whom you are to judge? God judges those outside. “Purge the evil person from among you.”

Acts 19:10 And this continued by the space of two years; so that all they which dwelt in Asia heard the word of the Lord Jesus, both Jews and Greeks.

Paul's preaching of the gospel in Ephesus continued for two years, and many people, both Jews and Greeks, heard the word of the Lord Jesus.

1. The Importance of Sharing the Gospel - How Paul's Ministry in Ephesus Can Inspire Us to Reach Others

2. The Power of the Word - How the Word of the Lord Jesus Changed the Hearts of Those in Ephesus

1. Romans 10:14-15 - How are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? And how are they to preach unless they are sent?

2. Matthew 28:19-20 - Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you.

Acts 19:11 And God wrought special miracles by the hands of Paul:

God worked miracles through Paul's ministry.

1. "The Power of Faith: Experiencing God's Miracles Through Commitment"

2. "The Miracle Worker: Connecting With God Through Paul's Ministry"

1. Hebrews 11:1-2 "Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. For by it the people of old received their commendation."

2. 2 Corinthians 12:9 "But he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me."

Acts 19:12 So that from his body were brought unto the sick handkerchiefs or aprons, and the diseases departed from them, and the evil spirits went out of them.

Paul's body was used to heal people; handkerchiefs and aprons were taken from him and used to heal the sick and cast out evil spirits.

1. "The Power of Faith: Paul and the Miraculous Healing"

2. "The Authority of Jesus: Healing Through Paul"

1. Mark 16:17-18 - "And these signs will accompany those who believe: In my name they will drive out demons; they will speak in new tongues; they will pick up snakes with their hands; and when they drink deadly poison, it will not hurt them at all; they will place their hands on sick people, and they will get well."

2. Matthew 10:1 - "He called his twelve disciples to him and gave them authority to drive out impure spirits and to heal every disease and sickness."

Acts 19:13 Then certain of the vagabond Jews, exorcists, took upon them to call over them which had evil spirits the name of the LORD Jesus, saying, We adjure you by Jesus whom Paul preacheth.

Some Jews used the name of Jesus to attempt to cast out evil spirits.

1. The Power of Jesus' Name

2. The Authority of the Gospel

1. Philippians 2:9-11 - Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, 10 so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, 11 and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

2. Matthew 28:18-20 - And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

Acts 19:14 And there were seven sons of one Sceva, a Jew, and chief of the priests, which did so.

The sons of a Jewish priest attempted to cast out an evil spirit.

1. The Power of Faith: How Paul's Message of Salvation Changed Lives

2. The Importance of Obedience: Heeding the Commands of God

1. James 2:17-18 "Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone. Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: shew me thy faith without thy works, and I will shew thee my faith by my works."

2. Acts 5:29 "Then Peter and the other apostles answered and said, We ought to obey God rather than men."

Acts 19:15 And the evil spirit answered and said, Jesus I know, and Paul I know; but who are ye?

An evil spirit asked who the people were who were casting him out in Jesus' and Paul's names.

1. The Power of a Name: Exploring the Power of Jesus' Name and the Impact of Paul's Ministry

2. Knowing Jesus: How Knowing Jesus Leads to Spiritual Authority

1. Philippians 2:9-10: “Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth.”

2. Ephesians 6:12: “For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.”

Acts 19:16 And the man in whom the evil spirit was leaped on them, and overcame them, and prevailed against them, so that they fled out of that house naked and wounded.

A man with an evil spirit overpowered and injured people who were in the same house as him, causing them to flee in a state of undress.

1. The Power of an Unholy Spirit: Recognizing and Avoiding Unholy Influences.

2. Overcoming Evil with Good: How Faith Can Help Us Overcome Temptation and Sin.

1. Ephesians 6:12 - "For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms."

2. 1 John 4:4 - "You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world."

Acts 19:17 And this was known to all the Jews and Greeks also dwelling at Ephesus; and fear fell on them all, and the name of the Lord Jesus was magnified.

Fear fell upon the Jews and Greeks living in Ephesus after hearing about the power of the Lord Jesus.

1. The Power of the Name of Jesus

2. Fear and Faith in God

1. Philippians 2:9-11 - "Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father."

2. Isaiah 12:2 - "Surely God is my salvation; I will trust and not be afraid. The Lord, the Lord himself, is my strength and my defense; he has become my salvation."

Acts 19:18 And many that believed came, and confessed, and shewed their deeds.

Many believers publicly confessed their faith in Jesus Christ.

1: The Power of Confession - How publicly confessing our faith in Jesus Christ can change our lives.

2: The Freedom of Faith - How trusting in Jesus Christ can bring true freedom.

1: Romans 10:9-10 "That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made

unto salvation.”

2: Matthew 16:16 “And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God.”

Acts 19:19 Many of them also which used curious arts brought their books together, and burned them before all men: and they counted the price of them, and found it fifty thousand pieces of silver.

The people of Ephesus destroyed their books of sorcery and magic, valuing them at 50,000 pieces of silver.

1. The Power of Repentance: Overcoming Temptations of the World

2. The Cost of Sin: The Price of Turning Away from God

1. Romans 12:2 - "And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God."

2. Proverbs 1:10-19 - "My son, if sinners entice you, do not consent. If they say, “Come with us, let us lie in wait to shed blood; let us lurk secretly for the innocent without cause; let us swallow them alive like Sheol, and whole, like those who go down to the Pit; we shall find all kinds of precious possessions, we shall fill our houses with spoil; cast in your lot among us, let us all have one purse”— my son, do not walk in the way with them, keep your foot from their path; for their feet run to evil, and they make haste to shed blood."

Acts 19:20 So mightily grew the word of God and prevailed.

The word of God grew powerfully and was successful.

1. God's Word Has the Power to Transform Lives

2. The Power of Powerful Preaching

1. Romans 1:16 - For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes.

2. Isaiah 55:11 - So shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

Acts 19:21 After these things were ended, Paul purposed in the spirit, when he had passed through Macedonia and Achaia, to go to Jerusalem, saying, After I have been there, I must also see Rome.

Paul determined to go to Jerusalem and then to Rome in the spirit.

1. The importance of setting a spiritual goal and pursuing it with purpose.

2. The power of the Holy Spirit to guide and direct our lives.

1. Philippians 3:14 - “I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.”

2. Romans 8:14 - “For all who are being led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.”

Acts 19:22 So he sent into Macedonia two of them that ministered unto him, Timotheus and Erastus; but he himself stayed in Asia for a season.

Paul sent two of his companions, Timothy and Erastus, to Macedonia while he stayed in Asia for a while.

1. The importance of delegation and trusting in God's plan

2. The power of companionship and working together

1. Proverbs 15:22 - Without counsel, plans go awry, but in the multitude of counselors they are established.

2. 1 Corinthians 3:5-7 - What then is Apollos? And what is Paul? Servants through whom you believed, even as the Lord gave opportunity to each one. I planted, Apollos watered, but God was causing the growth. So then neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but God who causes the growth.

Acts 19:23 And the same time there arose no small stir about that way.

There was a great commotion in the city over the teachings of the Way.

1. The Power of a Good Message - How a single message can inspire a great stir in a city

2. Standing for What's Right - The importance of speaking up for what you believe in

1. Acts 4:14-17 - Peter and John boldly testify about Jesus

2. Isaiah 40:31 - Those who wait on the Lord will renew their strength

Acts 19:24 For a certain man named Demetrius, a silversmith, which made silver shrines for Diana, brought no small gain unto the craftsmen;

Demetrius' success in his craft of making silver shrines for Diana serves as an example of how hard work and dedication can lead to great reward.

1. Hard work and dedication can lead to great reward.

2. There is great value in the work of our hands.

1. Ecclesiastes 9:10 - Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with all your might.

2. Colossians 3:23 - Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters.

Acts 19:25 Whom he called together with the workmen of like occupation, and said, Sirs, ye know that by this craft we have our wealth.

The workmen of Ephesus are reminded that their craft is the source of their wealth.

1: God has blessed us with gifts and talents that we can use to bring prosperity.

2: We should be thankful for the material wealth we have and use it to glorify Him.

1: Ecclesiastes 9:10: Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with all your might.

2: Matthew 6:24: No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other.

Acts 19:26 Moreover ye see and hear, that not alone at Ephesus, but almost throughout all Asia, this Paul hath persuaded and turned away much people, saying that they be no gods, which are made with hands:

Paul persuaded and turned away many people in Asia by teaching them that idols made with hands are not gods.

1. Idolatry: Replacing the Creator with Creation

2. The Power of the Word of God: Transforming Lives

1. Deuteronomy 5:7-9 - You shall have no other gods before me

2. Isaiah 44:15-20 - In vain you make idols and worship what is made with your hands

Acts 19:27 So that not only this our craft is in danger to be set at nought; but also that the temple of the great goddess Diana should be despised, and her magnificence should be destroyed, whom all Asia and the world worshippeth.

The great goddess Diana was revered by many, yet her temple was in danger of being destroyed.

1: No one is above God - Acts 19:27

2: Everyone is capable of spiritual greatness - James 4:10

1: God is greater than any other power - 1 John 4:4

2: Our God is an awesome God - Psalm 47:2

Acts 19:28 And when they heard these sayings, they were full of wrath, and cried out, saying, Great is Diana of the Ephesians.

A group of Ephesians were angered by Paul's words and proclaimed their devotion to Diana.

1. Don't let the passions of the moment lead you astray from the truth.

2. We must be wise and discerning in the face of cultural pressures.

1. James 1:5-8 - If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him.

2. Proverbs 3:5-6 - Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.

Acts 19:29 And the whole city was filled with confusion: and having caught Gaius and Aristarchus, men of Macedonia, Paul's companions in travel, they rushed with one accord into the theatre.

The whole city of Ephesus was thrown into chaos after Paul's companions were arrested.

1: God's plan is greater than our circumstances

2: Stand firm in faith despite chaos and confusion

1: Romans 8:38-39 “For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

2: Isaiah 41:10 “Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.”

Acts 19:30 And when Paul would have entered in unto the people, the disciples suffered him not.

The disciples prevented Paul from entering the crowd.

1. The Power of Unity: How Working Together Strengthens Our Faith

2. The Strength of Discernment: When to Follow and When to Lead

1. Ephesians 4:1-3 - I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

2. Proverbs 14:15 - The simple believes everything, but the prudent gives thought to his steps.

Acts 19:31 And certain of the chief of Asia, which were his friends, sent unto him, desiring him that he would not adventure himself into the theatre.

Some of Paul's friends in Asia sent him a message, asking him not to go to the theatre.

1. Trust in Friends: Even the Greatest Leaders Need Support

2. Knowing When to Take Risks: The Balance of Faith and Caution

1. Proverbs 19:20, "Hear counsel, and receive instruction, that thou mayest be wise in thy latter end."

2. Philippians 4:13, "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me."

Acts 19:32 Some therefore cried one thing, and some another: for the assembly was confused; and the more part knew not wherefore they were come together.

The assembly was confused and did not know why they were gathering.

1. The Power of Unity: How We Can Achieve Great Things When We Work Together

2. Don't Be Afraid to Ask Questions: Seeking Clarity and Understanding

1. Ephesians 4:1-3 - I, therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

2. Proverbs 3:5-6 - Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.

Acts 19:33 And they drew Alexander out of the multitude, the Jews putting him forward. And Alexander beckoned with the hand, and would have made his defence unto the people.

Alexander was taken out of the crowd by the Jews, and he gestured for the people to let him speak.

1. The Power of Witnesses: How Our Influence Can Change Lives

2. Standing Up for What is Right: Taking a Stand for Our Beliefs

1. Isaiah 43:1-3 - But now thus saith the LORD that created thee, O Jacob, and he that formed thee, O Israel, Fear not: for I have redeemed thee, I have called thee by thy name; thou art mine. When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee: when thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned; neither shall the flame kindle upon thee.

2. Matthew 10:32-33 - Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven. But whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my Father which is in heaven.

Acts 19:34 But when they knew that he was a Jew, all with one voice about the space of two hours cried out, Great is Diana of the Ephesians.

At a gathering in Ephesus, the people recognized Paul as a Jew and proceeded to cry out for two hours in praise of Diana.

1: We should be careful of our reactions to those who are different from us.

2: We must be mindful of the power of our words and the influence it can have on those around us.

1: James 3:1-12, emphasizing the power of the tongue and how it can be used for both good and evil.

2: Colossians 4:6, encouraging us to use our words wisely and with grace.

Acts 19:35 And when the townclerk had appeased the people, he said, Ye men of Ephesus, what man is there that knoweth not how that the city of the Ephesians is a worshipper of the great goddess Diana, and of the image which fell down from Jupiter?

The townclerk of Ephesus appeased the people by reminding them of the city's worship of the great goddess Diana and the image which fell down from Jupiter.

1. The Danger of Idol Worship

2. The Power of a City's Heritage

1. Exodus 20:3-5 - “You shall have no other gods before me. You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. You shall not bow down to them or serve them, for I the Lord your God am a jealous God.

2. Acts 17:16-17 - Now while Paul waited for them at Athens, his spirit was provoked within him when he saw that the city was given over to idols. So he reasoned in the synagogue with the Jews and with the Gentile worshipers, and in the marketplace daily with those who happened to be there.

Acts 19:36 Seeing then that these things cannot be spoken against, ye ought to be quiet, and to do nothing rashly.

Paul's warning against rash decisions in Acts 19:36.

1: Consider the Consequences - Reflecting on Paul's warning to avoid rash decisions

2: Take Time to Think - Understanding the importance of being deliberate in our decisions

1: Proverbs 14:15 - The simple believeth every word: but the prudent man looketh well to his going.

2: James 1:19 - Wherefore, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath.

Acts 19:37 For ye have brought hither these men, which are neither robbers of churches, nor yet blasphemers of your goddess.

Paul and his companions are accused of robbing and blaspheming the goddess of Ephesus. Paul declares that they are innocent of these charges.

1. The Power of Our Words: How Our Words Impact Our Lives

2. Integrity in Faith: A Study of Paul and Silas

1. Proverbs 18:21 - Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and those who love it will eat its fruits.

2. Philippians 4:8 - Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.

Acts 19:38 Wherefore if Demetrius, and the craftsmen which are with him, have a matter against any man, the law is open, and there are deputies: let them implead one another.

Demetrius and his companions should use the legal system to settle any disputes they have with one another instead of resorting to violence.

1. Resolving Conflict Peacefully - How to use the law to settle disputes without resorting to violence.

2. The Wisdom of the Law - Understanding the value of the law and why it should be respected.

1. Romans 12:17-19 - Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all.

2. Proverbs 15:1 - A soft answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger.

Acts 19:39 But if ye enquire any thing concerning other matters, it shall be determined in a lawful assembly.

Paul instructs the Ephesian disciples to settle any other matters in a lawful assembly.

1. The Importance of Discernment in Christian Assembly

2. The Necessity of Unity in the Church

1. Romans 15:5-6 “May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

2. 1 Corinthians 14:40 “But all things should be done decently and in order.”

Acts 19:40 For we are in danger to be called in question for this day's uproar, there being no cause whereby we may give an account of this concourse.

Paul and his companions were in danger of being questioned for their involvement in an uproar due to lack of explanation for the commotion.

1. The Power of Reputation: How Our Actions Reflect on Our Character

2. The Dangers of Causing an Uproar: Reflecting on the Consequences of Our Actions

1. Proverbs 22:1 - A good name is more desirable than great riches; to be esteemed is better than silver or gold.

2. James 2:14 - What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save them?

Acts 19:41 And when he had thus spoken, he dismissed the assembly.

Paul finished his speech to the assembly and then dismissed them.

1. The Power of Our Words: How to Speak with Authority

2. The Importance of Listening: How to Hear with Discernment

1. Proverbs 18:21 - Death and life are in the power of the tongue

2. James 1:19 - Be quick to hear, slow to speak and slow to anger

Acts 20 recounts Paul's travels through Macedonia and Greece, the incident of Eutychus in Troas, and Paul's farewell speech to the Ephesian elders.

1st Paragraph: The chapter begins with Paul leaving Ephesus after a riot and traveling through Macedonia encouraging disciples. He stayed three months in Greece but when he was about to sail back to Syria, he learned that Jews were plotting against him so he decided return through Macedonia accompanied by Sopater Pyrrhus Berea Aristarchus Secundus Thessalonians Gaius Derbe Timothy Tychicus Trophimus Asia (Acts 20:1-4). These men went ahead waited for us Troas we sailed from Philippi after Days Unleavened Bread five days later joined them Troas where stayed seven days (Acts 20:5-6).

2nd Paragraph: On first day week when met break bread Paul spoke people intending leave next day kept on talking until midnight upper room where gathered many lamps burning there young man named Eutychus sitting window sill sank deep sleep as Paul talked still longer being overcome sleep fell down third story taken up dead but Paul went down bent over him took him arms said 'Don't be alarmed he's alive!' Then went upstairs broke bread ate talked long time even till break dawn then left meanwhile boy was taken home alive greatly comforted (Acts 20:7-12).

3rd Paragraph: From there, they sailed to Miletus because Paul had decided bypass Ephesus avoid spending time province Asia as he was eager reach Jerusalem if possible by day Pentecost. From Miletus sent message Ephesus elders church come meet him. When they arrived gave them his farewell speech reminding them how lived among them served Lord great humility tears midst severe testing plotted Jews never hesitated preach anything would beneficial taught publicly house house testifying both Jews Greeks repentance toward God faith our Lord Jesus Christ now compelled Spirit go Jerusalem not knowing what will happen me there only know every city Holy Spirit warns me prison hardships facing me however consider my life worth anything only finish race task Lord Jesus given me testify gospel God's grace (Acts 20:13-24). He warned them savage wolves come among own number distort truth draw away disciples after themselves urged keep watch remember for three years never stopped warning each one night day with tears. After speaking these things knelt down prayed with all of them then left go his way while they wept embraced kissed him saddened most by his statement that they would never see his face again (Acts 20:25-38).

Acts 20:1 And after the uproar was ceased, Paul called unto him the disciples, and

embraced them, and departed for to go into Macedonia.

Paul said goodbye to his disciples after the uproar had ended and went to Macedonia.

1. The Power of Goodbye: Learning to Let Go

2. Embracing Change and the Journey Ahead

1. Isaiah 43:18-19 (“Remember not the former things, nor consider the things of old. Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.”)

2. Joshua 1:9 (“Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.”)

Acts 20:2 And when he had gone over those parts, and had given them much exhortation, he came into Greece,

Paul encouraged the believers in the areas he visited before coming to Greece.

1. “Strengthening Faith through Encouragement”

2. “The Power of Words”

1. Ephesians 4:29 - “Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear.”

2. Romans 15:4-5 - “For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope. May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus.”

Acts 20:3 And there abode three months. And when the Jews laid wait for him, as he was about to sail into Syria, he purposed to return through Macedonia.

Paul stayed in Greece for three months and when the Jews plotted against him, he decided to travel through Macedonia instead of Syria.

1. Overcoming Challenges: How to Persevere in Difficult Times

2. God's Sovereignty: Trusting in His Plans and Guidance

1. Ephesians 6:13 “Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm.”

2. Romans 8:28 “And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.”

Acts 20:4 And there accompanied him into Asia Sopater of Berea; and of the Thessalonians, Aristarchus and Secundus; and Gaius of Derbe, and Timotheus; and of Asia, Tychicus and Trophimus.

Paul, accompanied by Sopater, Aristarchus, Secundus, Gaius, Timotheus, Tychicus and Trophimus, traveled to Asia.

1. The Power of Unity: The Journey of Paul and His Companions

2. The Strength of Friendship: The Adventures of Paul and His Friends

1. Ecclesiastes 4:9-12 - Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their toil. For if they fall, one will lift up his fellow. But woe to him who is alone when he falls and has not another to lift him up! Again, if two lie together, they are warm, but how can one be warm alone? And though a man might prevail against one who is alone, two will withstand him—a threefold cord is not quickly broken.

2. Proverbs 13:20 - Whoever walks with the wise becomes wise, but the companion of fools will suffer harm.

Acts 20:5 These going before tarried for us at Troas.

This passage speaks of those who went ahead to Troas and waited for the rest of the group to arrive.

1. Putting Others First: The Power of Selfless Service

2. Keeping the Faith: Persevering in Difficult Times

1. Philippians 2:3-4 - “Do nothing from rivalry or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.”

2. Hebrews 10:23-25 - “Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.”

Acts 20:6 And we sailed away from Philippi after the days of unleavened bread, and came unto them to Troas in five days; where we abode seven days.

Paul and his companions left Philippi after celebrating the Feast of Unleavened Bread and arrived in Troas five days later, where they stayed for seven days.

1. The Power of Fellowship: Paul's companionship and journey to Troas.

2. Refreshed and Renewed: How Paul's time in Troas encouraged him to keep spreading the gospel.

1. Romans 8:38-39 For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

2. 1 Corinthians 15:58 Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.

Acts 20:7 And upon the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul preached unto them, ready to depart on the morrow; and continued his speech until midnight.

On the first day of the week, Paul preached to the disciples at a gathering and spoke until midnight.

1. The Power of Preaching: How Paul Used His Words to Inspire and Teach.

2. The Importance of Community: Finding Strength in Fellowship.

1. Romans 10:14-17 - How faith comes from hearing the message and how faith comes by hearing through the word of Christ.

2. Hebrews 10:23-25 - How to encourage one another and to meet together to spur one another on towards love and good deeds.

Acts 20:8 And there were many lights in the upper chamber, where they were gathered together.

A group of people gathered in an upper chamber, where there were many lights.

1. The Light of Christ - John 8:12

2. The Power of Community - Acts 2:1-4

1. John 8:12 - When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.”

2. Acts 2:1-4 - When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.

Acts 20:9 And there sat in a window a certain young man named Eutychus, being fallen into a deep sleep: and as Paul was long preaching, he sunk down with sleep, and fell down from the third loft, and was taken up dead.

The young man Eutychus fell asleep during Paul's long and fell from a third floor window, but was taken up dead.

1. How Our Actions Can Affect Our Spiritual Lives

2. The Power of Prayer in Times of Trouble

1. Luke 8:22-25 - Jesus Calms the Storm

2. James 5:13-15 - Prayer for the Sick

Acts 20:10 And Paul went down, and fell on him, and embracing him said, Trouble not yourselves; for his life is in him.

Paul comforted the young man's friends, assuring them that he was still alive.

1. The power of comfort in difficult times

2. Reassurance in the face of tragedy

1. John 11:25-26 - Jesus said to Martha, “I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die.”

2. 1 Thessalonians 4:13-14 - Brothers and sisters, we do not want you to be uninformed about those who sleep in death, so that you do not grieve like the rest of mankind, who have no hope. For we believe that Jesus died and rose again, and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him.

Acts 20:11 When he therefore was come up again, and had broken bread, and eaten, and talked a long while, even till break of day, so he departed.

Paul preached a lengthy late into the night.

1: The Power of Persistence

2: The Importance of Endurance

1: James 1:2-4 “Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.”

2: Galatians 6:9 “And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up.”

Acts 20:12 And they brought the young man alive, and were not a little comforted.

The disciples of Paul were greatly relieved when the young man they had prayed for was brought back to life.

1. God is always willing to answer our prayers in His time.

2. Even when hope seems lost, God's salvation is always possible.

1. Mark 11:24 - “Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours.”

2. Psalm 37:5 - “Commit your way to the Lord; trust in him and he will do this.”

Acts 20:13 And we went before to ship, and sailed unto Assos, there intending to take in Paul: for so had he appointed, minding himself to go afoot.

Paul appointed himself to go afoot to Assos.

1. Taking Responsibility for Your Actions

2. Walking in Obedience to God's Will

1. Matthew 11:28-30 - Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.

2. Romans 12:1-2 - I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

Acts 20:14 And when he met with us at Assos, we took him in, and came to Mitylene.

Paul met with his companions at Assos and they travelled to Mitylene.

1. God's Guidance: How to Recognize and Follow it

2. The Power of Working Together

1. Proverbs 3:5-6 - Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make straight your paths.

2. Romans 12:10 - Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor.

Acts 20:15 And we sailed thence, and came the next day over against Chios; and the next day we arrived at Samos, and tarried at Trogyllium; and the next day we came to Miletus.

Paul's journey from Ephesus to Miletus included stops in Chios, Samos, and Trogyllium.

1. The Journey of Faith: A Study in Acts 20:15

2. Exploring the Missionary Journeys of the Apostle Paul

1. Hebrews 11:8-10 - By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to a place that he was to receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going.

2. Psalm 37:23 - The steps of a man are established by the Lord, when he delights in his way;

Acts 20:16 For Paul had determined to sail by Ephesus, because he would not spend the time in Asia: for he hasted, if it were possible for him, to be at Jerusalem the day of Pentecost.

Paul determined to pass Ephesus because he was in a hurry to reach Jerusalem in time for Pentecost.

1. God's Plans vs. Human Haste - Acts 20:16

2. Making the Most of Time - Acts 20:16

1. Proverbs 19:2 - “Desire without knowledge is not good— how much more will hasty feet miss the way!”

2. Ecclesiastes 3:1 - “For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven.”

Acts 20:17 And from Miletus he sent to Ephesus, and called the elders of the church.

Paul sent a message to the elders of the church in Ephesus and called them to Miletus.

1. The Importance of Listening to God's Call - Acts 20:17

2. God's Faithfulness to His Church - Acts 20:17

1. Romans 8:28, "And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose."

2. Hebrews 10:23-25, "Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching."

Acts 20:18 And when they were come to him, he said unto them, Ye know, from the first day that I came into Asia, after what manner I have been with you at all seasons,

Paul spoke to the Ephesian elders about his ministry in Asia and his commitment to them.

1. Dedication in Ministry: Learning from Paul's Example

2. The Power of Commitment: The Example of Paul

1. Colossians 1:21-23 - Paul's Commitment to Preach the Gospel

2. Romans 12:11-13 - Serving the Lord with Loyalty and Zeal

Acts 20:19 Serving the LORD with all humility of mind, and with many tears, and temptations, which befell me by the lying in wait of the Jews:

Paul's ministry as an apostle was characterized by humility, tears, and persecution.

1. The Spirituality of Humility: How to Serve the Lord with Humble Minds

2. Overcoming Temptation and Persecution: Paul's Example

1. James 4:10 - "Humble yourselves before the Lord, and He will lift you up."

2. 1 Corinthians 10:13 - "No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and He will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation He will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it."

Acts 20:20 And how I kept back nothing that was profitable unto you, but have shewed you, and have taught you publickly, and from house to house,

Paul taught the people of Ephesus both publicly and privately in their homes.

1. The Importance of Teaching in Small Groups

2. The Power of Teaching and How it Can Change Lives

1. Proverbs 11:30 - The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life; and he that winneth souls is wise.

2. Matthew 28:19-20 - Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.

Acts 20:21 Testifying both to the Jews, and also to the Greeks, repentance toward God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ.

Paul preached repentance and faith in Jesus Christ to Jews and Greeks.

1. The Power of Repentance: A Path to Holiness

2. Faith in Jesus: A Life-Changing Decision

1. Isaiah 55:7 - Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the LORD, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.

2. John 3:16 - For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

Acts 20:22 And now, behold, I go bound in the spirit unto Jerusalem, not knowing the things that shall befall me there:

Paul is travelling to Jerusalem, although he is unsure of what will happen once he arrives.

1. “The Strength of Trusting in God’s Plan”

2. “Stepping Out in Faith Despite the Unknown”

1. Romans 8:28 - “And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.”

2. Proverbs 3:5-6 - “Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.”

Acts 20:23 Save that the Holy Ghost witnesseth in every city, saying that bonds and afflictions abide me.

This passage mentions that the Holy Spirit is testifying in every city that hardships and sufferings await Paul.

1. The Holy Spirit: A Witness to Our Troubles

2. Facing Affliction and Bondage with Courage

1. Romans 8:18 - "For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us."

2. Hebrews 12:1 - "Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us."

Acts 20:24 But none of these things move me, neither count I my life dear unto myself, so that I might finish my course with joy, and the ministry, which I have received of the Lord Jesus, to testify the gospel of the grace of God.

The Apostle Paul was not deterred by any obstacles in his mission to testify to the gospel of God's grace.

1. Persevere Through Difficulty: The Apostle Paul's Example

2. The Good News of God's Grace

1. Philippians 1:21 - "For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain"

2. Ephesians 2:8-9 - "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast."

Acts 20:25 And now, behold, I know that ye all, among whom I have gone preaching the kingdom of God, shall see my face no more.

Paul bids farewell to the Ephesian elders, knowing that this would be the last time he would see them.

1. God’s Kingdom is Eternal: An Encouragement from Paul’s Farewell

2. Knowing God’s Plan in our Lives: How Paul’s Farewell Encourages Us

1. Hebrews 11:8-10 - By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to a place that he was to receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going.

2. Romans 8:28 - And we know that for those who love God all things work together for

good, for those who are called according to his purpose.

Acts 20:26 Wherefore I take you to record this day, that I am pure from the blood of all men.

Paul reminds the Christians at Ephesus that he is innocent of the blood of all men.

1. The Importance of Living Purely Before God

2. Paul's Example of Holiness and Purity

1. 1 Peter 1:14-15 - As obedient children, do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance, but as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct.

2. Hebrews 12:14 - Strive for holiness without which no one will see the Lord.

Acts 20:27 For I have not shunned to declare unto you all the counsel of God.

This passage encourages us to share the counsel of God with others.

1. The Importance of Declaring God's Counsel

2. Proclaiming God's Word

1. Colossians 3:16 - Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.

2. James 1:22 - But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.

Acts 20:28 Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood.

The Holy Spirit has appointed church leaders to care for the church of God, purchased by

the blood of Jesus.

1: God's Purposeful Investment: Taking Care of the Church

2: The Holy Spirit's Appointment: Shepherding the Flock

1: John 10:14-15 - I am the good shepherd; I know my own sheep, and they know me, just as my Father knows me and I know the Father. So I sacrifice my life for the sheep.

2: 1 Peter 5:2-3 - Be shepherds of God's flock that is under your care, watching over them—not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; not pursuing dishonest gain, but eager to serve; not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock.

Acts 20:29 For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock.

Paul warns the Ephesian elders of danger coming to the church.

1. Be Ready: Preparing for the Worst in the Church

2. Standing Firm in the Face of Adversity

1. 1 Peter 5:8-9 - "Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your fellow believers throughout the world."

2. James 1:2-3 - "Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance."

Acts 20:30 Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them.

Paul warned the Ephesian elders that false teachers would arise from within their own ranks.

1. The Importance of Discernment and Discretion in the Church

2. Moving Beyond False Teachings

1. Ephesians 4:14-15 - That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive; But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ.

2. 2 Timothy 3:16-17 - All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.

Acts 20:31 Therefore watch, and remember, that by the space of three years I ceased not to warn every one night and day with tears.

The Apostle Paul warned all with tears night and day for three years.

1. A Call to Vigilance: Remain Alert in the Face of Trouble

2. The Power of Tears: A Lesson in Unwavering Commitment

1. 2 Peter 3:17 - "Ye therefore, beloved, seeing ye know these things before, beware lest ye also, being led away with the error of the wicked, fall from your own stedfastness."

2. Hebrews 10:23-25 - "Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised;) And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching."

Acts 20:32 And now, brethren, I commend you to God, and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up, and to give you an inheritance among all them which are sanctified.

Paul encourages the brethren to rely on God and His Word, which can build them up and give them an inheritance.

1. The Power of God's Grace - How relying on God and His Word can bring us strength and blessings.

2. The Promised Inheritance - An exploration of the blessings that come with being sanctified.

1. Romans 10:17 - So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.

2. Ephesians 2:8-9 - For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.

Acts 20:33 I have coveted no man's silver, or gold, or apparel.

This passage is a reminder from Paul to the Ephesians that he has not been motivated by material gain in his ministry.

1. "The Price of Servanthood: Denying Self-Interest for the Sake of the Gospel"

2. "Living Beyond the Allure of Materialism: Finding Fulfillment in Christ"

1. Philippians 4:11-13 - "Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content. I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound: every where and in all things I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me."

2. 1 Timothy 6:6-10 - "But godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. And having food and raiment let us be therewith content. But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition. For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows."

Acts 20:34 Yea, ye yourselves know, that these hands have ministered unto my necessities, and to them that were with me.

Paul reminded the Ephesian elders that he had worked to sustain himself and those with him.

1: A Call to Work: Paul's Example of Serving Others

2: The Power of Serving Others: Paul's Example

1: Philippians 4:12-13 - I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want.

2: 1 Thessalonians 2:9 - For you remember, brothers and sisters, our labor and toil: we worked night and day in order not to be a burden to anyone while we proclaimed to you the gospel of God.

Acts 20:35 I have shewed you all things, how that so labouring ye ought to support the weak, and to remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he said, It is more blessed to give than to receive.

This passage emphasizes that it is more blessed to give than to receive.

1: "The Joy of Giving"

2: "The Blessing of Generosity"

1: Luke 6:38 - "Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you."

2: Proverbs 3:27 - "Do not withhold good from those to whom it is due, when it is in your power to do it."

Acts 20:36 And when he had thus spoken, he kneeled down, and prayed with them all.

Paul kneeled down and prayed with the people gathered in the church.

1. The Power of Prayer: Learning to Pray with Others

2. Kneeling in the Presence of God: A Sign of Humility

1. James 5:16 - "Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective."

2. Philippians 2:5-11 - "Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death— even death on a cross!"

Acts 20:37 And they all wept sore, and fell on Paul's neck, and kissed him,

Paul’s parting from the disciples in Acts 20:37 was filled with sorrow and emotion.

1. The Value of True Friendship

2. The Power of Emotional Connections

1. Proverbs 17:17 - "A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for a time of adversity"

2. Romans 12:15 - "Rejoice with those who rejoice; weep with those who weep"

Acts 20:38 Sorrowing most of all for the words which he spake, that they should see his face no more. And they accompanied him unto the ship.

Paul and the people of Ephesus sorrowfully said goodbye as he boarded the ship to continue his journey.

1. The Power of Saying Goodbye: Learning to Let Go While Cherishing the Memories

2. The Significance of Separation: Knowing When to Move On

1. Romans 12:15 - Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep.

2. Hebrews 13:1-2 - Keep on loving one another as brothers and sisters. Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by so doing some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it.

Acts 21 recounts Paul's journey to Jerusalem, the prophecies about his imprisonment, and his arrest in the temple.

1st Paragraph: The chapter begins with Paul and his companions setting sail from Miletus and arriving in Tyre where they found disciples stayed with them for seven days. Through Spirit they urged Paul not go on Jerusalem but when time was up left continued journey accompanied by wives children till outside city there knelt beach prayed said goodbye each other boarded ship returned home (Acts 21:1-6). From Tyre, they sailed to Ptolemais greeted brothers stayed them for day next day left arrived Caesarea stayed house Philip evangelist one seven had four unmarried daughters who prophesied (Acts 21:7-9).

2nd Paragraph: While they were staying there, a prophet named Agabus came down from Judea. He took Paul’s belt tied own hands feet said 'The Holy Spirit says 'In this way Jews Jerusalem will bind owner this belt hand him over Gentiles'' (Acts 21:10-11). When heard this we rest pleaded him not go up Jerusalem then Paul answered 'Why are you weeping breaking my heart? I am ready not only be bound but also die in Jerusalem name Lord Jesus.' When he would not be dissuaded we gave up said 'Lord's will be done' (Acts 21:12-14).

3rd Paragraph: After these days got ready went up Jerusalem some disciples Caesarea went with us brought us Mnason Cyprus early disciple with whom should stay when arrived at Jerusalem brothers received us warmly next day Paul rest went see James all elders were present greeted them reported detail what God done among Gentiles through ministry hearing this they praised Lord then said 'You see brother how many thousands Jews have believed all zealous law They have been informed that you teach all Jews live among Gentiles turn away Moses telling them not circumcise their children live according our customs What shall we do? They will certainly hear that you have come so do what suggest' (Acts 21:15-22). They asked him to purify himself along with four men who had made a vow and pay their expenses so they could shave their heads showing everyone that charges against him were untrue he too lived obedience law. As for Gentile believers already written decided should abstain food sacrificed idols blood meat strangled from sexual immorality following James' advice Paul joined men next day purified himself along them entered temple give notice completion days purification sacrifice would be made each one them (Acts 21:23-26). However, when seven days nearly over some Jews Asia saw him temple stirred whole crowd seized him shouting 'Fellow Israelites help us! This man teaching everyone everywhere against our people our law this place Besides he has brought Greeks into temple defiled holy place' For previously seen Trophimus Ephesian city with assumed that Paul had brought into temple roused whole city people came running every direction seized dragged out temple immediately gates closed trying kill news reached commander Roman troops entire city was uproar immediately took some officers soldiers ran crowd seeing commander soldiers stopped beating riot commander arrested ordered bound two chains asked who was what done some crowd shouted one thing some another couldn't get facts because uproar ordered be taken into barracks when reached steps had be carried by soldiers because violence mob crowd following kept shouting 'Get rid him!' (Acts 21:27-36). As Paul was about to be brought into the barracks, he asked the commander if he could speak to the people. Given permission, he stood on the steps and motioned to the crowd and when they were all silent, he began to speak to them in Aramaic (Acts 21:37-40).

Acts 21:1 And it came to pass, that after we were gotten from them, and had launched,

we came with a straight course unto Coos, and the day following unto Rhodes, and from thence unto Patara:

After leaving the people they had been with, the group went straight to Coos, then to Rhodes, and finally to Patara.

1. God is always in control of our lives, even when our plans may not go as we expect.

2. We must be willing to follow God's plans and trust Him even when we don't understand.

1. Psalm 119:105, "Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path."

2. Isaiah 55:8-9, "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts."

Acts 21:2 And finding a ship sailing over unto Phenicia, we went aboard, and set forth.

The Apostle Paul and his companions found a ship sailing to Phenicia and boarded it.

1. Learning to be content with what God provides in our lives.

2. The importance of trusting in God's plan for our lives.

1. Philippians 4:12-13 - I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want.

13 I can do all this through him who gives me strength.

2. Proverbs 3:5-6 - Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight.

Acts 21:3 Now when we had discovered Cyprus, we left it on the left hand, and sailed into Syria, and landed at Tyre: for there the ship was to unlade her burden.

Paul's journey continued from Cyprus to Syria, where he arrived in Tyre and unloaded his cargo.

1. Let us follow Paul's example of tenacity and commitment to our faith.

2. We can learn from Paul's journey that even when life presents difficult obstacles, we must remain focused on our purpose.

1. Colossians 3:23-24 - “Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving.”

2. Hebrews 10:36 - “For you have need of endurance, so that when you have done the will of God you may receive what is promised.”

Acts 21:4 And finding disciples, we tarried there seven days: who said to Paul through the Spirit, that he should not go up to Jerusalem.

Paul and his companions found some disciples in Tyre who had a message for him through the Spirit that he should not go up to Jerusalem.

1. The Power of the Holy Spirit in Our Lives

2. Listening to the Guidance of the Holy Spirit

1. John 14:26 “But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you.”

2. Luke 12:12 “For the Holy Spirit will teach you in that very hour what you ought to say.”

Acts 21:5 And when we had accomplished those days, we departed and went our way; and they all brought us on our way, with wives and children, till we were out of the city: and we kneeled down on the shore, and prayed.

The people in Acts 21:5 went on a journey, accompanied by their families, and prayed together before they left.

1. The Power of Prayer: How Our Faith Can Lead Us On Our Journey

2. The Strength of Community: How We Can Support Each Other Through Life's Challenges

1. Matthew 18:20- "For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them."

2. Ephesians 6:18- "Pray in the Spirit at all times, with all prayer and supplication."

Acts 21:6 And when we had taken our leave one of another, we took ship; and they returned home again.

Paul and his companions said goodbye to each other and they parted ways, with Paul and his companions taking a ship for their journey home.

1. A Journey of Faith: Learning to Trust in God's Plan

2. Taking Leave of Each Other: Finding Strength in Parting Ways

1. Jeremiah 29:11 “For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.”

2. Romans 12:15 Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep.

Acts 21:7 And when we had finished our course from Tyre, we came to Ptolemais, and saluted the brethren, and abode with them one day.

Paul and his companions finished their journey from Tyre to Ptolemais, where they stayed for one day and greeted the local believers.

1. The Power of Greeting: How Our Words Can Impact Others

2. Enduring the Journey: Cultivating Resilience in the Face of Adversity

1. Romans 12:15 - Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn.

2. 1 Thessalonians 5:11 - Therefore encourage one another and build one another up,

just as you are doing.

Acts 21:8 And the next day we that were of Paul's company departed, and came unto Caesarea: and we entered into the house of Philip the evangelist, which was one of the seven; and abode with him.

Paul and his companions traveled to Caesarea the next day and stayed with Philip the evangelist, one of the seven.

1. The Power of Community: The Journey of Paul and His Companions

2. The Strength of Fellowship: The Example of Philip the Evangelist

1. Psalm 133:1 - Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!

2. Hebrews 10:24-25 - And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

Acts 21:9 And the same man had four daughters, virgins, which did prophesy.

A man named Philip had four daughters who were virgins who prophesied.

1. A Father's Legacy: The Power of Raising Godly Children

2. The Power of Proclamation: The Role of Female Prophets

1. Proverbs 22:6 Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.

2. Luke 2:36-38 And there was one Anna, a prophetess, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Aser: she was of a great age, and had lived with an husband seven years from her virginity; And she was a widow of about fourscore and four years, which departed not from the temple, but served God with fastings and prayers night and day. And she coming in that instant gave thanks likewise unto the Lord, and spake of him to all them that looked for redemption in Jerusalem.

Acts 21:10 And as we tarried there many days, there came down from Judaea a certain prophet, named Agabus.

The passage describes how Agabus, a prophet from Judaea, came to visit the apostles in their travels.

1. The Importance of a Prophet's Guidance: Learning from the Example of Agabus

2. Trusting the Voice of God: How to Discern Wise Counsel

1. Acts 2:17-18 - "And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams: And on my servants and on my handmaidens I will pour out in those days of my Spirit; and they shall prophesy."

2. Jeremiah 29:11-13 - "For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the LORD, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end. Then shall ye call upon me, and ye shall go and pray unto me, and I will hearken unto you. And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart."

Acts 21:11 And when he was come unto us, he took Paul's girdle, and bound his own hands and feet, and said, Thus saith the Holy Ghost, So shall the Jews at Jerusalem bind the man that owneth this girdle, and shall deliver him into the hands of the Gentiles.

Paul was instructed by the Holy Ghost that he would be bound by the Jews at Jerusalem and delivered into the hands of the Gentiles.

1. Being Bold in Faith: The Example of Paul's Obedience to the Holy Ghost

2. Faithful Obedience: Following God's Instructions, Even When Difficult

1. Isaiah 55:8-9 “For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD. 9 For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.”

2. Luke 16:10-11 “He that is faithful in that which is least is faithful also in much: and he that is unjust in the least is unjust also in much. 11 If therefore ye have not been faithful in the unrighteous mammon, who will commit to your trust the true riches?”

Acts 21:12 And when we heard these things, both we, and they of that place, besought him not to go up to Jerusalem.

The people in the city begged Paul not to go up to Jerusalem.

1: We should never be afraid of what lies ahead of us when we follow God's will.

2: We should never be discouraged when people don't understand our decisions meant to please God.

1: Romans 8:38-39 "For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord."

2: 2 Timothy 1:7 "For God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control."

Acts 21:13 Then Paul answered, What mean ye to weep and to break mine heart? for I am ready not to be bound only, but also to die at Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus.

Paul was ready to die in Jerusalem for the Lord Jesus.

1: No Greater Love Than To Lay Down One's Life For Another

2: Giving Your All For The Lord

1: John 15:13 - Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.

2: 1 John 3:16 - Hereby perceive we the love of God, because he laid down his life for us.

Acts 21:14 And when he would not be persuaded, we ceased, saying, The will of the Lord be done.

Paul refused to be persuaded to do something against his will, and those around him

accepted that the Lord's will be done.

1. Trust in the Lord: Learning to Accept His Will.

2. Accepting that God Is in Control: Letting Go and Letting God.

1. Romans 12:1-2, “I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.”

2. Psalm 46:10, “Be still, and know that I am God. I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth!”

Acts 21:15 And after those days we took up our carriages, and went up to Jerusalem.

Paul and his companions journeyed to Jerusalem after completing their mission.

1. Live Boldly For Jesus - Paul's example of courage and faithfulness.

2. The Power of Community - The strength of shared mission and purpose.

1. Matthew 28:19-20 - Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you.

2. Acts 4:32-35 - Now the full number of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one said that any of the things that belonged to him was his own, but they had everything in common. And with great power the apostles were giving their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all.

Acts 21:16 There went with us also certain of the disciples of Caesarea, and brought with them one Mnason of Cyprus, an old disciple, with whom we should lodge.

Paul and some disciples of Caesarea traveled to Jerusalem and brought Mnason of Cyprus, an old disciple, with them to stay.

1. The importance of fellowship and community in our faith journey.

2. Practicing hospitality to strangers and those in need.

1. Hebrews 10:24-25 - And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another.

2. Romans 12:13 - Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality.

Acts 21:17 And when we were come to Jerusalem, the brethren received us gladly.

The brethren in Jerusalem welcomed Paul and his companions warmly.

1: The Importance of Welcoming Others with Open Arms

2: The Unconditional Love of the Brethren

1: Romans 12:10 - "Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves."

2: Galatians 6:10 - "Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers."

Acts 21:18 And the day following Paul went in with us unto James; and all the elders were present.

Paul went to meet with James and all the elders of the church.

1. The Importance of Fellowship in the Church

2. The Power of Unity in the Body of Christ

1. Hebrews 10:24-25 - And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

2. 1 Corinthians 12:12-27 - For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ.

Acts 21:19 And when he had saluted them, he declared particularly what things God had wrought among the Gentiles by his ministry.

Paul shared the great works of God he had seen in his ministry among the Gentiles.

1. God's Grace: How It Is Seen in the Ministry of Paul

2. Living a Life of Faith: Paul's Example

1. Ephesians 3:7-8 - “Of this gospel I was made a minister according to the gift of God’s grace, which was given me by the working of his power. 8 To me, though I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ.”

2. 1 Corinthians 15:10 - “But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me was not in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them, though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me.”

Acts 21:20 And when they heard it, they glorified the Lord, and said unto him, Thou seest, brother, how many thousands of Jews there are which believe; and they are all zealous of the law:

Paul visits Jerusalem and is welcomed by many Jews who believe in the Lord and are very passionate about following the law.

1. The Power of Passionate Faith: How Paul's Zealousness Encouraged Others.

2. The Importance of Following the Law: How Paul's Example Can Inspire Us.

1. Galatians 5:22-23 - But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.

2. Romans 12:1-2 - I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual

worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

Acts 21:21 And they are informed of thee, that thou teachest all the Jews which are among the Gentiles to forsake Moses, saying that they ought not to circumcise their children, neither to walk after the customs.

Paul faced accusations of teaching the Jews among the Gentiles to abandon Moses and their customs.

1: Find Strength Through Faith Despite Accusations

2: Stay True to Your Beliefs Despite Opposition

1: Romans 15:4-5 - "For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope. May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus."

2: Matthew 5:11-12 - "Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you."

Acts 21:22 What is it therefore? the multitude must needs come together: for they will hear that thou art come.

Paul's presence in Jerusalem has caused a large crowd to gather, eager to hear him speak.

1. Seek That Which Will Last Forever

2. The Power of a Positive Presence

1. Matthew 6:19-21 “Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

2. Romans 12:17-18 “Repay no one evil for evil, but give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all. If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all.”

Acts 21:23 Do therefore this that we say to thee: We have four men which have a vow on them;

The passage speaks of four men with a vow on them.

1. The Power of a Vow: How Making Promises to God Can Change Your Life

2. Living a Life of Commitment: The Power of Dedication to the Lord

1. Ecclesiastes 5:4-5 - When thou vowest a vow unto God, defer not to pay it; for he hath no pleasure in fools: pay that which thou hast vowed.

2. Isaiah 38:14-15 - I reckoned till morning, that, as a lion, so will he break all my bones: from day even to night wilt thou make an end of me. Like a crane or a swallow, so did I chatter: I did mourn as a dove: mine eyes fail with looking upward: O Lord, I am oppressed; undertake for me.

Acts 21:24 Them take, and purify thyself with them, and be at charges with them, that they may shave their heads: and all may know that those things, whereof they were informed concerning thee, are nothing; but that thou thyself also walkest orderly, and keepest the law.

The passage encourages the reader to purify themselves and to observe the laws of the Lord.

1. The Power of Obedience: The Virtue of Keeping the Law

2. Holiness in Action: Living Out the Call of God

1. Romans 6:19-20 – “For just as you presented your members as slaves to impurity and to lawlessness leading to more lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves to righteousness leading to sanctification. For when you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness.”

2. 1 John 5:2-3 – “By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and keep His commandments. For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments. And His commandments are not burdensome.”

Acts 21:25 As touching the Gentiles which believe, we have written and concluded that they observe no such thing, save only that they keep themselves from things offered to idols, and from blood, and from strangled, and from fornication.

The Gentile Christians were instructed to abstain from idolatry, eating blood, eating strangled animals, and sexual immorality.

1. The Necessity of Abstaining from Sin

2. The Holiness of the Christian Life

1. Romans 6:1-2 - What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it?

2. 1 Peter 1:13-16 - Therefore, preparing your minds for action, and being sober-minded, set your hope fully on the grace that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ. As obedient children, do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance, but as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, since it is written, “You shall be holy, for I am holy.”

Acts 21:26 Then Paul took the men, and the next day purifying himself with them entered into the temple, to signify the accomplishment of the days of purification, until that an offering should be offered for every one of them.

Paul purified himself and others to enter the temple and make an offering.

1. Be purified and seek holiness in the eyes of the Lord

2. Renew your commitment to the Lord through acts of repentance

1. 1 John 1:9, "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

2. Titus 2:14, "Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works."

Acts 21:27 And when the seven days were almost ended, the Jews which were of Asia, when they saw him in the temple, stirred up all the people, and laid hands on him,

On the seventh day of Paul's stay in Jerusalem, Jews from Asia saw him in the temple and stirred up the people to lay hands on him.

1. The Power of a United People

2. How Our Actions Impact Others

1. Proverbs 20:3 - It is an honor for a man to cease from strife, but every fool will be meddling.

2. Romans 12:18 - If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men.

Acts 21:28 Crying out, Men of Israel, help: This is the man, that teacheth all men every where against the people, and the law, and this place: and further brought Greeks also into the temple, and hath polluted this holy place.

The people were accusing Paul of teaching against their law and customs and bringing in Greeks to the temple, polluting it.

1: We must remain faithful to God and His laws, even when it is difficult.

2: We must ensure that our faith does not become polluted by outside influences.

1: Galatians 6:9 - And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.

2: Joshua 24:15 - And if it seem evil unto you to serve the LORD, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.

Acts 21:29 (For they had seen before with him in the city Trophimus an Ephesian, whom they supposed that Paul had brought into the temple.)

Paul was accused of bringing a Gentile, Trophimus, into the temple.

1: We must remain faithful in order to guard the holiness of the temple.

2: Love for our fellow man should extend beyond just our own people.

1: Matthew 5:43-44 - "You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you."

2: Galatians 3:28 - "There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus."

Acts 21:30 And all the city was moved, and the people ran together: and they took Paul, and drew him out of the temple: and forthwith the doors were shut.

The people of the city of Jerusalem ran together and arrested Paul, then shut the temple doors.

1. The Power of Unity: How Working Together Can Accomplish Great Things

2. The Power of Obedience: Doing the Right Thing Even When It's Difficult

1. Ephesians 4:3-4: "Making every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called."

2. Daniel 3:17-18: "If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God we serve is able to save us from it, and he will rescue us from your hand, O king. But even if he does not, we want you to know, O king, that we will not serve your gods or worship the image of gold you have set up.”

Acts 21:31 And as they went about to kill him, tidings came unto the chief captain of the band, that all Jerusalem was in an uproar.

A mob in Jerusalem attempted to kill Paul, but their plans were thwarted when the chief captain of the band was told of the uproar.

1. God's protection in times of danger

2. Standing firm in the face of opposition

1. Psalm 91:11-12 - For he will command his angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways; they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.

2. Romans 8:31 - What, then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?

Acts 21:32 Who immediately took soldiers and centurions, and ran down unto them: and when they saw the chief captain and the soldiers, they left beating of Paul.

Paul was arrested by Roman soldiers and the chief captain.

1. Don't Be Discouraged in Difficult Times - Paul endured the arrest and kept his faith in God

2. Stay True to Your Convictions - Paul was willing to stand up for his beliefs, even when faced with adversity

1. 2 Timothy 4:7-8 - I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith

2. Psalm 56:3 - When I am afraid, I put my trust in you.

Acts 21:33 Then the chief captain came near, and took him, and commanded him to be bound with two chains; and demanded who he was, and what he had done.

The chief captain arrested Paul and interrogated him.

1. The importance of staying vigilant in our faith and obedience to God.

2. The value of courage even in the face of persecution.

1. Matthew 10:28-31 - "Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather, be afraid of the One who can destroy both soul and body in hell."

2. Philippians 1:20-21 - "I eagerly expect and hope that I will in no way be ashamed, but will have sufficient courage so that now as always Christ will be exalted in my body, whether by life or by death."

Acts 21:34 And some cried one thing, some another, among the multitude: and when he could not know the certainty for the tumult, he commanded him to be carried into the castle.

A crowd was making a commotion and Paul was unable to make out what was being said, so he was taken into the castle for safety.

1. God is our protector in times of crisis.

2. We can trust in God's plan, even when things seem chaotic.

1. Psalm 46:1-3 "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear though the earth gives way, though the mountains be moved into the midst of the sea, though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble at its swelling. Selah"

2. Psalm 34:19 "Many are the afflictions of the righteous, but the Lord delivers him out of them all."

Acts 21:35 And when he came upon the stairs, so it was, that he was borne of the soldiers for the violence of the people.

Paul was carried away by the soldiers due to the violence of the crowd.

1. The Power of the Crowd - How to tackle strong emotions within a community.

2. Following the Lord's Call - Being faithful to God's mission despite opposition.

1. Matthew 10:28 - “And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell.”

2. Hebrews 11:24-26 - “By faith Moses, when he was grown up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh’s daughter, choosing rather to be mistreated with the people of God than to enjoy the fleeting pleasures of sin. He considered the reproach of Christ greater wealth than the treasures of Egypt, for he was looking to the reward.”

Acts 21:36 For the multitude of the people followed after, crying, Away with him.

The people cried out to have Paul removed.

1. Don't be too quick to judge: Reflections on Jesus and Paul.

2. Overcoming persecution: Lessons from Paul's experiences.

1. Matthew 7:1-2 "Judge not, that you be not judged. For with the judgment you pronounce you will be judged, and with the measure you use it will be measured to you."

2. Romans 8:35-39 "Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword?... For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord."

Acts 21:37 And as Paul was to be led into the castle, he said unto the chief captain, May I speak unto thee? Who said, Canst thou speak Greek?

Paul boldly requests permission to speak to the chief captain.

1. Faith in God gives us the courage to boldly pursue our mission.

2. Speak boldly and humbly when facing difficult situations.

1. Isaiah 41:10 “Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.”

2. Philippians 4:6-7 “Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.”

Acts 21:38 Art not thou that Egyptian, which before these days madest an uproar, and leddest out into the wilderness four thousand men that were murderers?

The Roman commander asked Paul if he was the Egyptian who had caused an uproar and led away four thousand men who committed murder.

1. The Power of Influence: Learning to Lead People Away from Sin

2. Not Every Path is a Good Path: Recognizing and Avoiding Temptation

1. Romans 6:13 - “And do not present your members as instruments of unrighteousness to sin, but present yourselves to God as being alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God.”

2. Galatians 5:19-21 - “Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.”

Acts 21:39 But Paul said, I am a man which am a Jew of Tarsus, a city in Cilicia, a citizen of no mean city: and, I beseech thee, suffer me to speak unto the people.

Paul asks permission to speak to the people of Jerusalem.

1. Never Stop Speaking Your Truth

2. The Power of Determination

1. Isaiah 40:31 - "But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint."

2. Philippians 4:13 - "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me."

Acts 21:40 And when he had given him licence, Paul stood on the stairs, and beckoned with the hand unto the people. And when there was made a great silence, he spake unto them in the Hebrew tongue, saying,

Paul stood on the stairs and beckoned to the people, resulting in a great silence. He then spoke to them in Hebrew.

1. The Power of Silence in a Noisy World

2. The Importance of Speaking Life-giving Words

1. Psalm 46:10 “Be still, and know that I am God”

2. Proverbs 18:21 “Death and life are in the power of the tongue”

Acts 22 recounts Paul's defense before the crowd in Jerusalem, his Roman citizenship saving him from flogging, and the plot to kill him.

1st Paragraph: The chapter begins with Paul addressing the crowd in Aramaic, recounting his early life as a devout Jew studying under Gamaliel, and his persecution of followers of 'the Way'. He then narrates his conversion on the road to Damascus - how he was struck blind by a bright light from heaven and heard Jesus' voice asking why he was persecuting Him. A man named Ananias, a devout observer of the law highly respected by all Jews living there, came to him and told him that God had chosen him to know His will, see Righteous One hear words from His mouth be His witness all people what he had seen heard (Acts 22:1-15).

2nd Paragraph: He further explained how in a vision while praying in temple he was instructed by Lord leave Jerusalem quickly because people would not accept testimony about Him but when protested saying they knew how persecuted church Jerusalem approved killing Stephen Lord told 'Go I will send you far away Gentiles' (Acts 22:17-21). The crowd listened until this point but when Paul mentioned mission Gentiles they raised their voices shouted 'Rid earth this man! He's not fit live!' As they were shouting throwing off their cloaks flinging dust into air commander ordered that Paul be taken into barracks directed that he be flogged interrogated order find out why people were shouting at him like this (Acts 22:22-24).

3rd Paragraph: As they stretched him out to flog him, Paul asked centurion standing there 'Is it legal for you to flog Roman citizen who hasn't even been found guilty?' When centurion heard this went commander reported asking 'What are you going do? This man is Roman citizen.' The commander went Paul asked 'Tell me are you Roman citizen?' When confirmed commander said became one great price but Paul replied 'I was born one.' Those who were about interrogate withdrew immediately those stood near feared when realized that he was Roman citizen because they had bound him (Acts 22:25-29). Next day because wanted find out real reason why Jews making charges against unbound called together chief priests entire Sanhedrin ordered bring before them (Acts 22:30).

Acts 22:1 Men, brethren, and fathers, hear ye my defence which I make now unto you.

Paul defends himself before the Jewish people.

1: We must all be prepared to defend our beliefs and faith.

2: We must trust and have faith in God to be our defender.

1: Romans 10:9-10 "That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation."

2: Psalm 27:1 "The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? the Lord is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?"

Acts 22:2 (And when they heard that he spake in the Hebrew tongue to them, they kept the more silence: and he saith,)

Paul's speech before the Sanhedrin: Paul recounts his conversion and addresses the Sanhedrin, speaking in Hebrew to them.

1. God can transform us if we are open to His will.

2. God can use each of us for His purpose in His own special way.

1. Romans 12:2 - Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

2. Ephesians 2:10 - For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

Acts 22:3 I am verily a man which am a Jew, born in Tarsus, a city in Cilicia, yet brought up in this city at the feet of Gamaliel, and taught according to the perfect manner of the law of the fathers, and was zealous toward God, as ye all are this day.

Paul was a Jewish man born in Tarsus, Cilicia who was brought up in Jerusalem and taught according to the Jewish law by Gamaliel. He was zealous in his faith, as were the Jews who heard him.

1. Finding Zeal for God in Unfamiliar Places

2. Growing in Faith Through Dedication and Obedience

1. Romans 10:2 - For I bear them record that they have a zeal of God, but not according to knowledge.

2. James 1:22 - But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.

Acts 22:4 And I persecuted this way unto the death, binding and delivering into prisons both men and women.

Paul had persecuted Christians to the point of death, imprisoning both men and women.

1. The Power of Persecution: How Our Actions Can Have Unintended Consequences

2. Living with Conviction: Staying Faithful to the Call of God

1. Matthew 5:10-11: "Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account."

2. Romans 12:14: "Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them."

Acts 22:5 As also the high priest doth bear me witness, and all the estate of the elders: from whom also I received letters unto the brethren, and went to Damascus, to bring them which were there bound unto Jerusalem, for to be punished.

Paul received letters from the high priest and elders of Jerusalem to bring back the Christians in Damascus to Jerusalem to be punished.

1. Understanding the Fear of God's Punishment

2. The Importance of Obedience to Leadership

1. Proverbs 16:6 - By the fear of the LORD men depart from evil.

2. Romans 13:1-7 - Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God.

Acts 22:6 And it came to pass, that, as I made my journey, and was come nigh unto Damascus about noon, suddenly there shone from heaven a great light round about me.

As Paul was traveling to Damascus, a great light suddenly shone from heaven around him.

1. The Power of God's Presence - Exploring how encountering the presence of God can lead to life-altering moments.

2. Taking Our Journeys with Faith - Learning to trust God on our journeys and how He has a plan for us.

1. Isaiah 40:31 - ?□ut they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.??

2. Hebrews 11:1 - ?□ow faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.??

Acts 22:7 And I fell unto the ground, and heard a voice saying unto me, Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me?

Saul is struck to the ground and hears a voice asking why he is persecuting Him.

1. The Need for Submission in the Face of God?□ Power

2. The Danger of Persecuting God?□ People

1. Hebrews 12:25-29

2. Romans 10:13-15

Acts 22:8 And I answered, Who art thou, Lord? And he said unto me, I am Jesus of Nazareth, whom thou persecutest.

Paul has an encounter with Jesus and is asked by Jesus why he is persecuting him.

1. We must ask ourselves why we are persecuting Jesus in our lives today.

2. When Jesus calls us, we must be prepared to answer and take His direction.

1. Matthew 28:19-20: "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.??

2. 1 Corinthians 15:3-8: ?□or I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep. Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me.??

Acts 22:9 And they that were with me saw indeed the light, and were afraid; but they heard not the voice of him that spake to me.

Paul and his companions saw a bright light, but only Paul heard the voice that spoke to him.

1. "The Power of Faith: Standing Firm in the Face of Adversity"

2. "Heard but Not Understood: The Call of God"

1. Isaiah 50:4-5 - "The Lord GOD has given me the tongue of those who are taught, that I may know how to sustain with a word him who is weary. Morning by morning he awakens; he awakens my ear to hear as those who are taught. The Lord GOD has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious; I turned not backward."

2. Isaiah 30:21 - "And your ears shall hear a word behind you, saying, ?□his is the way, walk in it,??when you turn to the right or when you turn to the left."

Acts 22:10 And I said, What shall I do, LORD? And the Lord said unto me, Arise, and go into Damascus; and there it shall be told thee of all things which are appointed for thee to do.

Paul is told by the Lord to go to Damascus, where he will be informed of the tasks he has been appointed to do.

1. Obeying God's Call: Following the Lord's Instructions to Reach Our Goals

2. Following Directions & Taking Action: Doing What the Lord Asks of Us

1. Jeremiah 29:11 - "For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope."

2. Matthew 7:24-27 - "Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock. And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on the rock."

Acts 22:11 And when I could not see for the glory of that light, being led by the hand of them that were with me, I came into Damascus.

Paul's miraculous encounter with a bright light while on the road to Damascus, leading to his conversion to Christianity.

1: God can use even the most unexpected circumstances to draw us closer to Him.

2: Paul's experience is a reminder that God is always present with us, even when we cannot see Him.

1. Matthew 5:14-16 ?□ou are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.??

2. Romans 8:14-17 ?□or all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, ?□bba! Father!??The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs?□eirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.??

Acts 22:12 And one Ananias, a devout man according to the law, having a good report of all the Jews which dwelt there,

Ananias was a devout Jew with a good reputation among the Jewish community in his area.

1. The Power of a Good Reputation

2. The Benefits of Living a Devout Life

1. Romans 12:17-19 - "Repay no one evil for evil, but give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all. If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, ?□engeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord.??

2. Proverbs 11:23 - "The desire of the righteous ends only in good; the expectation of the wicked in wrath."

Acts 22:13 Came unto me, and stood, and said unto me, Brother Saul, receive thy sight. And the same hour I looked up upon him.

Paul is given his sight back by Ananias, who calls him "Brother Saul".

1. The Power of Forgiveness: How Ananias's Unconditional Love Restored Paul's Sight

2. A Call to Acceptance: Welcoming All into the Kingdom of God

1. Luke 15:11-32 - Parable of the Prodigal Son

2. Ephesians 2:11-22 - God's Reconciliation and Unity of Believers

Acts 22:14 And he said, The God of our fathers hath chosen thee, that thou shouldest know his will, and see that Just One, and shouldest hear the voice of his mouth.

The God of our fathers has chosen Paul to know His will and witness justice being done.

1: Allow God to Lead the Way - God has chosen us to know His will and to witness justice being done.

2: God's Justice is Just - We must remember that God's justice is always just and right.

1: Isaiah 55:9 - For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.

2: Romans 12:19 - Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord.

Acts 22:15 For thou shalt be his witness unto all men of what thou hast seen and heard.

Paul is instructed by Ananias to proclaim his testimony of what he has seen and heard to all people.

1. The Power of Testimony: Sharing Your Story with Others

2. The Witness of Our Lives: Living Out Our Faith

1. Romans 10:14-15 ?□ow then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? And how are they to preach unless they are sent???

2. Matthew 5:14-16 ?□ou are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.??

Acts 22:16 And now why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord.

Saul, who is now known as Paul, is instructed by Ananias to be baptized and to wash

away his sins by calling on the name of the Lord.

1. The Power of Baptism: How Baptism Brings Salvation

2. The Necessity of Repentance: How Repentance Leads to Righteousness

1. Romans 6:3-4 - "Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.??

2. Galatians 3:27 - ?□or as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.??

Acts 22:17 And it came to pass, that, when I was come again to Jerusalem, even while I prayed in the temple, I was in a trance;

Paul is taken into a trance while praying in the temple in Jerusalem.

1. The Power of Prayer: Paul's experience in the Temple

2. Surrendering to the Will of God: Paul's experience in the Temple

1. Matthew 6:5-13 - Jesus teaches on the importance of prayer and how to pray.

2. 2 Corinthians 12:2-4 - Paul recounts a heavenly vision and being caught up to paradise.

Acts 22:18 And saw him saying unto me, Make haste, and get thee quickly out of Jerusalem: for they will not receive thy testimony concerning me.

Paul was in Jerusalem and was told by a vision to leave quickly because the people would not accept his testimony about Jesus.

1. The Importance of Obeying the Voice of the Lord

2. The Necessity of Sharing the Gospel

1. Luke 6:46 ?□hy do you call me ?□ord, Lord,??and do not do what I say???

2. Matthew 28:19-20 ?□herefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.??

Acts 22:19 And I said, Lord, they know that I imprisoned and beat in every synagogue them that believed on thee:

Paul recounts his history of persecuting Christians before his conversion.

1. God's grace can turn our enemies into allies.

2. The power of conversion through faith.

1. Romans 5:8 - "But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us."

2. Ephesians 2:1-10 - "For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith?□nd this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God??not by works, so that no one can boast."

Acts 22:20 And when the blood of thy martyr Stephen was shed, I also was standing by, and consenting unto his death, and kept the raiment of them that slew him.

Saul was present and consented to the death of Stephen, the first martyr, and even kept the clothes of those who killed him.

1. The Power of Repentance: Saul's transformation from persecutor to preacher.

2. The Cost of Following Christ: Stephen's sacrifice and the consequences of discipleship.

1. Acts 9:1-19 - Saul's conversion and calling as an apostle.

2. Luke 9:23-25 - Jesus' teaching on taking up one's cross and following Him.

Acts 22:21 And he said unto me, Depart: for I will send thee far hence unto the Gentiles.

Paul is commanded to go to the Gentiles and share the gospel.

1. The Power of the Gospel: How to Share the Good News with Others

2. The Call to Go: How to Respond to God's Command

1. Matthew 28:19-20 ?□herefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.??

2. Romans 10:13-15 ?□or, ?□veryone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.?? How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? And how can anyone preach unless they are sent? As it is written: ?□ ow beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!??

Acts 22:22 And they gave him audience unto this word, and then lifted up their voices, and said, Away with such a fellow from the earth: for it is not fit that he should live.

The Jews rejected Paul after he shared his testimony and called for him to be removed from the earth.

1. "The Power of Testimony: Proclaiming the Good News of Jesus Christ"

2. "The Courage to Stand Firm: Defending Your Faith in the Face of Opposition"

1. Philippians 1:20-21 - "according to my earnest expectation and hope that in nothing I shall be ashamed, but with all boldness, as always, so now also Christ will be magnified in my body, whether by life or by death. For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain."

2. Romans 8:31-39 - "What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things? Who shall bring a charge against God?□ elect? It is God who justifies. Who is he who condemns? It is Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written: ?□or

Your sake we are killed all day long; We are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.??Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord."

Acts 22:23 And as they cried out, and cast off their clothes, and threw dust into the air,

Paul was arrested and taken away by the commander of the Roman guard.

1: Our reactions in times of trouble should reflect the peace of Christ, not the chaos of the world.

2: When we face opposition, we should trust in God to protect us and provide for our needs.

1: Philippians 4:6-7 - "Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."

2: Psalm 23:4 - "Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me."

Acts 22:24 The chief captain commanded him to be brought into the castle, and bade that he should be examined by scourging; that he might know wherefore they cried so against him.

The chief captain had Paul brought to the castle and ordered him to be scourged in order to find out why the people were shouting against him.

1. The Faithfulness of Paul: How Paul's Unwavering Commitment to His Faith Led to His Persecution

2. The Power of Unconditional Love: How Paul's Love for His Enemies Led to His Redemption

1. Matthew 5:44 - ?□ut I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you.??

2. Romans 8:37-39 - ?□o, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.??

Acts 22:25 And as they bound him with thongs, Paul said unto the centurion that stood by, Is it lawful for you to scourge a man that is a Roman, and uncondemned?

Paul asked if it was lawful to scourge an uncondemned Roman man.

1. The Power of Questioning: How Paul's Boldness Can Teach Us to Challenge Authority

2. The Power of Knowing Your Rights: How Paul's Boldness Should Teach Us to Stand Up for Ourselves

1. Galatians 6:7-9 - Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows. Whoever sows to please their flesh, from the flesh will reap destruction; whoever sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life.

2. Isaiah 1:17 - Learn to do right; seek justice. Defend the oppressed. Take up the cause of the fatherless; plead the case of the widow.

Acts 22:26 When the centurion heard that, he went and told the chief captain, saying, Take heed what thou doest: for this man is a Roman.

The centurion recognised Paul as a Roman and cautioned the chief captain.

1. We must always be mindful of others, even if they are different from us.

2. We should use caution and wisdom when making decisions that affect the lives of others.

1. Colossians 3:12-14 - Put on then, as God?□ chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.

2. James 1:5 - If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him.

Acts 22:27 Then the chief captain came, and said unto him, Tell me, art thou a Roman? He said, Yea.

Paul's Roman citizenship is revealed in a tense situation.

1: God is faithful to provide when we are in need.

2: We are to be honest and truthful, even when it is difficult.

1: Joshua 1:9 - "Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go."

2: Isaiah 41:10 - "So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand."

Acts 22:28 And the chief captain answered, With a great sum obtained I this freedom. And Paul said, But I was free born.

Paul asserts his freedom despite the cost his captor paid for it.

1. Living Free: God's Gift of Freedom

2. The High Cost of Freedom: How Much Are You Willing to Pay?

1. Galatians 5:1 ???or freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.??

2. 1 Corinthians 7:22 ???or he who was called in the Lord as a slave is a freedman of the Lord. Likewise he who was free when called is a slave of Christ.??

Acts 22:29 Then straightway they departed from him which should have examined him: and the chief captain also was afraid, after he knew that he was a Roman, and because he had bound him.

The chief captain was afraid after he learned that Paul was a Roman and that he had bound him.

1: Do not be afraid when you are faced with difficult decisions.

2: Do not be intimidated by someone?□ position or authority.

1: Philippians 4:6-7 ?□o not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.??

2: Isaiah 41:10 ?□o do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.??

Acts 22:30 On the morrow, because he would have known the certainty wherefore he was accused of the Jews, he loosed him from his bands, and commanded the chief priests and all their council to appear, and brought Paul down, and set him before them.

The next day, the Roman commander released Paul from his bonds in order to better understand why he was being accused by the Jews. He then summoned the chief priests and their council, bringing Paul down to stand before them.

1. God's faithfulness in times of trial: Finding strength through faith in God.

2. The importance of justice in society: Upholding the law and seeking truth.

1. Isaiah 40:31 - But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.

2. Proverbs 21:15 - When justice is done, it brings joy to the righteous but terror to evildoers.

Acts 23 recounts Paul's defense before the Sanhedrin, the dissension between Pharisees and Sadducees, and the plot against his life.

1st Paragraph: The chapter begins with Paul looking straight at the Sanhedrin and stating that he has fulfilled his duty to God in all good conscience. High Priest Ananias ordered

those standing near him strike him mouth this Paul retorted 'God will strike you whitewashed wall! You sit there judge me according law yet you yourself violate law by commanding that I be struck!' Those present asked him how he could insult God's high priest, to which Paul replied that he did not realize Ananias was high priest as it is written 'Do not speak evil about ruler your people' (Acts 23:1-5).

2nd Paragraph: Realizing that some members of the council were Sadducees (who say there is no resurrection) and others were Pharisees, Paul called out in Sanhedrin 'My brothers I am Pharisee descended from Pharisees. I stand on trial because my hope resurrection dead.' When said this dispute broke out between Pharisees Sadducees assembly became divided (Sadducees say there is neither resurrection nor angels nor spirits but Pharisees believe all these things). There was great uproar some teachers law who were Pharisees stood up argued vigorously 'We find nothing wrong with this man what if spirit angel spoken him?' Dispute became so violent commander afraid they would tear Paul pieces ordered troops go down take him away from them by force bring into barracks (Acts 23:6-10).

3rd Paragraph: The following night Lord stood near Paul said 'Take courage! As you have testified about me in Jerusalem so must testify Rome' (Acts 23:11). Next morning Jews formed conspiracy bound themselves oath not eat drink until they had killed Paul. More than forty men were involved in this plot who went chief priests elders said taken solemn oath taste food until we have killed Paul now then you Sanhedrin petition commander bring him before you pretext wanting more accurate information about case we ready kill him before gets here (Acts 23:12-15). However son of sister heard plot went into barracks told warned commander sent young man uncle centurion saying 'Take care young man see does come harm.' Then dismissed young man charging tell anyone revealed secret them then called two centurions ordered prepare detachment two hundred soldiers seventy horsemen two hundred spearmen go Caesarea at nine tonight provide mounts for Paul so that he may be taken safely governor Felix. He wrote letter follows... (The remainder of Acts 23 details contents letter Claudius Lysias governor Felix arrangement safe transport for Paul city Caesarea due threats against his life.)

Acts 23:1 And Paul, earnestly beholding the council, said, Men and brethren, I have lived in all good conscience before God until this day.

Paul addressed the council with assurance that he had lived a life of conscience before God.

1. Living a life of conscience before God is an example we should all strive for.

2. Paul’s example of living in good conscience before God can be a source of strength and encouragement for us.

1. Romans 14:12 - So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God.

2. 1 Peter 3:16 - Having a good conscience; that, whereas they speak evil of you, as of evildoers, they may be ashamed that falsely accuse your good conversation in Christ.

Acts 23:2 And the high priest Ananias commanded them that stood by him to smite him on the mouth.

The high priest Ananias commanded his attendants to physically assault Paul.

1. "The Danger of Unrighteous Authority"

2. "God's Power in the Face of Suffering"

1. Isaiah 30:20-21 - "And though the Lord give you the bread of adversity, and the water of affliction, yet shall not thy teachers be removed into a corner any more, but thine eyes shall see thy teachers: And thine ears shall hear a word behind thee, saying, This is the way, walk ye in it, when ye turn to the right hand, and when ye turn to the left."

2. Matthew 5:39 - "But I say unto you, That ye resist not evil: but whosoever shall smite thee on thy right cheek, turn to him the other also."

Acts 23:3 Then said Paul unto him, God shall smite thee, thou whited wall: for sittest thou to judge me after the law, and commandest me to be smitten contrary to the law?

Paul rebuked the high priest for commanding him to be smitten contrary to the law.

1. The importance of standing up for justice according to the law.

2. How even in the face of opposition, we must remain firm in our convictions.

1. Luke 18:1-8 - Parable of the Persistent Widow.

2. Ephesians 6:10-18 - The Armor of God.

Acts 23:4 And they that stood by said, Revilest thou God's high priest?

Paul's boldness in standing up for himself resulted in him being accused of blasphemy.

1 - "Be Bold in Standing Up for Yourself"

2 - "The Power of Words"

1 - 1 Peter 3:15 - "But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect."

2 - James 1:19 - "My dear brothers and sisters, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry."

Acts 23:5 Then said Paul, I wist not, brethren, that he was the high priest: for it is written, Thou shalt not speak evil of the ruler of thy people.

Paul's defense against the accusation of blasphemy demonstrates his respect for authority and his commitment to follow the scriptures.

1: Respect those in authority and follow the teachings of the scriptures.

2: Respect the office of the high priest and speak no evil of them.

1: Romans 13:1-7

2: 1 Peter 2:13-17

Acts 23:6 But when Paul perceived that the one part were Sadducees, and the other Pharisees, he cried out in the council, Men and brethren, I am a Pharisee, the son of a Pharisee: of the hope and resurrection of the dead I am called in question.

Paul, being aware of the two sides present in the council, declared himself to be a Pharisee and stated that he was being questioned about the hope and resurrection of the dead.

1. The Hope and Resurrection of the Dead - Acts 23:6

2. Standing Firm in Your Faith - Acts 23:6

1. Romans 10:9-10 - That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.

2. 1 Peter 1:3-4 - Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.

Acts 23:7 And when he had so said, there arose a dissension between the Pharisees and the Sadducees: and the multitude was divided.

The Pharisees and Sadducees argued among themselves, resulting in a divided crowd.

1. The Danger of Divisiveness: How to Avoid Discourse That Pits Us Against Each Other

2. Bridging the Gap: Learning to Respect and Appreciate Our Differences

1. Proverbs 18:19 - "An offended brother is more unyielding than a fortified city, and disputes are like the barred gates of a citadel."

2. Ephesians 4:2-3 - "with all humility and gentleness, with patience, showing tolerance for one another in love, being diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace."

Acts 23:8 For the Sadducees say that there is no resurrection, neither angel, nor spirit: but the Pharisees confess both.

The Pharisees and Sadducees had different opinions regarding the resurrection, the angels, and the spirit.

1: We must never lose faith in the resurrection and the existence of angels and spirits.

2: The Sadducees were wrong in their disbelief in the resurrection and spirits, and the Pharisees were right in their belief.

1: 1 Thessalonians 4:13-14 - But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no

hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him.

2: Hebrews 12:22-23 - But ye are come unto mount Sion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to an innumerable company of angels, To the general assembly and church of the firstborn, which are written in heaven, and to God the Judge of all, and to the spirits of just men made perfect.

Acts 23:9 And there arose a great cry: and the scribes that were of the Pharisees' part arose, and strove, saying, We find no evil in this man: but if a spirit or an angel hath spoken to him, let us not fight against God.

The scribes of the Pharisees, after hearing Paul's defense, concluded that they could not find any fault in him and that any communication he had must have come from a spiritual source.

1. The Necessity of Faithfulness to God in Our Lives

2. The Power of Listening to God's Voice

1. Proverbs 3:5-6: Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight.

2. Matthew 6:10: Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Acts 23:10 And when there arose a great dissension, the chief captain, fearing lest Paul should have been pulled in pieces of them, commanded the soldiers to go down, and to take him by force from among them, and to bring him into the castle.

A great dissension arose among the people and the chief captain, fearing for Paul's safety, commanded the soldiers to take him by force and bring him into the castle.

1. Put Your Trust in the Lord to Protect You in Times of Trouble

2. The Importance of Putting Others First to Help Protect Them

1. Psalm 46:1 “God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble.”

2. Matthew 22:39 “And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’”

Acts 23:11 And the night following the Lord stood by him, and said, Be of good cheer, Paul: for as thou hast testified of me in Jerusalem, so must thou bear witness also at Rome.

The Lord appeared to Paul during the night and encouraged him to continue testifying of Him in Rome, just as he had done in Jerusalem.

1. Persevere in Testifying of the Lord - Acts 23:11

2. Courage Through Difficult Times - Acts 23:11

1. Isaiah 40:31 - But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.

2. Romans 8:37-39 - Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us. For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Acts 23:12 And when it was day, certain of the Jews banded together, and bound themselves under a curse, saying that they would neither eat nor drink till they had killed Paul.

A group of Jews plotted to kill Paul by taking an oath to not eat or drink until they had succeeded in their mission.

1. God's faithfulness is evident in the face of evil plans and schemes.

2. We can learn to trust God's protection even in the face of danger.

1. Psalm 56:3-4 - “When I am afraid, I put my trust in you. In God, whose word I praise, in God I trust; I shall not be afraid. What can flesh do to me?”

2. Romans 8:28-29 - “And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. For those whom he foreknew

he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers.”

Acts 23:13 And they were more than forty which had made this conspiracy.

The passage reveals that forty people had conspired against Paul.

1. God will always protect His faithful servants, no matter how great the odds.

2. Even in the face of overwhelming opposition, we should always stand firm in our faith.

1. Isaiah 54:17 "No weapon formed against you shall prosper"

2. Romans 8:31 "What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?"

Acts 23:14 And they came to the chief priests and elders, and said, We have bound ourselves under a great curse, that we will eat nothing until we have slain Paul.

The Jewish leaders were so angry with Paul that they had taken a vow to not eat until they had killed him.

1. The Danger of Unchecked Emotions: A Study of Acts 23:14

2. The Power of God's Protection: A Study of Acts 23:14

1. Proverbs 29:11 - A fool gives full vent to his spirit, but a wise man quietly holds it back.

2. Psalm 91:11 - For he will command his angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways.

Acts 23:15 Now therefore ye with the council signify to the chief captain that he bring him down unto you to morrow, as though ye would enquire something more perfectly concerning him: and we, or ever he come near, are ready to kill him.

The Jewish council urges the Roman captain to bring Paul before them the next day, so

they can interrogate him further, and they are prepared to kill him.

1. The Danger of Rejecting God's Message: A Study in Paul's Life

2. The Value of Perseverance in Difficult Times

1. Romans 8:31-39 - The assurance and power of God's love in the midst of suffering.

2. Hebrews 12:1-3 - The need to persevere and remain faithful even in difficult times.

Acts 23:16 And when Paul's sister's son heard of their lying in wait, he went and entered into the castle, and told Paul.

Paul's sister's son was warned of a plot against Paul and alerted him in time.

1. God provides protection, even in the darkest of times.

2. God shows his love for us through the people around us.

1. Psalm 27:5 "For in the day of trouble he will keep me safe in his dwelling; he will hide me in the shelter of his sacred tent and set me high upon a rock."

2. Romans 8:28 "And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose."

Acts 23:17 Then Paul called one of the centurions unto him, and said, Bring this young man unto the chief captain: for he hath a certain thing to tell him.

Paul called upon a centurion to bring a young man to the chief captain as the young man had something important to tell him.

1. God gives us courage to speak truth to those in power.

2. We can always rely on the Lord's guidance in difficult situations.

1. Proverbs 28:1 - "The wicked flee when no one pursues, but the righteous are bold as a lion."

2. Isaiah 41:10 - "Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand."

Acts 23:18 So he took him, and brought him to the chief captain, and said, Paul the prisoner called me unto him, and prayed me to bring this young man unto thee, who hath something to say unto thee.

Paul asked a disciple to bring a young man to the chief captain so he could tell him something.

1. Be Bold and Speak Up - Acts 23:18

2. Stand up for What You Believe - Acts 23:18

1. Proverbs 31:8-9 “Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute. Speak up and judge fairly; defend the rights of the poor and needy.”

2. James 1:19-20 “Understand this, my dear brothers and sisters: You must all be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to get angry. Human anger does not produce the righteousness God desires.”

Acts 23:19 Then the chief captain took him by the hand, and went with him aside privately, and asked him, What is that thou hast to tell me?

Paul was taken aside by the chief captain and asked him to share his story.

1: God will provide us with opportunities to share our story and bring glory to His name.

2: We must be willing to step out in faith and trust that God will provide the strength and courage needed in difficult situations.

1: Romans 8:31 - “What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?”

2: Philippians 4:13 - “I can do all things through him who strengthens me.”

Acts 23:20 And he said, The Jews have agreed to desire thee that thou wouldest bring down Paul to morrow into the council, as though they would enquire somewhat of him more perfectly.

The Jews asked the commander to bring Paul to the council the following day to ask him further questions.

1. The Importance of Listening to God's Guidance Despite the Pressure of Others

2. Being Prepared to Follow God's Will in Any Situation

1. James 1:5-6 - "If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him. But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea that is driven and tossed by the wind.

2. Isaiah 55:8-9 - “For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.”

Acts 23:21 But do not thou yield unto them: for there lie in wait for him of them more than forty men, which have bound themselves with an oath, that they will neither eat nor drink till they have killed him: and now are they ready, looking for a promise from thee.

Paul is warned of an assassination plot against him by more than 40 men who have vowed not to eat or drink until he is killed.

1. Don't give in to pressure from those who desire to do evil.

2. Stand firm in your faith despite opposition and temptation.

1. Ephesians 6:11-13 - Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil.

2. Matthew 10:22 - And you will be hated by all for my name's sake. But the one who endures to the end will be saved.

Acts 23:22 So the chief captain then let the young man depart, and charged him, See thou tell no man that thou hast shewed these things to me.

The chief captain released the young man and told him not to tell anyone about what happened.

1. The Power of Keeping Secrets

2. Living Out Our Commitments

1. Proverbs 11:13 - A gossip betrays a confidence; but a trustworthy man keeps a secret.

2. Colossians 3:23 - Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters.

Acts 23:23 And he called unto him two centurions, saying, Make ready two hundred soldiers to go to Caesarea, and horsemen threescore and ten, and spearmen two hundred, at the third hour of the night;

Paul commands two centurions to gather 200 soldiers, 70 horsemen, and 200 spearmen to go to Caesarea at night.

1. The Faithfulness of Paul in Following God's Will

2. The Power of Obedience to God's Commands

1. Romans 8:28 - And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.

2. Hebrews 11:6 - And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.

Acts 23:24 And provide them beasts, that they may set Paul on, and bring him safe unto Felix the governor.

Claudius Lysias orders soldiers to provide beasts for Paul to be taken safely to Felix, the governor.

1. God’s divine providence is seen in the protection of Paul in his mission to share the Good News of Jesus Christ.

2. The power of prayer can move mountains and grant us protection in times of danger.

1. Philippians 4:6-7 “Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.”

2. Psalm 18:2 “The Lord is my rock, my fortress and my deliverer; my God is my rock, in whom I take refuge, my shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.”

Acts 23:25 And he wrote a letter after this manner:

Paul's dilemma of being stuck between his loyalty to the council and his loyalty to his faith was addressed through the letter sent to the council by Felix.

1. Loyalty to God should always be our priority.

2. We should be willing to stand up for our faith even when it is difficult.

1. Matthew 6:33 - But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

2. Daniel 3:17 - If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God we serve is able to save us from it, and he will rescue us from your hand, O king.

Acts 23:26 Claudius Lysias unto the most excellent governor Felix sendeth greeting.

Claudius Lysias sends a greeting to the esteemed Governor Felix.

1. The value of respect in our relationships.

2. The importance of humility in leadership.

1. Philippians 2:3-4 - “Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.”

2. Proverbs 18:12 - "Before destruction a man's heart is haughty, but humility comes before honor.”

Acts 23:27 This man was taken of the Jews, and should have been killed of them: then came I with an army, and rescued him, having understood that he was a Roman.

Paul is rescued by the Roman army after being taken prisoner by the Jews.

1: In times of adversity, God can use unexpected sources to rescue us.

2: We should be prepared for God to use us to rescue others.

1: Isaiah 41:10 - Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness.

2: Psalm 91:14-15 - Because he hath set his love upon me, therefore will I deliver him: I will set him on high, because he hath known my name. He shall call upon me, and I will answer him: I will be with him in trouble; I will deliver him, and honour him.

Acts 23:28 And when I would have known the cause wherefore they accused him, I brought him forth into their council:

Paul brought a man he did not know before the council to find out what he was accused of.

1. Making Wise Decisions in Uncertain Times

2. The Power of Righteous Judgment

1. Proverbs 15:22 - Without counsel purposes are disappointed: but in the multitude of counsellors they are established.

2. James 1:19 - Wherefore, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath.

Acts 23:29 Whom I perceived to be accused of questions of their law, but to have nothing laid to his charge worthy of death or of bonds.

Paul was accused of breaking Jewish law but nothing he had done was serious enough to warrant punishment.

1. How We Respond to Persecution - Encouraging Christians to stay faithful to God despite unfair treatment.

2. Overcoming False Accusations - Reminding believers to remain confident in God's truth.

1. Romans 8:35-39 - Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?

2. John 16:32-33 - In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.

Acts 23:30 And when it was told me how that the Jews laid wait for the man, I sent straightway to thee, and gave commandment to his accusers also to say before thee what they had against him. Farewell.

Paul instructed the Roman commander to bring the Jews who were planning to ambush a man before him to answer for their allegations.

1. The importance of justice and fairness in a society.

2. God's protection from enemies.

1. Psalm 37:40 - "And the Lord shall help them and deliver them: He shall deliver them from the wicked, and save them, because they trust in Him."

2. Proverbs 21:15 - "It is joy to the just to do judgment: but destruction shall be to the workers of iniquity."

Acts 23:31 Then the soldiers, as it was commanded them, took Paul, and brought him by

night to Antipatris.

Paul was taken by the soldiers at night to Antipatris, as commanded.

1. Obeying Commands: The Example of Paul in Acts 23:31

2. Following Orders: How Paul Demonstrated Obedience in Acts 23:31

1. Joshua 1:7-9 - Be strong and very courageous; be careful to obey all the law my servant Moses gave you; do not turn from it to the right or to the left, that you may be successful wherever you go.

2. Romans 13:1-5 - Let everyone be subject to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God.

Acts 23:32 On the morrow they left the horsemen to go with him, and returned to the castle:

The horsemen accompanied Paul to the castle the next day, and the others returned.

1. Paul's journey to the castle serves as an example of faithfulness and trust in God's guidance.

2. The power of companionship - how even the most difficult paths are made easier with friends.

1. Hebrews 11:1 - "Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen."

2. Proverbs 27:17 - "Iron sharpens iron, and one man sharpens another."

Acts 23:33 Who, when they came to Caesarea, and delivered the epistle to the governor, presented Paul also before him.

Paul is presented to the governor at Caesarea.

1: We can trust in God's timing, as He will always be faithful to His promises.

2: We should always be faithful to the plans God has for us and be willing to stand firm in our faith.

1: Hebrews 11:1-3 "Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see. This is what the ancients were commended for. By faith we understand that the universe was formed at God’s command, so that what is seen was not made out of what was visible."

2: Romans 8:28 "And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose."

Acts 23:34 And when the governor had read the letter, he asked of what province he was. And when he understood that he was of Cilicia;

Paul was identified as being from Cilicia.

1. Being identified by our actions and deeds.

2. Knowing who we are in Christ.

1. Ephesians 4:1-3 - "I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace."

2. Colossians 3:12-17 - "Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God."

Acts 23:35 I will hear thee, said he, when thine accusers are also come. And he commanded him to be kept in Herod's judgment hall.

Paul was given an audience with the Roman commander and promised to be heard when

his accusers arrived.

1. God always provides a way for us to be heard in times of struggle.

2. We can trust that God will be with us even when we are in difficult situations.

1. Isaiah 41:10 - “Do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.”

2. Psalm 55:22 - “Cast your cares on the Lord and he will sustain you; he will never let the righteous fall.”

Acts 24 recounts Paul's trial before Governor Felix in Caesarea, the accusations by Tertullus, a lawyer representing the high priest and Jewish elders, and Paul's defense.

1st Paragraph: The chapter begins with Ananias, some elders, and a lawyer named Tertullus arriving in Caesarea to present their case against Paul to Governor Felix. Tertullus began his accusation by flattering Felix then proceeded to accuse Paul of being a troublemaker who stirred up riots among Jews all over world ringleader Nazarene sect even tried desecrate temple seized him (Acts 24:1-7). They asked Felix examine Paul himself based on what they had said.

2nd Paragraph: After Tertullus presented his case, Felix gave Paul opportunity defend himself. Paul politely addressed governor refuting charges saying he had gone Jerusalem worship twelve days earlier neither arguing anyone nor causing disturbance either temple synagogues city could prove charges making instead confessed that he followed 'Way' which they called sect believed everything written Law Prophets have hope God as these men themselves have that there will be resurrection both righteous wicked (Acts 24:10-15). He emphasized always strived keep clear conscience before God man after several years came bring gifts people offer sacrifices there found ceremonially clean without crowd disturbance some Jews province Asia should be here before you make any charges if they have anything against me or let these men themselves say what crime they found when stood before Sanhedrin unless it was one thing shouted as stood trial 'It is concerning resurrection dead I am on trial before you today' (Acts 24:16-21).

3rd Paragraph: However, because Felix had accurate knowledge of the Way, he adjourned proceedings saying 'When Lysias commander comes down I will decide your case.' He ordered centurion keep Paul under guard but give him some freedom allow friends take care his needs (Acts 24:22-23). Several days later Felix came with his wife Drusilla who was Jewish sent for Paul listened him speak about faith Christ Jesus As talked about righteousness self-control judgment come Felix became afraid said 'That's enough for now! You may leave. When I find it convenient I will send for you.' At same time hoped that money would be given him by Paul so sent for him frequently talked with him but after two years Porcius Festus succeeded Felix wanted grant favor Jews left Paul

imprisoned (Acts 24:24-27).

Acts 24:1 And after five days Ananias the high priest descended with the elders, and with a certain orator named Tertullus, who informed the governor against Paul.

Paul was accused of wrongdoing by Ananias the high priest and Tertullus, an orator, before the governor.

1. The Danger of Gossip: A Study of the Accusation of Paul

2. Standing Firm in the Face of Opposition: Paul's Defense in Acts 24

1. Proverbs 18:8 - "The words of a gossip are like choice morsels; they go down to a man's inmost parts."

2. 1 Corinthians 10:13 - "No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it."

Acts 24:2 And when he was called forth, Tertullus began to accuse him, saying, Seeing that by thee we enjoy great quietness, and that very worthy deeds are done unto this nation by thy providence,

Tertullus praised Felix for the great quietness and worthy deeds that he had provided to the nation.

1. Recognizing God's Work Through Human Leaders

2. Understanding the Role of Human Leaders in Serving God's People

1. Philippians 2:12-13 "Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure."

2. Colossians 3:23-24 "Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men,

knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ."

Acts 24:3 We accept it always, and in all places, most noble Felix, with all thankfulness.

Paul thanked Felix for always accepting him and his teachings.

1. The Power of Giving Thanks: How Gratitude Can Change Our Lives

2. The Art of Humility: Letting Our Gratitude Speak for Us

1. Colossians 3:15-17 - And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord. And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.

2. Ephesians 5:20 - Giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Acts 24:4 Notwithstanding, that I be not further tedious unto thee, I pray thee that thou wouldest hear us of thy clemency a few words.

Paul defends himself before Felix, the Roman governor.

1. Trials and Tribulations: How to Handle Difficult Situations with Grace and Dignity

2. The Power of Persuasion: Making Your Voice Heard in a Courteous Manner

1. James 1:2-4 - Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

2. Romans 12:18 - If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all.

Acts 24:5 For we have found this man a pestilent fellow, and a mover of sedition among all the Jews throughout the world, and a ringleader of the sect of the Nazarenes:

Paul is accused of being a troublemaker and leader of a new sect of believers.

1. The Power of Influence: How We Can Make a Difference in the World

2. Standing Firm in the Face of Opposition: The Example of Paul

1. Matthew 5:14-16 - "You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.

2. Ephesians 6:10-12 - Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil? schemes. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand.

Acts 24:6 Who also hath gone about to profane the temple: whom we took, and would have judged according to our law.

Paul was accused of desecrating the temple in Jerusalem.

1: We can learn from Paul's example of courage and faith in the face of opposition.

2: We should not forget the importance of the temple and its holiness.

1: Galatians 6:9 - "Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up."

2: Luke 21:19 - "By standing firm you will gain life."

Acts 24:7 But the chief captain Lysias came upon us, and with great violence took him away out of our hands,

Lysias violently takes away Paul from his followers.

1. Compassion in the Face of Adversity

2. Upholding Faith in the Face of Opposition

1. Matthew 5:10-12 - ?□lessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness??sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.??

2. Romans 8:31-39 - ?□hat then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things? Who shall bring any charge against God?□ elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died?□ore than that, who was raised?□ho is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? As it is written, ?□or your sake we are being killed all the day long; we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered.?? No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.??

Acts 24:8 Commanding his accusers to come unto thee: by examining of whom thyself mayest take knowledge of all these things, whereof we accuse him.

Paul's defense of himself before Felix demonstrated his trust in God's justice.

1. God is our ultimate judge, so put your trust in Him.

2. Even in difficult times, we must trust in the Lord's justice.

1. Romans 8:28 "And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose."

2. Proverbs 3:5-6 "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight."

Acts 24:9 And the Jews also assented, saying that these things were so.

The Jews agreed with Paul's words that they were true.

1. Faithfulness Rewarded - God heard Paul's words and rewarded him with the Jews' approval.

2. Truth is Unchanging - Paul spoke truthfully and the Jews recognized it.

1. John 8:32 - "And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."

2. Proverbs 12:19 - "The lip of truth shall be established forever."

Acts 24:10 Then Paul, after that the governor had beckoned unto him to speak, answered, Forasmuch as I know that thou hast been of many years a judge unto this nation, I do the more cheerfully answer for myself:

Paul cheerfully answered the governor's question in light of his many years of experience with the nation.

1: Put your trust in God and cheerfully answer any questions asked of you.

2: Be confident in your own knowledge and experience, and use it to your advantage.

1: Proverbs 3:5-6 "Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths."

2: Philippians 4:4-5 "Rejoice in the Lord always: and again I say, Rejoice. Let your moderation be known unto all men. The Lord is at hand."

Acts 24:11 Because that thou mayest understand, that there are yet but twelve days since I went up to Jerusalem for to worship.

Paul defends his faith before Felix by stating that he had only recently been to Jerusalem to worship.

1. Staying True to Your Faith: Remaining Committed to Worship

2. What Does It Mean to Worship: Exploring the Depths of Devotion

1. Hebrews 10:22 - Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water.

2. John 4:23-24 - But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.

Acts 24:12 And they neither found me in the temple disputing with any man, neither raising up the people, neither in the synagogues, nor in the city:

Paul was found innocent of any wrongdoing, as he was not found in the temple, synagogues, or city raising up the people or disputing with anyone.

1. The Power of Innocence: A Look at Paul's Experience in Acts 24

2. Keeping Ourselves from False Accusations: Lessons from Paul's Defense of His Character

1. Matthew 5:11-12 - Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake. Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you.

2. 1 Peter 2:20-21 - For what glory is it, if, when ye be buffeted for your faults, ye shall take it patiently? but if, when ye do well, and suffer for it, ye take it patiently, this is acceptable with God. For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps.

Acts 24:13 Neither can they prove the things whereof they now accuse me.

Paul stands before Felix to defend himself against false accusations made against him.

1. We should strive to live a life of honesty and integrity, so that others cannot accuse us of anything.

2. We should trust in God's protection and provision even when false accusations are made against us.

1. Proverbs 10:9 - He who walks in integrity walks securely, but he who perverts his ways will be found out.

2. 1 Peter 2:19-21 - For this is a gracious thing, when, mindful of God, one endures sorrows while suffering unjustly. For what credit is it if, when you sin and are beaten for it, you endure? But if when you do good and suffer for it you endure, this is a gracious thing in the sight of God. For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps.

Acts 24:14 But this I confess unto thee, that after the way which they call heresy, so worship I the God of my fathers, believing all things which are written in the law and in the prophets:

Paul confesses he is a worshipper of the God of his fathers, believing all things written in the law and prophets.

1: We are called to follow God and not man.

2: It is important to be rooted in the Word of God.

1: Romans 12:2 - Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.

2: Deuteronomy 6:4-6 - Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts.

Acts 24:15 And have hope toward God, which they themselves also allow, that there shall be a resurrection of the dead, both of the just and unjust.

Paul encouraged people to have hope in God, trusting in a resurrection of both the just and unjust.

1. The Hope of the Resurrection: Trusting in God's Promise

2. God's Justice: The Resurrection of the Just and Unjust

1. Isaiah 25:8-9 He will swallow up death forever; and the Lord GOD will wipe away tears from all faces; the rebuke of his people he will take away from all the earth; for the LORD has spoken.

2. Romans 6:23 For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Acts 24:16 And herein do I exercise myself, to have always a conscience void of offence toward God, and toward men.

Paul was committed to having a clear conscience before God and man.

1: Jesus calls us to have a clear conscience before God and man.

2: We are called to live a life of integrity in the presence of God and man.

1: 1 John 3:20-21 ?or whenever our heart condemns us, God is greater than our heart, and he knows everything. Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence before God.??

2: Romans 12:17 ?epay no one evil for evil, but give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all.??

Acts 24:17 Now after many years I came to bring alms to my nation, and offerings.

Paul returns to Jerusalem to bring offerings to his people.

1. The importance of returning home and giving back to those who have given us.

2. Remembering our roots and showing gratitude.

1. Luke 17:11??9 - Jesus heals the ten lepers and only one returns to thank Him.

2. Matthew 25:35??6 ??Jesus instructs us to help those in need.

Acts 24:18 Whereupon certain Jews from Asia found me purified in the temple, neither with multitude, nor with tumult.

Some Jews from Asia found Paul purified in the temple, without a large crowd or commotion.

1. The Power of Obedience: Discovering God's Purpose in Our Lives

2. Living in Peace: Finding Harmony in Unsettled Times

1. Psalm 130:5-6 - "I wait for the LORD, my soul doth wait, and in his word do I hope. My soul waiteth for the Lord more than they that watch for the morning: I say, more than they that watch for the morning."

2. Matthew 5:9 - "Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God."

Acts 24:19 Who ought to have been here before thee, and object, if they had ought against me.

Paul defends himself to Felix by stating that if anyone had anything against him, they should have been present to object.

1. Standing up for Justice: Paul's example of standing up for himself and demanding justice.

2. Righteousness in the Face of Accusation: Standing firm and trusting in God's righteousness when falsely accused.

1. Isaiah 54:17 - No weapon formed against me shall prosper.

2. Proverbs 17:15 - He who justifies the wicked and he who condemns the righteous, both of them alike are an abomination to the Lord.

Acts 24:20 Or else let these same here say, if they have found any evil doing in me, while I stood before the council,

Paul was accused of wrongdoing before the council, but no evidence was found against

him.

1: God's justice always prevails, and He is faithful to protect us from false accusations.

2: We can trust in God to protect us and to bring justice to the unjust.

1: Psalm 37:5-6 - Commit your way to the Lord; trust in Him, and He will act. He will bring forth your righteousness as the light, and your justice as the noonday.

2: Proverbs 21:3 - To do righteousness and justice is more acceptable to the Lord than sacrifice.

Acts 24:21 Except it be for this one voice, that I cried standing among them, Touching the resurrection of the dead I am called in question by you this day.

Paul is being questioned before Felix about his claims regarding the resurrection of the dead.

1. Our Hope of Resurrection: Celebrating the Gift of Eternal Life

2. Living in the Light of the Resurrection: Transforming the World by Faith

1. 1 Corinthians 15:20-22 ???□ut now Christ is risen from the dead, and has become the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. For since by man came death, by Man also came the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive.??

2. Luke 24:3-7 ???□hen they remembered His words, and returned from the tomb and reported all these things to the eleven and to all the rest. It was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the other women with them, who told these things to the apostles. And their words seemed to them like idle tales, and they did not believe them. But Peter arose and ran to the tomb; and stooping down, he saw the linen cloths lying by themselves; and he departed, marveling to himself at what had happened.??

Acts 24:22 And when Felix heard these things, having more perfect knowledge of that way, he deferred them, and said, When Lysias the chief captain shall come down, I will know the uttermost of your matter.

Felix listened to Paul and the Jews debating and decided to wait until Lysias, the chief

captain, could arrive in order to gain more knowledge on the matter.

1. Patience in Decision Making: Learning from Felix in Acts 24

2. The Value of Seeking Wisdom: The Example of Felix in Acts 24

1. James 1:5 - "If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him."

2. Proverbs 11:14 - "Where there is no counsel, the people fall; But in the multitude of counselors there is safety."

Acts 24:23 And he commanded a centurion to keep Paul, and to let him have liberty, and that he should forbid none of his acquaintance to minister or come unto him.

Paul is allowed to have the liberty to receive visitors and to receive help from his acquaintances.

1: God's grace grants us freedom to be surrounded by the support of those who love us.

2: God's love and mercy allows us to be comforted and cared for by those around us.

1: Romans 8:38-39 - For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

2: Hebrews 13:5 - Keep your life free from love of money, and be content with what you have, for he has said, ?□ will never leave you nor forsake you.??

Acts 24:24 And after certain days, when Felix came with his wife Drusilla, which was a Jewess, he sent for Paul, and heard him concerning the faith in Christ.

Paul spoke to Felix and Drusilla about the faith in Christ.

1. The importance of sharing the gospel with others

2. The power of faith in Jesus Christ

1. Matthew 28:18-20 - And Jesus came and said to them, ?ll authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.??

2. Romans 10:14-17 - How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, ?ow beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!??So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.

Acts 24:25 And as he reasoned of righteousness, temperance, and judgment to come, Felix trembled, and answered, Go thy way for this time; when I have a convenient season, I will call for thee.

Felix was convicted of his own sinfulness after Paul? preaching on righteousness, temperance, and judgment to come.

1. The Sinfulness of Man and the Consequences of Unrepentant Behavior

2. The Power of Preaching and its Ability to Impact a Heart

1. Romans 3:10-12 - As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one: There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God. They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one.

2. 1 Corinthians 2:4-5 - And my speech and my preaching was not with enticing words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power: That your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God.

Acts 24:26 He hoped also that money should have been given him of Paul, that he might loose him: wherefore he sent for him the oftener, and communed with him.

Paul's detainment was of great interest to Felix, who hoped to receive a bribe from him in exchange for his freedom.

1: In this passage, we learn that Paul's detainment was of great interest to Felix, who

hoped a bribe would set Paul free. We must be careful to not let our hope of reward distract us from doing what is right.

2: The story of Paul and Felix shows us that even the most wicked of people can be driven by greed. We must strive to remain focused on what is right and just, even in the face of temptation.

1: Ephesians 5:15-17 "Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, making the best use of the time, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is."

2: Matthew 6:24 "No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money."

Acts 24:27 But after two years Porcius Festus came into Felix' room: and Felix, willing to shew the Jews a pleasure, left Paul bound.

Paul was left bound by Felix to please the Jews.

1: Jesus taught us to love our enemies and to treat others as we would want to be treated. We must learn to forgive and not hold grudges against others.

2: We must learn to forgive and not be influenced by the opinions of others. We must remain true to our beliefs and trust in God's will.

1: Matthew 5:44-45 ?□ut I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be children of your Father in heaven.??

2: Philippians 4:4-5 ?□ejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near.??

Acts 25 recounts the continuation of Paul's trial, now before Governor Festus, the Jewish leaders' plot to kill Paul, and King Agrippa's involvement in the case.

1st Paragraph: The chapter begins with Festus taking office and after three days going up to Jerusalem from Caesarea. The chief priests and Jewish leaders appeared before him presented charges against Paul. They urgently requested as a favor to them to have Paul transferred to Jerusalem for they were planning an ambush to kill him along the way. But Festus answered that Paul was being held at Caesarea and that he himself was going

there soon. He suggested that those able among them go down with him present their accusations against Paul if he had done anything wrong (Acts 25:1-5).

2nd Paragraph: About eight or ten days later, Festus returned to Caesarea. The next day he convened court ordered Paul brought in when arrived Jews who had come down from Jerusalem stood around him bringing many serious charges against him which they could not prove (Acts 25:6-7). In his defense, Paul stated 'I have done nothing wrong against Jewish law or against temple or against Caesar.' However Festus wanting do Jews favor said 'Are you willing go up Jerusalem stand trial before me there these charges?' But Paul answered 'I am standing Caesar's court where I ought be tried haven't done any wrong Jews as you very well know if I am guilty have done something deserving death I don't refuse die but if charges are false no one has right hand me over them I appeal Caesar!' After conferring with his council, Festus declared 'You have appealed Caesar? To Caesar you will go!' (Acts 25:8-12).

3rd Paragraph: A few days later King Agrippa and Bernice arrived at Caesarea pay respects Festus when they had been there many days Festus presented case before king saying there man left prisoner by Felix about whom whole Jewish community petitioned me both in Jerusalem here shouting he ought not live any longer found nothing deserving death but because appealed Emperor decided send him but don't know what write about him Lord therefore have brought before all especially so as examination may questions can write something it seems unreasonable send prisoner without specifying charges against him (Acts 25:13-27).

Acts 25:1 Now when Festus was come into the province, after three days he ascended from Caesarea to Jerusalem.

Festus arrived in the province and three days later travelled from Caesarea to Jerusalem.

1. The Journey to Heaven - Reflecting on the example of Festus in Acts 25:1

2. Taking the Right Path - Examining the importance of making wise decisions as we travel

1. Psalm 139:7-9 - Where shall I go from your Spirit? Or where shall I flee from your presence? If I ascend to heaven, you are there! If I make my bed in Sheol, you are there! If I take the wings of the morning and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea, even there your hand shall lead me, and your right hand shall hold me.

2. Proverbs 16:9 - The heart of man plans his way, but the Lord establishes his steps.

Acts 25:2 Then the high priest and the chief of the Jews informed him against Paul, and besought him,

Paul's accusers brought false accusations against him to the Roman official.

1. Proclaiming the Gospel Despite False Accusations

2. Relying on God's Strength to Overcome Persecution

1. Romans 8:31-32 - "What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things?"

2. Matthew 10:22 - "You will be hated by all for my name's sake, but the one who endures to the end will be saved."

Acts 25:3 And desired favour against him, that he would send for him to Jerusalem, laying wait in the way to kill him.

Paul is accused by his enemies of wrongdoing and they attempt to have him killed.

1. We must be careful not to let our passions lead us to do wrong.

2. We should be wary of our enemies and guard ourselves against their schemes.

1. Proverbs 14:16 "One who is wise is cautious and turns away from evil, but a fool is reckless and careless."

2. Ephesians 4:31-32 "Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you."

Acts 25:4 But Festus answered, that Paul should be kept at Caesarea, and that he himself would depart shortly thither.

Festus decides to keep Paul at Caesarea and departs shortly.

1. God's Plan is Always the Best: Examining Paul's Journey in the Book of Acts

2. Trusting in God's Timing: Finding Strength in Adversity

1. Romans 8:28 - And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.

2. Psalm 46:10 - He says, ?Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth.??

Acts 25:5 Let them therefore, said he, which among you are able, go down with me, and accuse this man, if there be any wickedness in him.

Paul is brought before Festus and asks to be tried in Jerusalem.

1: God humbles us and calls us to make hard decisions.

2: God's will is often hidden to us, but we must trust in Him.

1: Isaiah 55:8-9 ?For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.??

2: Galatians 6:9 ?And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.??

Acts 25:6 And when he had tarried among them more than ten days, he went down unto Caesarea; and the next day sitting on the judgment seat commanded Paul to be brought.

Paul was brought before the Roman governor, Festus, in Caesarea.

1. The Sovereignty of God: How God Uses Authority Even in Unjust Situations

2. The Faithfulness of Paul: Standing Firm in the Face of Adversity

1. Romans 8:28 - And we know that all things work together for good to them that love

God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.

2. Isaiah 55:8-9 - For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.

Acts 25:7 And when he was come, the Jews which came down from Jerusalem stood round about, and laid many and grievous complaints against Paul, which they could not prove.

The Jews made a multitude of accusations against Paul that they could not prove.

1. Do not give in to false accusations.

2. Speak the truth, even in the face of harsh criticism.

1. Proverbs 19:5 - "A false witness will not go unpunished, and he who breathes out lies will not escape."

2. Colossians 4:6 - "Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person."

Acts 25:8 While he answered for himself, Neither against the law of the Jews, neither against the temple, nor yet against Caesar, have I offended any thing at all.

Paul defends himself to Festus, denying any wrongdoings against the Jews, the temple, or Caesar.

1. The Power of a Good Defense: Why It Is Important to Stand Up for Ourselves

2. Learning from Paul: How We Can Live Courageously and Righteously

1. Proverbs 22:1, ?□ good name is to be chosen rather than great riches, and favor is better than silver or gold.??

2. Philippians 4:13, ?□ can do all things through him who strengthens me.??

Acts 25:9 But Festus, willing to do the Jews a pleasure, answered Paul, and said, Wilt thou go up to Jerusalem, and there be judged of these things before me?

Festus offered Paul an opportunity to go to Jerusalem and be tried for his accusations.

1. The Power of Compromise: Learning to Respect Others' Beliefs

2. Working Together for Common Good: Finding Harmony Through Understanding

1. Romans 12:18 ?□f it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.??

2. Philippians 2:3-4 ?□o nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.??

Acts 25:10 Then said Paul, I stand at Caesar's judgment seat, where I ought to be judged: to the Jews have I done no wrong, as thou very well knowest.

Paul declared his innocence to the Jews before Caesar's judgment seat.

1: Paul's bold stand in the face of judgement.

2: God's faithfulness, even in the face of injustice.

1: Isaiah 40:31 - "But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint."

2: Psalm 37:3 - "Trust in the LORD, and do good; so shalt thou dwell in the land, and verily thou shalt be fed."

Acts 25:11 For if I be an offender, or have committed any thing worthy of death, I refuse not to die: but if there be none of these things whereof these accuse me, no man may deliver me unto them. I appeal unto Caesar.

Paul asserts his innocence and appeals to Caesar for a fair trial.

1. "The Power of Standing Up for Justice"

2. "The Strength of Standing for What is Right"

1. Isaiah 1:17 - Learn to do what is right; seek justice. Defend the oppressed. Take up the cause of the fatherless; plead the case of the widow.

2. Proverbs 31:8-9 - Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute. Speak up and judge fairly; defend the rights of the poor and needy.

Acts 25:12 Then Festus, when he had conferred with the council, answered, Hast thou appealed unto Caesar? unto Caesar shalt thou go.

Festus decides to send Paul to Caesar for judgement.

1. "God's Sovereign Plan" - examining how God works through our decisions, even when they are seemingly unjust.

2. "Standing Firm in the Face of Adversity" - exploring how Paul maintained his resolve and faith even when faced with a seemingly unfavorable outcome.

1. Romans 8:28 - "And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose."

2. James 1:2-4 - "My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing."

Acts 25:13 And after certain days king Agrippa and Bernice came unto Caesarea to salute Festus.

King Agrippa and Bernice visited Festus at Caesarea.

1. The Power of Relationships: Examining Agrippa and Bernice's Relationship with Festus

2. Embracing Hospitality: King Agrippa and Bernice's Visit to Festus

1. Romans 12:13 - "Share with the Lord? people who are in need. Practice hospitality."

2. Proverbs 22:1 - "A good name is more desirable than great riches; to be esteemed is better than silver or gold."

Acts 25:14 And when they had been there many days, Festus declared Paul's cause unto the king, saying, There is a certain man left in bonds by Felix:

Paul's cause was declared to King Agrippa by Festus.

1: Just as Paul's cause was declared to King Agrippa, we too must proclaim God's Word.

2: In difficult times, we must look to God for strength and courage, just as Paul did in his trial before King Agrippa.

1: Ephesians 6:19-20 - ?nd also for me, that words may be given to me in opening my mouth boldly to proclaim the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains, that I may declare it boldly, as I ought to speak.??

2: Isaiah 40:31 - ?ut they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.??

Acts 25:15 About whom, when I was at Jerusalem, the chief priests and the elders of the Jews informed me, desiring to have judgment against him.

Paul is accused of doing something wrong by the chief priests and elders of the Jews, and they want him to be judged for it.

1. Paul's story of faith and resilience can inspire us to stay strong in the face of adversity.

2. We must not let the accusations of others define our worth and identity.

1. Psalm 37:3-4 - "Trust in the Lord, and do good; dwell in the land and befriend faithfulness. Delight yourself in the Lord, and he will give you the desires of your heart."

2. Romans 8:31 - "What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?"

Acts 25:16 To whom I answered, It is not the manner of the Romans to deliver any man to die, before that he which is accused have the accusers face to face, and have licence to answer for himself concerning the crime laid against him.

This passage discusses the Roman legal system in which an accused person was given the opportunity to answer for himself about the crime against him with the accusers present.

1. The value of truth and justice in society.

2. The importance of giving people a chance to defend themselves.

1. Proverbs 16:11: "A just balance and scales belong to the LORD; all the weights in the bag are his work."

2. Luke 18:2-8: "And he spake a parable unto them to this end, that men ought always to pray, and not to faint; Saying, There was in a city a judge, which feared not God, neither regarded man: And there was a widow in that city; and she came unto him, saying, Avenge me of mine adversary. And he would not for a while: but afterward he said within himself, Though I fear not God, nor regard man; Yet because this widow troubleth me, I will avenge her, lest by her continual coming she weary me. And the Lord said, Hear what the unjust judge saith. And shall not God avenge his own elect, which cry day and night unto him, though he bear long with them? I tell you that he will avenge them speedily. Nevertheless when the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth?"

Acts 25:17 Therefore, when they were come hither, without any delay on the morrow I sat on the judgment seat, and commanded the man to be brought forth.

Paul was brought before Governor Festus in Caesarea, and Festus immediately held a hearing the next day.

1. God can work in unexpected ways, and even in times of uncertainty, He is still in control.

2. The importance of the moment - make the most of the opportunities we are given.

1. Isaiah 55:8-9 - ?□or my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways,??declares the Lord. ?□s the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

2. Ephesians 5:16 - Making the best use of the time, because the days are evil.

Acts 25:18 Against whom when the accusers stood up, they brought none accusation of such things as I supposed:

Paul's accusers made no accusations of the charges he had expected.

1. The Surprising Power of Faith: How Paul's Trust in God Led to Unexpected Outcomes

2. Taking a Stand for What You Believe: The Courage of Paul in the Face of Adversity

1. Romans 8:31 - What, then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?

2. Psalm 27:1 - The Lord is my light and my salvation?□hom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life?□f whom shall I be afraid?

Acts 25:19 But had certain questions against him of their own superstition, and of one Jesus, which was dead, whom Paul affirmed to be alive.

Paul defended Jesus to be alive despite the superstition of those questioning him.

1: Through Jesus, we can be made alive in spirit.

2: Jesus is the source of hope and life.

1: Romans 8:11 - ?□ut if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you.??

2: John 3:16-17 - ?□or God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.??

Acts 25:20 And because I doubted of such manner of questions, I asked him whether he would go to Jerusalem, and there be judged of these matters.

Paul questions Festus about his plans to go to Jerusalem to stand trial for the accusations against him.

1. The Power of Doubt: How Faith Can Lead to Questions

2. Standing Up for What Is Right: Paul's Story of Courage

1. John 20:24-29 - Thomas's Doubt and Faith

2. Hebrews 11:1 - Faith is the Substance of Things Hoped For

Acts 25:21 But when Paul had appealed to be reserved unto the hearing of Augustus, I commanded him to be kept till I might send him to Caesar.

Paul appeals to be heard by the Emperor, and is commanded to be kept until he is sent to Caesar.

1. Remain Faithful to God Even in Difficult Circumstances

2. God is Sovereign Over Even Our Trials

1. Romans 8:28 - And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.

2. Philippians 4:11-13 - Not that I am speaking of being in need, for I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content. I know how to be brought low, and I know how to abound. In any and every circumstance, I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need.

Acts 25:22 Then Agrippa said unto Festus, I would also hear the man myself. To morrow, said he, thou shalt hear him.

King Agrippa told Festus that he wanted to hear Paul himself the next day.

1. God's plans for us often come in unexpected ways.

2. It is important to remain open to hearing God's messages in our lives.

1. Isaiah 55:8-9 "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts."

2. James 1:19-20 "Wherefore, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath: For the wrath of man worketh not the righteousness of God."

Acts 25:23 And on the morrow, when Agrippa was come, and Bernice, with great pomp, and was entered into the place of hearing, with the chief captains, and principal men of the city, at Festus' commandment Paul was brought forth.

Festus commanded Paul to be brought forth to the place of hearing where Agrippa, Bernice, and the chief captains and principal men of the city had arrived with great pomp.

1. God's sovereign plan directs the paths of all of us, no matter our station in life.

2. Our lives can be used to further God's purposes if we stay obedient to His will.

1. Ephesians 2:10 - For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

2. Romans 8:28 - And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.

Acts 25:24 And Festus said, King Agrippa, and all men which are here present with us, ye see this man, about whom all the multitude of the Jews have dealt with me, both at Jerusalem, and also here, crying that he ought not to live any longer.

Festus presents Paul before King Agrippa and the other present men. The Jews are insisting that Paul should not live any longer.

1. We must live lives of faith and courage in the face of opposition.

2. God's will is more important than people's opinions.

1. Philippians 1:21-24 - For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain.

2. Romans 8:31-32 - What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?

Acts 25:25 But when I found that he had committed nothing worthy of death, and that he himself hath appealed to Augustus, I have determined to send him.

Paul was found innocent of any crime worthy of death and appealed to Caesar, so Festus decided to send him to Rome.

1. God's Sovereignty in Providing Protection - Romans 8:28

2. Living with Faith and Hope in Difficult Times - Hebrews 11:1-3

1. Psalm 46:1-2 - God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

2. Philippians 4:6-7 - Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.

Acts 25:26 Of whom I have no certain thing to write unto my lord. Wherefore I have brought him forth before you, and specially before thee, O king Agrippa, that, after examination had, I might have somewhat to write.

Paul is brought before King Agrippa to be examined so that Paul will have something to write to Emperor Caesar about.

1. The Importance of Examination: Examining our lives to learn more about ourselves and our faith.

2. Standing Firm in Faith: Staying true to our faith even when our beliefs are challenged.

1. Philippians 4:8-9 - Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any

excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me?□ractice these things, and the God of peace will be with you.

2. Matthew 5:37-38 - Let your ?□es??be ?□es,??and your ?□o,???□o.??For whatever is more than these is from the evil one.

Acts 25:27 For it seemeth to me unreasonable to send a prisoner, and not withal to signify the crimes laid against him.

Paul is being accused of wrongdoings and it is unreasonable to send him to Rome without clarifying his alleged crimes.

1. God calls us to seek justice and fairness in our dealings with one another

2. We must never forget that everyone is innocent until proven guilty

1. Deuteronomy 16:20 - Justice, and only justice, you shall pursue, that you may live and possess the land that the Lord your God is giving you.

2. Psalm 82:3 - Give justice to the weak and the fatherless; maintain the right of the afflicted and the destitute.

Acts 26 recounts Paul's defense before King Agrippa, his testimony about his conversion and calling, and Agrippa's reaction to Paul's message.

1st Paragraph: The chapter begins with Agrippa saying to Paul 'You have permission speak for yourself.' Then Paul stretched out his hand began his defense stating that he considers himself fortunate stand before King Agrippa answer charges Jews especially because is familiar with all customs controversies Jewish nation. He narrates the story of his early life as a Pharisee and how he persecuted the followers of Jesus, even to death (Acts 26:1-11).

2nd Paragraph: He then recounts his encounter with Jesus on the road to Damascus - how a light from heaven brighter than sun blazed around him those traveling with him they all fell ground then heard voice in Aramaic 'Saul Saul why do you persecute me? It is hard for you kick against goads.' When asked who was speaking voice replied 'I am Jesus whom you are persecuting. Now get up stand on your feet I have appeared you appoint servant witness what you have seen me will show you.' From that moment, he was appointed to be a servant and witness not only of what he had seen but also of what God would reveal to him (Acts 26:12-18).

3rd Paragraph: After this encounter, Paul says he was not disobedient vision heaven but first those Damascus then Jerusalem throughout Judea Gentiles preached they should repent turn God demonstrate their repentance by their deeds which why Jews seized temple tried kill him but God helped continue witnessing both small great saying nothing beyond prophets Moses said would happen That Christ would suffer first rise dead proclaim light message salvation both people Gentiles (Acts 26:19-23). As Paul made this defense Festus shouted in loud voice 'Paul you are out your mind! Your great learning is driving you insane!' But Paul replied 'I am not insane most excellent Festus What I am saying true rational king familiar these things can testify them believe prophets know do' (Acts 26:24-27). Agrippa said to Paul 'Do think short time persuade become Christian?' And replied whether short long pray God that not only but all who listening today may become what I am except these chains. Then king rose up governor Bernice those sitting them after they left room began talking among themselves saying man doing nothing deserves death imprisonment Agrippa said Festus man could been set free if had appealed Caesar (Acts 26:28-32).

Acts 26:1 Then Agrippa said unto Paul, Thou art permitted to speak for thyself. Then Paul stretched forth the hand, and answered for himself:

Paul is given the opportunity to defend himself before Agrippa.

1. Be brave and take courage in times of adversity.

2. Trust the Lord to provide in moments of need.

1. Isaiah 41:10 - "Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand."

2. Proverbs 3:5-6 - "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths."

Acts 26:2 I think myself happy, king Agrippa, because I shall answer for myself this day before thee touching all the things whereof I am accused of the Jews:

Paul is happy to be able to defend himself before King Agrippa regarding all the accusations made by the Jews.

1. How to Remain Positive in Difficult Situations

2. The Power of Self-Awareness

1. Philippians 4:4-6 - Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice. Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.

2. Romans 8:31-32 - What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things?

Acts 26:3 Especially because I know thee to be expert in all customs and questions which are among the Jews: wherefore I beseech thee to hear me patiently.

Paul's appeal to King Agrippa to hear him out patiently due to his knowledge of Jewish customs and questions.

1. Trusting God to open doors of opportunity for us when we seek to share the gospel.

2. Relying on God's wisdom in all circumstances.

1. John 10:7, "So Jesus said again, ?□ery truly I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep."

2. 1 Corinthians 2:5, "so that your faith might not rest on human wisdom, but on God?□ power."

Acts 26:4 My manner of life from my youth, which was at the first among mine own nation at Jerusalem, know all the Jews;

Paul recounts his past life to King Agrippa, showcasing his faith and dedication to God.

1: We are all capable of living a life of faith and dedication, no matter our past.

2: God will always remain faithful to us, no matter how far we may stray.

1: Romans 8:37-39 "No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor

anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord."

2: 1 Peter 5:6-7 "Humble yourselves, therefore, under God? mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time. Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you."

Acts 26:5 Which knew me from the beginning, if they would testify, that after the most straitest sect of our religion I lived a Pharisee.

Paul defended himself in front of King Agrippa by proclaiming his Pharisaic background.

1. God looks beyond our past to lead us in the right direction.

2. We can find redemption in Christ and be transformed despite our past.

1. Romans 3:23-24 - For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus.

2. Philippians 3:7-8 - But what things were gain to me, these I have counted loss for Christ. Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ.

Acts 26:6 And now I stand and am judged for the hope of the promise made of God unto our fathers:

Paul stands before the court to be judged for his faith in the promise of God given to their ancestors.

1. The Power of Faith: Staying True to the Promise of God

2. Standing Firm in the Face of Adversity: Paul's Example

1. Romans 10:17 - So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

2. Hebrews 10:23 - Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised).

Acts 26:7 Unto which promise our twelve tribes, instantly serving God day and night, hope to come. For which hope's sake, king Agrippa, I am accused of the Jews.

Paul is on trial before King Agrippa for preaching the promise of salvation that the twelve tribes of Israel hope to receive.

1. Paul's Hope: A Reflection on Acts 26:7

2. Serving God Day and Night: A Study of Faithful Commitment

1. Romans 8:24-25 - "For in this hope we were saved. But hope that is seen is no hope at all. Who hopes for what they already have? But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently."

2. Ephesians 2:12 - "Remember that at that time you were separate from Christ, excluded from citizenship in Israel and foreigners to the covenants of the promise, without hope and without God in the world."

Acts 26:8 Why should it be thought a thing incredible with you, that God should raise the dead?

Paul is asking why the people don't believe that God has the power to raise the dead.

1. "The Power of God and His Ability to Raise the Dead"

2. "God's Love and His Unfailing Faithfulness"

1. John 11:25-26 - Jesus said to her, ?□ am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die.

2. Romans 8:11 - If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you.

Acts 26:9 I verily thought with myself, that I ought to do many things contrary to the name of Jesus of Nazareth.

Paul recounts his past of opposing Jesus and his followers before his conversion.

1: God's mercy and grace are available to all, no matter how far we have strayed.

2: Jesus' love and power can bring transformation even in our darkest moments.

1: Romans 5:8 - God demonstrates His own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

2: 1 Corinthians 6:9-11 - Or do you not know that wrongdoers will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor men who have sex with men nor thieves nor the greedy nor drunkards nor slanderers nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God.

Acts 26:10 Which thing I also did in Jerusalem: and many of the saints did I shut up in prison, having received authority from the chief priests; and when they were put to death, I gave my voice against them.

This passage describes how Paul persecuted Christians in Jerusalem by having them imprisoned and voting for their execution.

1: We must recognize and repent of our own sins and seek God's mercy and forgiveness.

2: We must extend grace and forgiveness to others, even those who have wronged us.

1: Ephesians 4:32 - Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.

2: Luke 6:37 - Do not judge, and you will not be judged. Do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven.

Acts 26:11 And I punished them oft in every synagogue, and compelled them to blaspheme; and being exceedingly mad against them, I persecuted them even unto strange cities.

Paul persecuted Christians and forced them to blaspheme.

1: Be Careful How You Speak of God

2: The Power of Love Conquers All

1: Colossians 3:12-15 - "Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering; Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye. And above all these things put on charity, which is the bond of perfectness. And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful."

2: Romans 12:17-21 - "Recompense to no man evil for evil. Provide things honest in the sight of all men. If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men. Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord. Therefore if thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him drink: for in so doing thou shalt heap coals of fire on his head. Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good."

Acts 26:12 Whereupon as I went to Damascus with authority and commission from the chief priests,

Paul was sent to Damascus with authority and a mission from the chief priests.

1: We can find strength and courage to fulfill God's mission from others.

2: God can use people with authority to accomplish His will.

1: Ephesians 3:20-21 - Now to Him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to His power that is at work within us, to Him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.

2: 1 Corinthians 15:10 - But by the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace to me was not without effect. No, I worked harder than all of them?□et not I, but the grace of God that was with me.

Acts 26:13 At midday, O king, I saw in the way a light from heaven, above the brightness of the sun, shining round about me and them which journeyed with me.

Paul recounts his experience of a bright light from heaven that shone around him and his companions while travelling.

1. God's Light Guides Our Path - Acts 26:13

2. The Power of Experiencing God's Presence - Acts 26:13

1. Psalm 119:105 - ?□our word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path.??

2. Matthew 5:16 - ?□et your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.??

Acts 26:14 And when we were all fallen to the earth, I heard a voice speaking unto me, and saying in the Hebrew tongue, Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me? it is hard for thee to kick against the pricks.

Saul was knocked to the ground and heard a voice speaking in Hebrew asking why he was persecuting Him.

1. Don't Fight Against God's Will

2. The Power of God's Voice

1. Isaiah 55:8-9: "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts."

2. Romans 8:28: "And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose."

Acts 26:15 And I said, Who art thou, Lord? And he said, I am Jesus whom thou persecutest.

Paul meets Jesus on the road to Damascus and Jesus reveals Himself to be the one whom Paul is persecuting.

1. The Power and Providence of God

2. Jesus Reveals His Sovereignty

1. Romans 8:28 And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are called according to his purpose.

2. Isaiah 55:8-9 For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.

Acts 26:16 But rise, and stand upon thy feet: for I have appeared unto thee for this purpose, to make thee a minister and a witness both of these things which thou hast seen, and of those things in the which I will appear unto thee;

Paul is called by God to be a witness and minister of the things he has seen and will see.

1. How God Calls Us To Serve Him

2. The Power of Testimony

1. Isaiah 6:8 - "Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, 'Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?' And I said, 'Here am I; send me!'"

2. Matthew 4:19 - "And he said to them, 'Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.'"

Acts 26:17 Delivering thee from the people, and from the Gentiles, unto whom now I send thee,

Paul is sent to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ to the Gentiles.

1. The Power of Salvation Through Preaching the Gospel

2. The Greatness of God? Love for All Nations

1. Isaiah 49:6 ???e says, ?t is too small a thing for you to be my servant to restore the tribes of Jacob and bring back those of Israel I have kept. I will also make you a light for the Gentiles, that you may bring my salvation to the ends of the earth.??

2. Romans 10:13-15 ???or ?veryone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.??

How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? And how can anyone preach unless they are sent? As it is written: ?□ ow beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!?□□?

Acts 26:18 To open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me.

Paul is preaching to the Gentiles, encouraging them to turn from darkness and the power of Satan to God in order to receive forgiveness of sins and become sanctified.

1. How to Find Forgiveness and Become Sanctified by Faith

2. Understanding the Power of Turning from Darkness to Light

1. Ephesians 5:8-11 - "For at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light (for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true), and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord."

2. Colossians 1:13-14 - "He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins."

Acts 26:19 Whereupon, O king Agrippa, I was not disobedient unto the heavenly vision:

Paul boldly proclaimed his obedience to the heavenly vision he received.

1. The Power of Obedience: How Paul's Response to the Vision Changed the World

2. Obedience to God: A Call to Follow Paul's Example

1. Matthew 7:21 - "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven."

2. Luke 6:46 - "Why do you call me 'Lord, Lord,' and not do what I tell you?"

Acts 26:20 But shewed first unto them of Damascus, and at Jerusalem, and throughout all

the coasts of Judaea, and then to the Gentiles, that they should repent and turn to God, and do works meet for repentance.

The message preached was one of repentance and turning to God, and of doing works that are befitting of repentance.

1. Repent and turn to God - Acts 26:20

2. Doing works that befit repentance - Acts 26:20

1. 2 Chronicles 7:14 - If my people who are called by my name humble themselves, and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land.

2. Luke 13:3 - No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish.

Acts 26:21 For these causes the Jews caught me in the temple, and went about to kill me.

Paul was arrested by the Jews in the temple for preaching the gospel of Jesus Christ.

1. The Power of Preaching the Gospel: A Study of Paul's Sacrifice in Acts 26:21

2. Courage in the Face of Adversity: Paul and the Jews in Acts 26:21

1. Isaiah 6:8 - "Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, Whom shall I send, and who will go for us? Then said I, Here am I; send me."

2. 2 Timothy 4:2 - "Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine."

Acts 26:22 Having therefore obtained help of God, I continue unto this day, witnessing both to small and great, saying none other things than those which the prophets and Moses did say should come:

Paul obtained help from God and continued to preach the message of the prophets and Moses.

1: We should all strive to continue in our faith and trust in God for help.

2: We should all proclaim the message of the prophets and Moses.

1: 2 Corinthians 12:9-10 - And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

2: Isaiah 40:31 - But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.

Acts 26:23 That Christ should suffer, and that he should be the first that should rise from the dead, and should shew light unto the people, and to the Gentiles.

This passage explains that Jesus was destined to suffer and be the first to rise from the dead, bringing light to both the people and Gentiles.

1. The Power of the Resurrection: How Jesus' Resurrection Gives Us Hope

2. The Significance of Jesus' Sacrifice: How His Suffering Shaped Our Future

1. Romans 6:4-5; Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.

2. Isaiah 53:11; He shall see the labor of His soul, and be satisfied. By His knowledge My righteous Servant shall justify many, for He shall bear their iniquities.

Acts 26:24 And as he thus spake for himself, Festus said with a loud voice, Paul, thou art beside thyself; much learning doth make thee mad.

Festus interrupts Paul's defense of himself and accuses him of being mad because of his learning.

1. The Danger of Pride in Knowledge

2. God's Grace in the Face of Adversity

1. Proverbs 16:18 - "Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall."

2. Romans 5:3-5 - "Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us."

Acts 26:25 But he said, I am not mad, most noble Festus; but speak forth the words of truth and soberness.

Paul defends himself to Festus by proclaiming that he is not mad, but speaking the words of truth and sobriety.

1: We must always speak the truth, no matter the consequences.

2: Speak truth and sobriety, even when it seems like the whole world is against you.

1: Proverbs 12:17 - He who speaks truth declares what is right, but a false witness, deceit.

2: Colossians 4:6 - Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone.

Acts 26:26 For the king knoweth of these things, before whom also I speak freely: for I am persuaded that none of these things are hidden from him; for this thing was not done in a corner.

Paul defends his faith in front of King Agrippa.

1: God is always watching and knows every detail of our lives, so we should strive to live in a manner pleasing to Him.

2: We should not be afraid to share our faith, for the Lord is with us and will provide us with courage and strength.

1: Isaiah 41:10: "Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand."

2: Psalm 139:7-8: "Where shall I go from your Spirit? Or where shall I flee from your presence? If I ascend to heaven, you are there! If I make my bed in Sheol, you are there!"

Acts 26:27 King Agrippa, believest thou the prophets? I know that thou believest.

Paul is asking King Agrippa if he believes the prophets. He knows that Agrippa does believe.

1. The Power of Belief: How Our Faith Can Change Our Lives

2. The Importance of Believing in the Prophets

1. John 3:16 - For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

2. Romans 10:17 - So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

Acts 26:28 Then Agrippa said unto Paul, Almost thou persuadest me to be a Christian.

King Agrippa was listening to Paul's testimony and was almost convinced to become a Christian.

1: We all have the opportunity to be persuaded by the word of God and accept Jesus as our Lord and Savior.

2: Paul's passionate testimony to King Agrippa reminds us that God's work is never completed until everyone has heard the good news.

1: John 3:16-17 "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him."

2: Romans 10:14-15 "How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? And how can they preach unless they are sent? As it is written, ?□ ow beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!??

Acts 26:29 And Paul said, I would to God, that not only thou, but also all that hear me this day, were both almost, and altogether such as I am, except these bonds.

Paul wishes that everyone listening to him would share in his faith and commitment to God, even if it meant being bound like he was.

1. Having Faith in Difficult Times

2. The Power of Dedication

1. 2 Corinthians 4:8-9 - "We are hard-pressed on every side, yet not crushed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed."

2. Romans 8:37-39 - "Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord."

Acts 26:30 And when he had thus spoken, the king rose up, and the governor, and Bernice, and they that sat with them:

Paul's before King Agrippa resulted in the king and his entourage standing to show respect.

1. We must strive to give our words respect and reverence, as Paul did before King Agrippa.

2. The power of words is such that it can bring people to their feet in respect and admiration.

1. Romans 12:10 - Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another.

2. Proverbs 15:1 - A soft answer turneth away wrath: but grievous words stir up anger.

Acts 26:31 And when they were gone aside, they talked between themselves, saying, This man doeth nothing worthy of death or of bonds.

The people who were present at Paul's hearing concluded that he had not done anything that was worthy of death or imprisonment.

1. God's grace and justice - How God's grace leads to justice even in the face of difficult circumstances.

2. The power of mercy - How mercy can lead to forgiveness and reconciliation.

1. Ephesians 2:4-5 - But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ.

2. Isaiah 43:25 - I, I am he who blots out your transgressions for my own sake, and I will not remember your sins.

Acts 26:32 Then said Agrippa unto Festus, This man might have been set at liberty, if he had not appealed unto Caesar.

Agrippa and Festus recognize Paul's innocence of any crime and the possibility of his release.

1: God provides us with the opportunity to be set free from the consequences of our actions.

2: We can rest assured that God will provide us with the opportunity to be pardoned of our sins.

1: Isaiah 43:25 - ?□, even I, am he who blots out your transgressions, for my own sake, and remembers your sins no more.??

2: Luke 23:34 - Jesus said, ?□ather, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.??

Acts 27 recounts the perilous journey of Paul and other prisoners as they sail to Rome, the storm they encounter at sea, and Paul's leadership during this crisis.

1st Paragraph: The chapter begins with it being decided that Paul and some other

prisoners would sail to Italy in the custody of a centurion named Julius. They boarded a ship from Adramyttium which was about to sail along coasts provinces Asia Julius treated Paul kindly gave him freedom go his friends take care his needs. When they had sailed across open sea off coast Cilicia Pamphylia landed Myra Lycia there centurion found Alexandrian ship sailing Italy put us on board (Acts 27:1-6). The journey was slow and difficult, with unfavorable winds forcing them to sail under the shelter of Crete.

2nd Paragraph: Despite Paul's warning that their voyage would be disastrous with heavy loss not only cargo ship also lives centurion instead followed advice pilot owner ship. As moderate south wind began blow thought they had obtained what they wanted so weighed anchor sailed along shore Crete but before very long fierce wind called 'Northeaster' swept down from island. The ship was caught by storm couldn't head into wind so gave way it were driven along (Acts 27:9-15). After many days of stormy weather, all hope of being saved was gradually abandoned.

3rd Paragraph: In midst despair, Paul stood up among them said 'Men you should have taken my advice not set sail from Crete spared yourselves damage loss now urge keep up your courage because there will be no loss life among you only ship.' He shared that an angel God whom he belonged whom worshipped told him not afraid because he must stand trial before Caesar God graciously given him lives all who sailed with him (Acts 27:21-24). Over fourteen nights passed in stormy Adriatic Sea when around midnight sailors sensed approaching land cast four anchors stern prayed for daylight then fearing might run aground rocks cut anchors let them fall left rudder ropes hoisted foresail wind made for beach but struck sandbar ran aground bow stuck fast would not move stern broken waves (Acts 27:27-41). At dawn, following Paul's advice, everyone ate some food; there were 276 people on board. Then they lightened the ship further by throwing grain into sea after eating everyone jumped overboard reached land safely swimming or floating on pieces wreckage.

Acts 27:1 And when it was determined that we should sail into Italy, they delivered Paul and certain other prisoners unto one named Julius, a centurion of Augustus' band.

Paul and other prisoners were handed over to Julius, a centurion of Augustus' band, to sail to Italy.

1. God's Plan for Us: Recognizing the Sovereignty of God in Our Lives

2. The Power of Perseverance: Finding Strength in Difficult Times

1. Romans 8:28 - "And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose."

2. Hebrews 12:1-2 - "Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith."

Acts 27:2 And entering into a ship of Adramyttium, we launched, meaning to sail by the coasts of Asia; one Aristarchus, a Macedonian of Thessalonica, being with us.

The apostle Paul and some companions boarded a ship from Adramyttium to sail along the coasts of Asia with Aristarchus of Thessalonica aboard.

1. Learning to Sail with Companions - The Journey of the Apostle Paul

2. The Power of Friendship - The Example of Paul and Aristarchus

1. Ephesians 4:2-3 “With all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.”

2. Proverbs 27:17 “Iron sharpens iron, and one man sharpens another.”

Acts 27:3 And the next day we touched at Sidon. And Julius courteously entreated Paul, and gave him liberty to go unto his friends to refresh himself.

Julius granted Paul the freedom to visit his friends in Sidon for a short while.

1. The Power of Kindness: How Even the Smallest Gestures Can Make a Difference

2. Friendship: Why We Need Each Other and How We Can Strengthen Our Bonds

1. James 2:14-17 – “What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save them? Suppose a brother or a sister is without clothes and daily food. If one of you says to them, “Go in peace; keep warm and well fed,” but does nothing about their physical needs, what good is it? In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.”

2. Proverbs 18:24 - “A man of many companions may come to ruin, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother.”

Acts 27:4 And when we had launched from thence, we sailed under Cyprus, because the winds were contrary.

The passage describes a journey in which the winds were in opposition so the travelers sailed under Cyprus.

1. The Winds of Adversity: How to Triumph Over Life's Challenges

2. The Power of Perseverance: How to Overcome Obstacles in Life

1. James 1:2-4 - Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance.

2. Romans 8:28 - And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.

Acts 27:5 And when we had sailed over the sea of Cilicia and Pamphylia, we came to Myra, a city of Lycia.

The passage describes a journey taken by Paul and his companions from Cilicia and Pamphylia to Myra in Lycia.

1. God is with us on our journeys - Psalm 16:8

2. Be prepared for unknowns in life - James 4:13-15

1. Romans 8:28 - “And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.”

2. Isaiah 43:2 - “When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and when you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned; the flames will not set you ablaze.”

Acts 27:6 And there the centurion found a ship of Alexandria sailing into Italy; and he put us therein.

The centurion found a ship of Alexandria sailing to Italy and put the people on board.

1. God's Provision in Times of Need

2. Trusting in God's Plan

1. Psalm 23:4 - “Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.”

2. Isaiah 40:29-31 - “He gives power to the faint, and to him who has no might he increases strength. Even youths shall faint and be weary, and young men shall fall exhausted; but they who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint.”

Acts 27:7 And when we had sailed slowly many days, and scarce were come over against Cnidus, the wind not suffering us, we sailed under Crete, over against Salmone;

The ship sailed slowly for many days until they reached Cnidus, but the wind was not in their favor so they sailed under Crete, near Salmone.

1. God’s perfect timing: Even when it seems like our plans are falling apart, God still has a plan.

2. The importance of perseverance: Even when the wind is against us, we must press on and trust in the Lord’s plan.

1. Romans 8:28 - “And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.”

2. Psalm 46:10 - “Be still, and know that I am God. I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth!”

Acts 27:8 And, hardly passing it, came unto a place which is called The fair havens; nigh whereunto was the city of Lasea.

Paul and his companions sailed towards a place called The Fair Havens near the city of Lasea.

1. God's Guidance: How God Leads Us to Safe Harbor

2. Dangers of the Sea: Learning to Trust God Amidst Storms

1. Psalm 107:23-30

2. Isaiah 43:2-3

Acts 27:9 Now when much time was spent, and when sailing was now dangerous, because the fast was now already past, Paul admonished them,

Paul admonished the group to be aware of the danger of sailing after the fast had passed.

1. The Danger of Delay: How to Avoid Procrastination

2. The Need for Urgency: Don't Put Off What Can Be Done Today

1. Proverbs 19:15 - “Laziness casts one into a deep sleep, And an idle person will suffer hunger.”

2. 2 Corinthians 6:2 - “For He says: ‘In an acceptable time I have heard you, And in the day of salvation I have helped you.’ Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.”

Acts 27:10 And said unto them, Sirs, I perceive that this voyage will be with hurt and much damage, not only of the lading and ship, but also of our lives.

Paul warned the crew of the ship that the voyage would be dangerous and could potentially lead to damage to the cargo and their lives.

1. Learning to Trust in God Despite Adversity

2. The Role of Faith and Patience in Difficult Times

1. Romans 8:28 - "And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose."

2. James 5:11 - "Behold, we consider those blessed who remained steadfast. You have heard of the steadfastness of Job, and you have seen the purpose of the Lord, how the Lord is compassionate and merciful."

Acts 27:11 Nevertheless the centurion believed the master and the owner of the ship, more than those things which were spoken by Paul.

The centurion trusted the opinions of the master and owner of the ship over Paul's.

1. The importance of discernment and trusting wisdom

2. Learning to weigh advice and opinions

1. Proverbs 3:5-6 "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make straight your paths."

2. James 1:5 "If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him."

Acts 27:12 And because the haven was not commodious to winter in, the more part advised to depart thence also, if by any means they might attain to Phenice, and there to winter; which is an haven of Crete, and lieth toward the south west and north west.

The more part advised that they should leave the haven and go to Phenice, an haven of Crete, which is in the south west and north west.

1. God can use difficult situations to bring us to a better place.

2. Trusting in the Lord can lead us to unexpected places.

1. Jeremiah 29:11, "For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

2. Proverbs 3:5-6, "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight."

Acts 27:13 And when the south wind blew softly, supposing that they had obtained their purpose, loosing thence, they sailed close by Crete.

The sailors sailed close to Crete after a soft south wind blew.

1. Be mindful of your surroundings and watchful of the wind.

2. God's guidance is seen in the wind and the waves.

1. Matthew 8:27 - So the men marveled, saying, "What kind of man is this, that even the winds and the sea obey Him!"

2. Psalm 107:29 - He made the storm be still, and the waves of the sea were hushed.

Acts 27:14 But not long after there arose against it a tempestuous wind, called Euroclydon.

The voyage of Paul and the others encountered a strong and dangerous wind.

1: Don't be afraid when life throws us a curveball, no matter how strong, God will be with us and protect us.

2: In times of distress, look to God for guidance and strength.

1: Psalm 46:1-3 "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear though the earth gives way, though the mountains be moved into the heart of the sea, though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble at its swelling."

2: Isaiah 43:2 "When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you."

Acts 27:15 And when the ship was caught, and could not bear up into the wind, we let her drive.

A ship was caught in a storm and was unable to sail against the wind, so the crew had to let it drive.

1. Learning to Accept the Unexpected: Using Acts 27:15 as an Example

2. Overcoming Adversity: Finding Strength in Acts 27:15

1. Isaiah 43:2 - "When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you."

2. Proverbs 3:5-6 - "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths."

Acts 27:16 And running under a certain island which is called Clauda, we had much work to come by the boat:

The people aboard the ship had much difficulty passing through the island Clauda.

1. God's Strength in Times of Difficulty

2. Overcoming Adversity Through Faith

1. Isaiah 41:10 - “Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.”

2. Proverbs 3:5-6 - “Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.”

Acts 27:17 Which when they had taken up, they used helps, undergirding the ship; and, fearing lest they should fall into the quicksands, strake sail, and so were driven.

The crew took up anchors and used ropes to support the ship, fearing that it would be dragged into the quicksands. They then lowered the sails and were driven by the wind.

1. Trust in God and He will provide support in times of fear and uncertainty.

2. Be ready to adjust and adapt to the changing environment.

1. Isaiah 41:10 “Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will

strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.”

2. James 1:2-4 “Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.”

Acts 27:18 And we being exceedingly tossed with a tempest, the next day they lightened the ship;

The crew of the ship were thrown into a violent storm, and the following day they lightened the ship.

1. "In The Tempest: Finding Strength in Difficult Times"

2. "Navigating Rough Seas: Learning to Lean on God"

1. Psalm 107:23-29 - Those who go down to the sea in ships, who do business on great waters;

2. Isaiah 43:2 - When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you.

Acts 27:19 And the third day we cast out with our own hands the tackling of the ship.

On the third day, the people on the ship threw out the ship's tackling with their own hands.

1. Even in our darkest moments, we can take courage and hope in the Lord.

2. God's promise of deliverance is always with us, even when we feel helpless.

1. Isaiah 43:2 - When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee: when thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned; neither shall the flame kindle upon thee.

2. Psalm 46:1-3 - God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore will not we fear, though the earth be removed, and though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea; Though the waters thereof roar and be troubled, though

the mountains shake with the swelling thereof.

Acts 27:20 And when neither sun nor stars in many days appeared, and no small tempest lay on us, all hope that we should be saved was then taken away.

A severe storm had prevented the sun and stars from appearing for many days, and all hope of being saved had been lost.

1. Hope in God in trying times

2. The power of faith over fear

1. Romans 5:3-5 - Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.

2. Isaiah 40:28-31 - Do you not know? Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He will not grow tired or weary, and his understanding no one can fathom. He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak. Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall; but those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.

Acts 27:21 But after long abstinence Paul stood forth in the midst of them, and said, Sirs, ye should have hearkened unto me, and not have loosed from Crete, and to have gained this harm and loss.

Paul admonishes the sailors for not listening to his advice to stay in Crete, causing them harm and loss.

1. The Importance of Obedience

2. The Cost of Disobedience

1. Proverbs 1:30-31 – “They would not accept my counsel and spurned my reproof. Therefore they shall eat the fruit of their own way and be sated with their own devices.”

2. Hebrews 5:8-9 – “Although He was a Son, He learned obedience from what He suffered

and, once made perfect, He became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey Him.”

Acts 27:22 And now I exhort you to be of good cheer: for there shall be no loss of any man's life among you, but of the ship.

Paul encourages the passengers of the ship to remain positive as there will be no loss of life among them, only the ship.

1. Hold On to Hope in the Storm - Romans 5:3-5

2. Be Encouraged to Endure - Hebrews 10:23-25

1. Romans 5:3-5 - Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope.

2. Hebrews 10:23-25 - Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works.

Acts 27:23 For there stood by me this night the angel of God, whose I am, and whom I serve,

The angel of God stood by Paul in the night and declared that Paul belonged to God and served Him.

1. The Comfort of God's Presence in the Darkest Hours

2. The Power of Service to God

1. Matthew 28:20 - "teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

2. Jeremiah 33:3 - "Call to me and I will answer you and tell you great and unsearchable things you do not know.”

Acts 27:24 Saying, Fear not, Paul; thou must be brought before Caesar: and, lo, God hath given thee all them that sail with thee.

Paul is told not to fear, for God has given him everybody who is sailing with him, and he must face Caesar.

1. God is Always with Us: A Study on Paul's Story in Acts 27.

2. Fear Not: Overcoming Anxiety Through Faith in God.

1. Philippians 4:6-7 “Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.”

2. Hebrews 13:5-6 “Keep your life free from love of money, and be content with what you have, for he has said, ‘I will never leave you nor forsake you.’ So we can confidently say, ‘The Lord is my helper; I will not fear; what can man do to me?’”

Acts 27:25 Wherefore, sirs, be of good cheer: for I believe God, that it shall be even as it was told me.

The apostle Paul encourages the men on the ship to remain hopeful in their faith.

1: Have faith and courage in the Lord, even in the face of seemingly insurmountable odds.

2: Be filled with joy, even in the midst of trial and tribulation, in the hope of the promises of God.

1: Romans 8:28 - And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.

2: Isaiah 43:2 - When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee: when thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned; neither shall the flame kindle upon thee.

Acts 27:26 Howbeit we must be cast upon a certain island.

Paul and the crew of the ship he was on were warned by an angel that they would be cast

upon a certain island.

1. God is always with us, even in the midst of a storm.

2. When we listen to God’s warnings, He will guide us to safety.

1. Romans 8:28 - And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.

2. Joshua 1:9 - Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.

Acts 27:27 But when the fourteenth night was come, as we were driven up and down in Adria, about midnight the shipmen deemed that they drew near to some country;

The ship experienced a long journey at sea and eventually the shipmen believed they were near land.

1. The Divine Protection of God: Even in the midst of a long and arduous journey, God provides protection and hope.

2. Don't Lose Hope in Difficult Times: No matter how long and difficult the journey, never give up hope.

1. Psalm 91:4 - He will cover you with his feathers, and under his wings you will find refuge; his faithfulness will be your shield and rampart.

2. Romans 12:12 - Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer.

Acts 27:28 And sounded, and found it twenty fathoms: and when they had gone a little further, they sounded again, and found it fifteen fathoms.

The sailors on Paul's ship found that the depth of the sea decreased from twenty fathoms to fifteen fathoms.

1: In times of trial and uncertainty, God will provide us with the necessary guidance to weather the storm.

2: God's providence is a sure anchor in times of difficulty, allowing us to find a safe harbor in Him.

1: Isaiah 43:2 “When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you.”

2: Psalm 46:1-2 “God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear though the earth gives way, though the mountains be moved into the heart of the sea.”

Acts 27:29 Then fearing lest we should have fallen upon rocks, they cast four anchors out of the stern, and wished for the day.

The sailors aboard the ship in Acts 27:29 were worried they would crash into rocks, so they threw out four anchors and waited for daylight.

1. The Power of God in the Midst of Trials

2. Waiting on the Lord in Difficult Times

1. Psalm 46:1-3 “God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea, though its waters roar and foam and the mountains quake with their surging.”

2. Isaiah 40:31 “But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.”

Acts 27:30 And as the shipmen were about to flee out of the ship, when they had let down the boat into the sea, under colour as though they would have cast anchors out of the foreship,

The shipmen were about to abandon ship, lowering a boat into the sea and pretending to cast anchors from the front of the ship.

1. God's Protection in Times of Trouble

2. Perseverance in the Face of Adversity

1. Isaiah 43:2 - When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you.

2. James 1:2-4 - Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

Acts 27:31 Paul said to the centurion and to the soldiers, Except these abide in the ship, ye cannot be saved.

Paul reminded the centurion and soldiers that they must stay on board the ship in order to be saved.

1: We must have faith in God's plan for our lives, even when it appears to be a difficult path.

2: Obeying God is the only way to attain true salvation.

1: Proverbs 3:5-6, "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight."

2: Romans 10:9, "If you declare with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved."

Acts 27:32 Then the soldiers cut off the ropes of the boat, and let her fall off.

The soldiers on board the boat cut the ropes that held it in place, allowing the boat to drift away.

1. God's protection in the midst of chaos: Acts 27:32-33

2. The power of faith and trust: Hebrews 11:1

1. Acts 27:33-44

2. James 1:2-4

Acts 27:33 And while the day was coming on, Paul besought them all to take meat, saying, This day is the fourteenth day that ye have tarried and continued fasting, having taken nothing.

The apostle Paul encouraged those on the ship with him to break their fast on the fourteenth day.

1. The Power of Encouragement

2. The Strength of Taking Time for Yourself

1. Hebrews 3:13 - But exhort one another daily, while it is called To day; lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin.

2. Isaiah 40:31 - But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.

Acts 27:34 Wherefore I pray you to take some meat: for this is for your health: for there shall not an hair fall from the head of any of you.

Paul encourages the passengers of the ship to eat food for their health, assuring them that not a single hair on their head will be harmed.

1. God's faithfulness in times of difficulty and struggle

2. The importance of trusting God in all circumstances

1. Psalm 37:25 - “I have been young, and now am old, yet I have not seen the righteous forsaken or his children begging for bread.”

2. Romans 8:28 - “And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.”

Acts 27:35 And when he had thus spoken, he took bread, and gave thanks to God in presence of them all: and when he had broken it, he began to eat.

Paul gave thanks to God before breaking bread and eating it in front of the people.

1. Gratitude: The Path To Abundance - Learning to show gratitude for even the smallest things can bring an abundance of blessings to our lives.

2. The Bread of Life - Reflecting on the story of Paul breaking bread to remind us of Jesus, who is the Bread of Life.

1. Luke 17:11-19 - Jesus heals ten lepers, only one returns to thank Him.

2. Colossians 3:15-17 - Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, and be thankful.

Acts 27:36 Then were they all of good cheer, and they also took some meat.

The passengers on the ship became encouraged when they found food.

1. Don't Lose Hope in Difficult Circumstances

2. Rejoice in the Small Victories

1. Philippians 4:6-7 - Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

2. Psalm 34:8 - Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good! Blessed is the man who takes refuge in him!

Acts 27:37 And we were in all in the ship two hundred threescore and sixteen souls.

In the ship, there were a total of 216 souls.

1. God is always with us in our times of trial and tribulation.

2. We can trust in God to bring us through any difficult situation.

1. Isaiah 41:10 - "So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand."

2. Psalm 91:4 - "He will cover you with his feathers, and under his wings you will find refuge; his faithfulness will be your shield and rampart."

Acts 27:38 And when they had eaten enough, they lightened the ship, and cast out the wheat into the sea.

The people aboard the ship lightened the load by throwing out the wheat into the sea.

1. Living Life Lightened (Matthew 11:28-30)

2. Bearing One Another's Burdens (Galatians 6:2)

1. Matthew 11:28-30 - "Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

2. Galatians 6:2 - "Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ."

Acts 27:39 And when it was day, they knew not the land: but they discovered a certain creek with a shore, into the which they were minded, if it were possible, to thrust in the ship.

The passengers on the ship in Acts 27 were unable to identify the land they had arrived at, until they noticed a creek with a shore where they hoped to anchor the ship.

1. God provides even in the midst of difficult situations

2. When we are lost, God will be our guide

1. Isaiah 43:2 - When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you.

2. Psalm 119:105 - Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.

Acts 27:40 And when they had taken up the anchors, they committed themselves unto the sea, and loosed the rudder bands, and hoised up the mainsail to the wind, and made toward shore.

The sailors on the ship took up the anchors, released the rudder bands, and hoisted the mainsail to the wind in order to sail toward shore.

1. Trusting in God and His Plan: The sailors' trust in God and His plan is exemplified in their commitment to the sea, trusting they would reach shore.

2. Faith in the Face of Adversity: Even in the midst of difficult circumstances, the sailors demonstrate a faith that leads them to success.

1. Romans 8:28 - "And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose."

2. Isaiah 43:2 - "When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and when you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned; the flames will not set you ablaze."

Acts 27:41 And falling into a place where two seas met, they ran the ship aground; and the forepart stuck fast, and remained unmoveable, but the hinder part was broken with the violence of the waves.

The ship carrying Paul and his companions ran aground, with the front part stuck fast and the back part broken by the sea's violence.

1. Knowing When to Let Go: How to Adapt to Unforeseen Circumstances

2. Standing Firm in Difficult Times: The Importance of Faith and Resilience

1. Isaiah 43:2 - "When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you."

2. 1 Corinthians 10:13 - "No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the

temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it."

Acts 27:42 And the soldiers' counsel was to kill the prisoners, lest any of them should swim out, and escape.

The soldiers in the ship advised to kill the prisoners in order to ensure that none of them would escape by swimming out of the ship.

1. The Power of Fear: How Fear can Lead to Destructive Choices

2. The Value of Human Life: Why Every Life is Worth Saving

1. Proverbs 11:17 - "A kind man benefits himself, but a cruel man brings trouble on himself."

2. Matthew 5:44 - "But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you."

Acts 27:43 But the centurion, willing to save Paul, kept them from their purpose; and commanded that they which could swim should cast themselves first into the sea, and get to land:

The centurion was willing to save Paul by commanding swimmers to cast themselves into the sea and reach the land.

1. The Centurion's Compassion: How God Uses People to Help Others in Need

2. The Power of Compassion: Showing Mercy Towards Others Despite the Consequences

1. Luke 10:25-37 - The Parable of the Good Samaritan

2. James 2:14-17 - Faith and Works Together

Acts 27:44 And the rest, some on boards, and some on broken pieces of the ship. And so it came to pass, that they escaped all safe to land.

The passengers of the ship miraculously escaped safely to land.

1. God's protection and guidance in times of distress.

2. The importance of faith in times of turmoil.

1. Matthew 14:22-33 - Jesus walking on water and calming the storm.

2. Joshua 3:14-17 - The Parting of the Jordan River.

Acts 28 recounts the final events of Paul's journey, including his time on the island of Malta, his healing miracles there, and his arrival and ministry in Rome.

1st Paragraph: The chapter begins with Paul and his shipwrecked companions safely reaching shore discovering that island was called Malta. The islanders showed unusual kindness by welcoming them because of rain cold. As Paul gathered bundle sticks put them fire a viper driven out by heat fastened itself on his hand when islanders saw creature hanging from hand said each other 'This man must be murderer though he escaped sea Justice has not allowed him live.' But Paul shook snake off into fire suffered no ill effects people expected swell up suddenly fall dead after waiting long time seeing nothing unusual happen changed their minds said he was god (Acts 28:1-6).

2nd Paragraph: In vicinity there was estate owned by Publius chief official island who welcomed us entertained us courteously for three days father sick bed suffering fever dysentery Paul went see him after prayer placed hands him healed him after this happened rest sick island came were cured also honored us many ways when we ready sail they furnished us supplies we needed (Acts 28:7-10). After three months they set sail in an Alexandrian ship which had wintered at the island bearing twin gods Castor Pollux as figurehead arrived Syracuse stayed there three days then sailed round arrived Rhegium following day south wind sprang up two days later arrived Puteoli where found some brothers invited stay with them seven days so reached Rome.

3rd Paragraph: Brothers from there heard about us traveled as far as Forum Appius Three Taverns meet us sight these men Paul thanked God took courage when got Rome allowed live by himself one soldier guard. After three days called together local Jewish leaders when they assembled said 'I have done nothing against our people customs our ancestors yet I was arrested Jerusalem handed over Romans examined me wanted release me because I was not guilty any crime deserving death but Jews objected had appeal Caesar not that I had any charge bring against my own people' (Acts 28:17-19). He lived two whole years at his own expense welcomed all who came see him boldly without hindrance preached kingdom God taught about Lord Jesus Christ.

Acts 28:1 And when they were escaped, then they knew that the island was called Melita.

After escaping from a shipwreck, the people discovered that the island they were on was called Melita.

1. God is always in control - Acts 28:1

2. God can use even our worst moments for good - Acts 28:1

1. Psalm 46:1 - "God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble."

2. Romans 8:28 - "And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose."

Acts 28:2 And the barbarous people shewed us no little kindness: for they kindled a fire, and received us every one, because of the present rain, and because of the cold.

The barbarians showed the travelers great hospitality by providing a warm fire in spite of the rain and cold.

1. The Power of Hospitality - How our hospitality can show the love of Christ to those around us.

2. Serving Others - How we can serve those around us and show them the love of Christ.

1. Romans 12:13 - "Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality."

2. Hebrews 13:2 - "Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares."

Acts 28:3 And when Paul had gathered a bundle of sticks, and laid them on the fire, there came a viper out of the heat, and fastened on his hand.

Paul's miraculous escape from a venomous snake serves as a reminder to trust in God's protection.

1. "God's Providence: Trusting in God's Protection"

2. "God's Miracles: Paul's Escape from a Venomous Snake"

1. Isaiah 41:10 - "Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand."

2. Matthew 10:28-29 - "And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell. Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? And not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father.

Acts 28:4 And when the barbarians saw the venomous beast hang on his hand, they said among themselves, No doubt this man is a murderer, whom, though he hath escaped the sea, yet vengeance suffereth not to live.

The barbarians saw Paul with a snake and assumed he was a murderer.

1. God's mercy and justice working together, even in the most unlikely circumstances.

2. The importance of not making assumptions based on appearances.

1. Romans 12:19- "Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, ?□engeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord."

2. Proverbs 14:12 - "There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way to death."

Acts 28:5 And he shook off the beast into the fire, and felt no harm.

Paul encountered a poisonous snake while on the island of Malta, but he was unhurt after shaking it off into the fire.

1. God's protection: Even in the midst of danger, God is with us and protects us.

2. Faith: We can trust in God's promises and rely on His strength and power.

1. Psalm 91:11-12 - "For he will command his angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways; they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone."

2. Romans 8:18 - "For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us."

Acts 28:6 Howbeit they looked when he should have swollen, or fallen down dead suddenly: but after they had looked a great while, and saw no harm come to him, they changed their minds, and said that he was a god.

The people of Malta, where Paul had been shipwrecked, were astonished to find that Paul was unharmed from a poisonous snakebite. Believing that he was a god, they changed their minds regarding Paul.

1. God's Protection in Times of Trouble

2. The Power of God in Overcoming Doubt

1. Psalm 46:1-3 - "God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea, though its waters roar and foam and the mountains quake with their surging."

2. John 14:27 - "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid."

Acts 28:7 In the same quarters were possessions of the chief man of the island, whose name was Publius; who received us, and lodged us three days courteously.

Publius, the chief man of the island, showed hospitality to Paul and his companions.

1. The Power of Hospitality: How Compassion and Generosity Bring God's Blessing

2. A Model for Good Stewardship: Following Publius' Example of Generosity

1. Romans 12:13 - Practice hospitality ungrudgingly to one another.

2. 1 Timothy 6:17-19 - Command those who are rich in this present world not to be haughty, nor to trust in uncertain riches but in the living God, who gives us richly all things to enjoy. Let them do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to give, willing to share.

Acts 28:8 And it came to pass, that the father of Publius lay sick of a fever and of a bloody flux: to whom Paul entered in, and prayed, and laid his hands on him, and healed him.

Paul healed Publius' father through prayer and laying on of hands.

1. The Power of Prayer: How Paul Healed Publius' Father

2. The Work of Jesus: A Study of Paul's Miracle at Malta

1. James 5:15-16 - ?nd the prayer of faith will save the one who is sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven. Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working.??

2. Mark 16:18 - ?hey will pick up snakes with their hands; and when they drink deadly poison, it will not hurt them at all; they will place their hands on sick people, and they will get well.??

Acts 28:9 So when this was done, others also, which had diseases in the island, came, and were healed:

People with diseases in the island of Malta were healed after Paul prayed for them.

1. The Power of Prayer: God's Healing Touch

2. The Healing Ministry of Jesus: Miracles of Restoration

1. James 5:16 - "Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much."

2. Isaiah 53:4-5 - ?urely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon

him; and with his stripes we are healed.??

Acts 28:10 Who also honoured us with many honours; and when we departed, they laded us with such things as were necessary.

The people of Malta honored Paul and his companions with many honours and provided them with the necessary supplies for their journey.

1. We should show hospitality and graciousness to strangers, even in the midst of difficulties.

2. We should give generously and sacrificially to those in need, demonstrating the love of God.

1. Romans 12:13 - "Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality."

2. Acts 20:35 - "In all things I have shown you that by working hard in this way we must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he himself said, ?□t is more blessed to give than to receive.?□□?

Acts 28:11 And after three months we departed in a ship of Alexandria, which had wintered in the isle, whose sign was Castor and Pollux.

Paul and his companions spent three months in Malta before departing on a ship from Alexandria with the sign of Castor and Pollux.

1. A Sign of Hope: Paul and His Companions in Malta

2. Divine Protection: The Sign of Castor and Pollux

1. Romans 8:28 ??And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.

2. Isaiah 43:2 ??When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and when you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned; the flames will not set you ablaze.

Acts 28:12 And landing at Syracuse, we tarried there three days.

Paul and his companions landed at Syracuse and stayed there for three days.

1. Taking Time To Rest: Learning the Value of Rest from Paul's Journeys

2. Taking Time To Connect: Connecting with Others in our Travels Like Paul

1. Exodus 31:17 - "It is a sign between me and the people of Israel forever. For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, and on the seventh day he rested and was refreshed."

2. Romans 12:13 - "Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality."

Acts 28:13 And from thence we fetched a compass, and came to Rhegium: and after one day the south wind blew, and we came the next day to Puteoli:

Paul and his companions embarked on a journey from Malta and navigated around the coast to Rhegium. After one day, the south wind blew and they arrived in Puteoli.

1: God's sovereignty is at work in all things, even in the wind.

2: We must trust God to provide the perfect conditions for our journeys.

1: Proverbs 21:1 - "The king's heart is a stream of water in the hand of the Lord; he turns it wherever he will."

2: Psalm 107:29 - "He made the storm be still, and the waves of the sea were hushed."

Acts 28:14 Where we found brethren, and were desired to tarry with them seven days: and so we went toward Rome.

Paul and his companions were welcomed by the brethren and asked to stay with them for seven days on their way to Rome.

1. The Power of Hospitality: Welcoming Strangers with Open Arms

2. The Blessings of Welcoming Others with Kindness and Generosity

1. Romans 12:13 - "Share with the Lord?□ people who are in need. Practice hospitality."

2. 1 Peter 4:9 - "Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling."

Acts 28:15 And from thence, when the brethren heard of us, they came to meet us as far as Appii forum, and The three taverns: whom when Paul saw, he thanked God, and took courage.

Paul met with his brothers in Christ at Appii forum and The three taverns, and thanked God for the encouragement he received.

1. God is always with us in times of hardship and He will provide us with encouragement when needed.

2. We can take courage from trusting in the Lord even in the face of difficulty.

1. Romans 8:28 - "And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose."

2. Psalm 46:1 - "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble."

Acts 28:16 And when we came to Rome, the centurion delivered the prisoners to the captain of the guard: but Paul was suffered to dwell by himself with a soldier that kept him.

Paul was imprisoned in Rome and the centurion delivered him to the captain of the guard, but Paul was allowed to stay in his own quarters with a guard watching over him.

1. God's Protection in the Midst of Trouble - How God's grace and protection can be felt even in the most difficult of times.

2. The Strength of Humility - How humility and faith can lead to true strength in the face of adversity.

1. Psalm 91:9-10 - "Because you have made the Lord your dwelling place??the Most High, who is my refuge??no evil shall be allowed to befall you, no plague come near your tent."

2. Proverbs 16:7 - "When a man's ways please the Lord, he makes even his enemies to be at peace with him."

Acts 28:17 And it came to pass, that after three days Paul called the chief of the Jews together: and when they were come together, he said unto them, Men and brethren, though I have committed nothing against the people, or customs of our fathers, yet was I delivered prisoner from Jerusalem into the hands of the Romans.

Paul proclaimed his innocence while in captivity of the Romans.

1: In times of tribulation, we must rely on our faith and trust in God.

2: In times of suffering, we must remain steadfast in our beliefs and trust in God's plan.

1: Psalm 56:3-4 ?□hen I am afraid, I put my trust in you. In God, whose word I praise, in God I trust; I shall not be afraid. What can flesh do to me???

2: Isaiah 41:10 ?□ear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.??

Acts 28:18 Who, when they had examined me, would have let me go, because there was no cause of death in me.

Paul was cleared of any wrongdoing and released from prison.

1: God's hand of mercy and protection is with us in all circumstances.

2: We can be confident that God will be faithful even in the face of impossible odds.

1: Romans 8:31 - What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?

2: Psalm 46:1 - God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

Acts 28:19 But when the Jews spake against it, I was constrained to appeal unto Caesar; not that I had ought to accuse my nation of.

Paul appealed to Caesar to avoid unjust accusations from the Jews.

1. God is our protector in times of persecution.

2. Stand firm in your faith, even in the face of opposition.

1. Isaiah 41:10 - ?Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.??

2. Romans 8:31 - ?What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us???

Acts 28:20 For this cause therefore have I called for you, to see you, and to speak with you: because that for the hope of Israel I am bound with this chain.

Paul is under arrest and calls for his friends in Rome to come and visit him.

1. Hope in the midst of suffering

2. God's provision in difficult circumstances

1. Romans 8:28 - And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.

2. Isaiah 43:2 - When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee: when thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned; neither shall the flame kindle upon thee.

Acts 28:21 And they said unto him, We neither received letters out of Judaea concerning thee, neither any of the brethren that came shewed or spake any harm of thee.

The people of Rome had heard nothing negative about Paul from the Jews or other Christians.

1. God's truth will always be heard and believed.

2. We should always strive to represent God's truth to others.

1. John 8:32, "And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."

2. Colossians 4:5-6, "Walk in wisdom toward them that are without, redeeming the time. Let your speech be always with grace, seasoned with salt, that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man."

Acts 28:22 But we desire to hear of thee what thou thinkest: for as concerning this sect, we know that every where it is spoken against.

Paul's ministry had been greatly hindered by the Jews, but the locals in Rome still wanted to hear what he had to say, despite the negative reputation of his teachings.

1. Don't be dissuaded by the negative opinions of others; seek truth for yourself.

2. God's word will often be opposed, but that doesn't mean it isn't true.

1. John 8:32, ?□nd you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.??

2. Romans 10:17, ?□o then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.??

Acts 28:23 And when they had appointed him a day, there came many to him into his lodging; to whom he expounded and testified the kingdom of God, persuading them concerning Jesus, both out of the law of Moses, and out of the prophets, from morning till evening.

Paul preached about the Kingdom of God and the teachings of Jesus from the Law of Moses and the Prophets from morning till evening to the people that visited him.

1. The Power of Persuasion: How the Words of Paul Changed Lives

2. The Kingdom of God: Understanding Our Calling in Christ

1. Hebrews 4:12-13 - For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

2. Romans 10:17 - So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.

Acts 28:24 And some believed the things which were spoken, and some believed not.

Some people believed the words of Paul, while others did not.

1. Believing in God's Word: The Power of Faith

2. Rejecting God's Word: The Consequences of Disbelief

1. James 1:22 - "But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves."

2. Romans 10:17 - "So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ."

Acts 28:25 And when they agreed not among themselves, they departed, after that Paul had spoken one word, Well spake the Holy Ghost by Esaias the prophet unto our fathers,

Paul spoke a word from the prophet Esaias that the Holy Ghost had spoken to their fathers.

1: We can find comfort in the words of prophets and the Holy Spirit.

2: We can look to the words of prophets to guide us in our lives.

1: Isaiah 55:11 ?□o shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it.??

2: Matthew 7:24-27 ?□herefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock: And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock.??

Acts 28:26 Saying, Go unto this people, and say, Hearing ye shall hear, and shall not understand; and seeing ye shall see, and not perceive:

Paul's message to the Jews was one of unhearing and unseeing.

1. The Power of Perspective: Seeing and Hearing with Our Hearts

2. Listening to God: How to Hear and Understand His Word

1. Isaiah 6:9-10 - "And he said, Go, and tell this people, Hear ye indeed, but understand not; and see ye indeed, but perceive not."

2. Mark 4:12 - "That seeing they may see, and not perceive; and hearing they may hear, and not understand; lest at any time they should be converted, and their sins should be forgiven them."

Acts 28:27 For the heart of this people is waxed gross, and their ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes have they closed; lest they should see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and understand with their heart, and should be converted, and I should heal them.

The people are hard of heart and deaf to hearing, have closed their eyes and are unable to understand and be converted.

1. God's Love for Those Who Refuse to Listen

2. Closing the Eyes to God's Truth

1. Jeremiah 32:33-35 - "And they have turned unto me the back, and not the face: though I taught them, rising up early and teaching them, yet they have not hearkened to receive instruction. But they set their abominations in the house, which is called by my name, to defile it. And they built the high places of Baal, which are in the valley of the son of Hinnom, to cause their sons and their daughters to pass through the fire unto Molech; which I commanded them not, neither came it into my mind, that they should do this abomination, to cause Judah to sin."

2. Deuteronomy 30:15-20 - "See, I have set before thee this day life and good, and death and evil; In that I command thee this day to love the Lord thy God, to walk in his ways, and to keep his commandments and his statutes and his judgments, that thou mayest live and multiply: and the Lord thy God shall bless thee in the land whither thou goest to possess it. But if thine heart turn away, so that thou wilt not hear, but shalt be drawn away, and worship other gods, and serve them; I denounce unto you this day, that ye shall surely perish, and that ye shall not prolong your days upon the land, whither thou passest over Jordan to go to possess it. I call heaven and earth to record this day against

you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing: therefore choose life, that both thou and thy seed may live."

Acts 28:28 Be it known therefore unto you, that the salvation of God is sent unto the Gentiles, and that they will hear it.

The Salvation of God is meant for all people, and the Gentiles in particular will accept it.

1. God's Salvation is for Everyone - Luke 4:18-19

2. The Gentiles Will Hear the Word of God - Acts 13:46-48

1. Romans 10:12-15

2. Ephesians 2:11-22

Acts 28:29 And when he had said these words, the Jews departed, and had great reasoning among themselves.

The Jews had a great discussion among themselves after Paul spoke.

1: We can learn from the Jews in Acts 28 that it is important to engage in dialogue with others, even if we don't agree with them.

2: In Acts 28, we see how the Jews had a great discussion amongst themselves. We should strive to have healthy conversations with those who disagree with us.

1: Proverbs 18:13 He who gives an answer before he hears, It is folly and shame to him.

2: James 1:19 So then, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath.

Acts 28:30 And Paul dwelt two whole years in his own hired house, and received all that came in unto him,

Paul lived for two years in his own rented home and welcomed all who visited him.

1. Open your heart and your home to others.

2. Welcome people with hospitality and grace.

1. Romans 12:13 - Share with the Lord?□ people who are in need. Practice hospitality.

2. Matthew 25:35 - For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in.

Acts 28:31 Preaching the kingdom of God, and teaching those things which concern the Lord Jesus Christ, with all confidence, no man forbidding him.

Paul continued to preach the Gospel with confidence, despite the opposition he faced.

1. The Power of God's Unstoppable Gospel

2. Believe and Obey: The Call of Christ

1. Philippians 1:12-14 - "Now I want you to know, brothers and sisters, that what has happened to me has actually helped to spread the Good News. As a result, it has become evident throughout the whole palace guard and to everyone else that my chains are in Christ. And most of the brothers and sisters, having confidence in the Lord through my imprisonment, are much more bold to speak the word of God without fear.??

2. Romans 1:16-17 - ?□ or I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile. For in the gospel the righteousness of God is revealed?□ righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: ?□ he righteous will live by faith.?□□?

Romans 1 introduces the Apostle Paul's letter to the Christians in Rome, his longing to visit them, and his theological discourse on the power of the Gospel and humanity's universal sinfulness.

1st Paragraph: The chapter begins with Paul introducing himself as a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle and set apart for the gospel of God. He acknowledges that this gospel he preaches was promised beforehand through God’s prophets in the Holy Scriptures. It is about God’s Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who was a descendant of David according to the flesh but was declared with power to be Son of God by resurrection from

dead (Romans 1:1-4). Paul emphasizes that through Christ we received grace and apostleship for obedience faith among all nations His name including Romans who are loved by God called be saints (Romans 1:5-7).

2nd Paragraph: In verses 8-15, Paul expresses his thankfulness for Roman believers because their faith is reported all over world. He shares his longing visit them order impart some spiritual gift make them strong or rather that they may mutually encourage each other by each other's faith both theirs his (Romans 1:8-12). Despite many hindrances he says has planned many times come them so might have harvest among them just as among rest Gentiles obligated both Greeks non-Greeks wise foolish which why eager preach gospel also you Rome (Romans 1:13-15).

3rd Paragraph: In verses 16-32, Paul proclaims that he is not ashamed of the Gospel because it is power God brings salvation everyone believes first Jew then Gentile it reveals righteousness from faith first last 'The righteous will live by faith' (Romans 1:16-17). However, he then turns to discuss human ungodliness unrighteousness those suppress truth their wickedness since what may known about God plain them because made it plain creation world God's invisible qualities eternal power divine nature have been clearly seen being understood from what has been made so people without excuse did not think worthwhile retain knowledge became filled every kind wickedness evil greed depravity despite knowing decree those do such things deserve death continue do these things also approve those practice them (Romans 1:18-32).

Romans 1:1 Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, separated unto the gospel of God,

Paul was called to be an Apostle to share the Good News of God.

1. The Call of an Apostle: Understanding God's Purpose for Your Life

2. The Gospel of God: Sharing Good News with Others

1. Matthew 28:19-20 "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

2. Acts 1:8 “But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

Romans 1:2 (Which he had promised afore by his prophets in the holy scriptures,)

Paul's letter to the Romans was a reminder of the promises God had made to His people through His prophets in the Scriptures.

1. The Promise of God: Faith in the Promises of God

2. Standing on the Promises of God: Keeping Our Faith in God's Covenant

1. Isaiah 55:11 - So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it.

2. 2 Chronicles 20:20 - Believe in the LORD your God, so shall ye be established; believe his prophets, so shall ye prosper.

Romans 1:3 Concerning his Son Jesus Christ our Lord, which was made of the seed of David according to the flesh;

Paul's letter to the Romans highlights Jesus Christ as the Son of God, born of the Davidic line.

1: Jesus Christ is the Son of God, and through Him we are redeemed.

2: We have been given the promise of Salvation through Jesus Christ, the Son of David.

1: Isaiah 9:6-7 - For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

2: 2 Timothy 2:8 - Remember Jesus Christ, risen from the dead, the offspring of David, as preached in my gospel.

Romans 1:4 And declared to be the Son of God with power, according to the spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead:

Paul affirms Jesus as the Son of God, and explains that this was proved by His resurrection from the dead.

1. The Power of Resurrection: How Jesus Proved His Divinity

2. The Holiness of Jesus: Understanding the Significance of His Resurrection

1. John 10:30-31 - “I and my Father are one”

2. Acts 13:33 - “He has fulfilled for us, their children, by raising Jesus”

Romans 1:5 By whom we have received grace and apostleship, for obedience to the faith among all nations, for his name:

Paul was appointed by God to spread the gospel to all nations, in order to bring people into obedience to the faith.

1. The Reality of God's Grace: How the Gospel Unites Us

2. The Call to Obedience: Living Out the Faith

1. Ephesians 2:8-9 For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God

2. James 1:22 But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.

Romans 1:6 Among whom are ye also the called of Jesus Christ:

Paul wrote a letter to the Roman church to encourage them to remain strong in faith and to be devoted to God.

1. God has called us to be devoted to Him and to remain strong in our faith.

2. We are called to be faithful to God, no matter the circumstances.

1. Romans 8:28 - And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.

2. 2 Thessalonians 1:11 - With this in mind, we constantly pray for you, that our God may make you worthy of his calling, and that by his power he may bring to fruition your every desire for goodness and your every deed prompted by faith.

Romans 1:7 To all that be in Rome, beloved of God, called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Paul greets the believers in Rome with grace and peace from God and Jesus Christ.

1. Living in Grace and Peace: How to Find Contentment in the Lord

2. Drawing Strength in Difficult Times: Relying on God's Grace and Peace

1. Galatians 5:22-23 - "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law."

2. Philippians 4:6-7 - "Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."

Romans 1:8 First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for you all, that your faith is spoken of throughout the whole world.

Paul praises God for the faith of the Romans, which is known throughout the world.

1. Our faith should be a witness to the world, as the Romans' faith was.

2. We should strive to be an example of faith to others, just as the Romans were.

1. Matthew 5:13-16 - "You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot.

2. 1 Peter 2:12 - Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us.

Romans 1:9 For God is my witness, whom I serve with my spirit in the gospel of his Son, that without ceasing I make mention of you always in my prayers;

Paul gives thanks for the believers in Rome, whom he serves through his work in the gospel of Jesus Christ.

1. Serving God through the Gospel of Jesus Christ

2. The Power of Prayer

1. Philippians 1:3-5

2. Colossians 1:3-5

Romans 1:10 Making request, if by any means now at length I might have a prosperous journey by the will of God to come unto you.

Paul expresses his desire to visit the Romans and requests for God's will to be done so that his journey will be prosperous.

1. The importance of praying for God's will to be done in our lives.

2. Acknowledging God's will for us in order to be prosperous.

1. Ephesians 3:20 - Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us.

2. James 4:15 - Instead, you ought to say, “If it is the Lord’s will, we will live and do this or that.”

Romans 1:11 For I long to see you, that I may impart unto you some spiritual gift, to the end ye may be established;

Paul is expressing his desire to visit the Roman Christians so he can share with them some spiritual gift that will help them grow in faith.

1: "The Power of a Spiritual Gift"

2: "Establishing Ourselves in Faith"

1: Galatians 6:10 - So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith.

2: Philippians 1:9-11 - And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment, so that you may approve what is excellent, and so be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.

Romans 1:12 That is, that I may be comforted together with you by the mutual faith both of you and me.

This passage explains how Paul hoped to be comforted through the mutual faith of himself and the Roman church.

1. "The Comfort of Mutual Faith"

2. "Building Each Other Up in Faith"

1. Philippians 2:1-2 “So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind.”

2. Hebrews 10:24-25 “And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.”

Romans 1:13 Now I would not have you ignorant, brethren, that oftentimes I purposed to come unto you, (but was let hitherto,) that I might have some fruit among you also, even as among other Gentiles.

Paul intends to visit the Roman community to bring them spiritual fruit just as he does with other Gentiles.

1. The Fruit of Paul's Ministry: How Paul's Visits Can Bear Spiritual Fruit in Our Lives

2. The Power of Unstoppable Purpose: Making the Most of Our Opportunities for Mission

1. Colossians 1:3-6 - We give thanks to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, praying always for you, since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of your love for all the saints; because of the hope which is laid up for you in heaven, of which you heard before in the word of the truth of the gospel, which has come to you, as it has also in all the world, and is bringing forth fruit, as it is also among you since the day you heard and knew the grace of God in truth.

2. Acts 11:19-21 - Now those who were scattered after the persecution that arose over Stephen traveled as far as Phoenicia, Cyprus, and Antioch, preaching the word to no one but the Jews only. But some of them were men from Cyprus and Cyrene, who, when they had come to Antioch, spoke to the Hellenists, preaching the Lord Jesus. And the hand of the Lord was with them, and a great number believed and turned to the Lord.

Romans 1:14 I am debtor both to the Greeks, and to the Barbarians; both to the wise, and to the unwise.

Paul understood that as a Christian, he was responsible to spread the gospel to all people regardless of their cultural background.

1: We are called to share the gospel to all people, regardless of their background or knowledge.

2: The gospel message is for everyone, no matter what their cultural identity or level of wisdom.

1: Acts 17:26-27 - “And he made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined allotted periods and the boundaries of their dwelling place, that they should seek God, in the hope that they might feel their way toward him and find him.”

2: 1 Corinthians 12:13 - “For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and all were made to drink of one Spirit.”

Romans 1:15 So, as much as in me is, I am ready to preach the gospel to you that are at Rome also.

Paul is ready to preach the Gospel to the people of Rome.

1. We Must Proclaim God's Word to All Nations

2. The Power of the Gospel to Transform Lives

1. Matthew 28:19-20 “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you.”

2. 2 Corinthians 5:17 “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.”

Romans 1:16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.

The gospel of Christ is God's power to bring salvation to everyone who believes.

1. The Power of the Gospel: Believing in God's Salvation

2. Unashamedly Proclaiming the Gospel: Spreading the Good News of God's Salvation

1. Romans 10:13-14 - "For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher?"

2. Isaiah 61:1 - "The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me; because the Lord hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; he hath sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound."

Romans 1:17 For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith.

The righteousness of God is revealed through faith and those who are just will live by faith.

1. Living By Faith: Our Path to Righteousness

2. Understanding Faith: The Key to Living Righteously

1. Habakkuk 2:4 - "Behold, his soul which is lifted up is not upright in him: but the just shall live by his faith."

2. Galatians 3:11 - "But that no man is justified by the law in the sight of God, it is evident: for, The just shall live by faith."

Romans 1:18 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness;

The wrath of God is revealed against all ungodliness and unrighteousness.

1. The Consequences of Unrighteousness

2. The Inevitability of God's Wrath

1. Proverbs 11:31 - Behold, the righteous shall be recompensed in the earth: much more the wicked and the sinner.

2. Psalm 5:5 - The foolish shall not stand in thy sight: thou hatest all workers of iniquity.

Romans 1:19 Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed it unto them.

God's truth is evident in all of creation.

1. God's Truth: The Foundation of Our Faith

2. Evidence of God's Love in Creation

1. Psalm 19:1-4 - The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork.

2. John 1:1-5 - In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word

was God.

Romans 1:20 For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse:

God's power and divine nature can be seen in creation, leaving humanity without excuse for not believing in Him.

1. God's Glory Revealed in Creation

2. No Excuses: God's Grandeur is Everywhere

1. Psalm 19:1-4

2. Acts 14:15-17

Romans 1:21 Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened.

People chose not to glorify God or be thankful when they knew Him, instead becoming vain in their imaginations and having a darkened heart.

1. God's Holiness and Our Responsibilities - Exploring how we should respond when we come to know God and understand His holiness.

2. The Power of Gratitude - Examining the importance of thanking God for His many blessings.

1. Colossians 3:16 - Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.

2. James 4:17 - Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin.

Romans 1:22 Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools,

People may think they are wise but by rejecting God's truth, they become fools.

1. "The Fall of the Proud"

2. "The Wisdom of Knowing God"

1. Proverbs 16:18 - "Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall."

2. James 3:17 - "But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere."

Romans 1:23 And changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and fourfooted beasts, and creeping things.

Paul writes in Romans 1:23 that humans have taken the glory of God and turned it into images of earthly creatures.

1. The Danger of Idolatry: The Perils of Putting Human Creation Over God's Perfection

2. Remembering the One True God: Rejecting False Idols and Honoring God's Glory

1. Deuteronomy 4:15-19 - God's warnings against worshiping idols

2. Isaiah 40:18-26 - God's incomparable greatness compared to earthly idols

Romans 1:24 Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves:

God allowed people to become consumed by their own lusts and dishonor their own bodies.

1. The Dangers of Unchecked Desire

2. Responding to Temptation with Holiness

1. Galatians 5:16-17 - "But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do."

2. 1 Corinthians 6:19-20 - "Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body."

Romans 1:25 Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen.

Humans often prefer to worship created things rather than the Creator, which is not pleasing to God.

1: Our worship should be directed to God alone and not to created things.

2: We should put God first in all we do and not make idols of the things of the world.

1: Colossians 3:5 Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry.

2: James 4:4 You adulterous people, don’t you know that friendship with the world means enmity against God? Therefore, anyone who chooses to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God.

Romans 1:26 For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature:

God gave up the people of the world to their immoral desires, including the women who changed the natural use of sex to one that is against nature.

1. The Danger of Immoral Desires

2. The Unnatural and Unacceptable Nature of Sexual Sin

1. 1 Corinthians 6:18-20 - Flee from sexual immorality; every other sin a person commits

is outside the body, but the sexually immoral person sins against his own body.

2. Galatians 5:19-21 - The acts of the flesh are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like.

Romans 1:27 And likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another; men with men working that which is unseemly, and receiving in themselves that recompence of their error which was meet.

Men have abandoned their natural desires for women and have instead been consumed by their lust for other men, engaging in actions that are shameful and suffering the consequences of their sin.

1. God's design for marriage - Romans 1:27

2. The consequences of leaving God's design - Romans 1:27

1. Leviticus 18:22 - “You shall not lie with a male as with a woman; it is an abomination.”

2. 1 Corinthians 6:9-10 - “Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who practice homosexuality, nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God.”

Romans 1:28 And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient;

Because people refused to acknowledge God, He allowed them to have a depraved mind so that they would do things that are not appropriate.

1. Surrendering to God's will is the best way to live a life of integrity.

2. We must choose to acknowledge God and resist the temptation to do what is not right.

1. Romans 12:2 - Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

2. Psalm 119:11 - I have stored up your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you.

Romans 1:29 Being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity; whisperers,

The passage describes people with a heart of wickedness and full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, and malignity.

1. The Danger of Wickedness - Romans 1:29

2. Overcoming Envy and Malignity - Romans 1:29

1. James 4:7 - "Resist the devil, and he will flee from you."

2. Proverbs 16:32 - "He who is slow to anger is better than the mighty, and he who rules his spirit than he who takes a city."

Romans 1:30 Backbiters, haters of God, despiteful, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents,

Paul condemns those who are backbiters, haters of God, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, and disobedient to parents.

1. True Faith and Righteous Living: The Moral Teaching of Paul in Romans 1:30

2. The Dangers of Disobedience: How to Obey God and Honor Parents.

1. Matthew 7:12 - "So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets."

2. 1 Thessalonians 4:8 - "Therefore, anyone who rejects this instruction does not reject a human being but God, the very God who gives you his Holy Spirit."

Romans 1:31 Without understanding, covenantbreakers, without natural affection, implacable, unmerciful:

Paul emphasizes the consequences of sin, including a lack of understanding, covenant breaking, and lack of compassion.

1. Recognizing Sin and Its Consequences

2. The Power of Mercy and Compassion

1. Ephesians 4:31-32 - "Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice: And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you."

2. James 2:13 - "For he shall have judgment without mercy, that hath shewed no mercy; and mercy rejoiceth against judgment."

Romans 1:32 Who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them.

God's judgment is clear: those who commit grave sins are worthy of death. They not only commit the sins themselves, but encourage and take pleasure in those who do the same.

1: God's judgment is certain and just; we must not engage in or encourage grave sin.

2: We must not take pleasure in the sins of others, for God's judgment is clear on the matter.

1: Psalm 119:128 - Therefore I esteem all thy precepts concerning all things to be right; and I hate every false way.

2: Ephesians 5:11 - And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them.

Romans 2 continues Paul's discourse on the sinful nature of humanity, emphasizing God's impartial judgement, the importance of deeds over heritage, and the true meaning of circumcision.

1st Paragraph: The chapter begins with Paul pointing out that those who pass judgment on others are without excuse because in doing so they condemn themselves, for they

practice the very same things. He emphasizes that God’s judgment is based on truth and against those who do such things. He warns against presuming upon God’s kindness, patience, and forbearance, reminding readers that it is God’s kindness that is meant to lead them to repentance (Romans 2:1-4).

2nd Paragraph: In verses 5-16, Paul further discusses how God will render to each one according to his works. To those who seek glory honor immortality by doing good he will give eternal life but for those self-seeking disobey truth obey unrighteousness there will be wrath fury tribulation distress every human being does evil Jew first also Greek glory honor peace everyone does good Jew first also Greek (Romans 2:6-10). He emphasizes that there is no partiality with God all who sin apart from law will perish by law all who sin under law will be judged by law it not hearers law righteous sight God but doers law justified when Gentiles do not have law instinctively do what requires they are a law themselves even though they do not have written code (Romans 2:11-16).

3rd Paragraph: From verse 17 onwards, Paul addresses Jewish readers directly challenging their reliance upon their heritage possession Law circumcision for salvation stating 'If you call yourself a Jew rely on Law boast in God know His will approve what superior because instructed Law confident guide blind light those in dark instructor foolish teacher infants having embodiment knowledge truth Law you then teach others not teach yourself?' (Romans 2:17-21). He criticizes hypocrisy among Jews says real circumcision matter heart Spirit not letter His praise comes from God not people (Romans 2:28-29).

Romans 2:1 Therefore thou art inexcusable, O man, whosoever thou art that judgest: for wherein thou judgest another, thou condemnest thyself; for thou that judgest doest the same things.

Paul tells the reader that no one is exempt from judgment and condemns those who judge others when they do the same things.

1. Examine Yourself Before Judging Others - Luke 6:37-38

2. Be Quick to Listen and Slow to Speak - James 1:19

1. Matthew 7:1-5

2. Galatians 6:1-5

Romans 2:2 But we are sure that the judgment of God is according to truth against them which commit such things.

God's judgment is based in truth and those who do wrong will be judged accordingly.

1. The Consequences of Sin: Understanding the Judgment of God

2. Living in Righteousness: How to Avoid the Judgment of God

1. Isaiah 5:20 – “Woe to those who call evil good and good evil, who put darkness for light and light for darkness, who put bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter!”

2. James 4:17 – “So whoever knows the right thing to do and fails to do it, for him it is sin.”

Romans 2:3 And thinkest thou this, O man, that judgest them which do such things, and doest the same, that thou shalt escape the judgment of God?

Paul questions the hypocrisy of a man who judges others for their sins, yet commits the same sins himself, asking if he thinks he will escape the judgement of God.

1. Living a Hypocritical Life: How to Avoid Judgment from God

2. Breaking the Cycle of Hypocrisy: How to Follow God's Standards

1. Matthew 7:3-5 - "And why beholdest thou the mote that is in thy brother's eye, but considerest not the beam that is in thine own eye? Or how wilt thou say to thy brother, Let me pull out the mote out of thine eye; and, behold, a beam is in thine own eye? Thou hypocrite, first cast out the beam out of thine own eye; and then shalt thou see clearly to cast out the mote out of thy brother's eye."

2. James 4:17 - "Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin."

Romans 2:4 Or despisest thou the riches of his goodness and forbearance and longsuffering; not knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance?

God's goodness leads to repentance.

1: "God's Goodness is the Path to Repentance"

2: "God's Longsuffering and Forbearance are Essential to Repentance"

1: Psalm 51:17 - The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise.

2: Luke 5:32 - I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.

Romans 2:5 But after thy hardness and impenitent heart treasurest up unto thyself wrath against the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God;

God treasuries wrath for those who are unrepentant and hard-hearted.

1. The Need to Repent and Embrace God's Mercy

2. Recognizing the Consequence of Unrepentant Sin

1. Isaiah 55:6-7 “Seek the LORD while he may be found; call upon him while he is near; let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him return to the LORD, that he may have compassion on him, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.

2. Jeremiah 31:18-20 “I have heard Ephraim grieving, ‘You have disciplined me, and I was disciplined, like an untrained calf; bring me back that I may be restored, for you are the LORD my God. For after I had turned away, I relented, and after I was instructed, I struck my thigh; I was ashamed, and I was confounded, because I bore the disgrace of my youth.’ Is Ephraim my dear son? Is he my darling child? For as often as I speak against him, I do remember him still. Therefore my heart yearns for him; I will surely have mercy on him, declares the LORD.”

Romans 2:6 Who will render to every man according to his deeds:

God rewards each person according to their actions.

1: We can trust that God will always reward us according to our actions.

2: God is just and always rewards us according to what we have done.

1: Galatians 6:7-8 "Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap. For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life."

2: Matthew 16:27 "For the Son of Man is going to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay each person according to what he has done."

Romans 2:7 To them who by patient continuance in well doing seek for glory and honour and immortality, eternal life:

This verse encourages believers to remain faithful and obedient to God, as it is through their patient endurance that they will receive eternal life.

1. "The Value of Patience in Seeking Eternal Life"

2. "God's Promises to Those Who Persevere"

1. James 1:12 - Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love him.

2. Hebrews 10:36 - For you have need of endurance, so that when you have done the will of God you may receive what is promised.

Romans 2:8 But unto them that are contentious, and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, indignation and wrath,

Those who are contentious and disobey the truth will face indignation and wrath.

1. The Danger of Disobedience

2. The Consequences of Refusing the Truth

1. Ephesians 5:6 “Let no man deceive you with vain words: for because of these things cometh the wrath of God upon the children of disobedience.”

2. James 1:21-22 “Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls. But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.”

Romans 2:9 Tribulation and anguish, upon every soul of man that doeth evil, of the Jew first, and also of the Gentile;

God will bring tribulation and anguish to both Jews and Gentiles who do evil.

1. The Consequences of Doing Evil: A Study of Romans 2:9

2. God's Mercy and Justice: Understanding the Context of Romans 2:9

1. John 3:16-17 – “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.”

2. James 1:13-15 – “Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man: But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death.”

Romans 2:10 But glory, honour, and peace, to every man that worketh good, to the Jew first, and also to the Gentile:

Everyone who does what is good will be rewarded with glory, honor, and peace, regardless of whether they are Jewish or Gentile.

1. Everyone deserves to be rewarded for their good works, no matter who they are.

2. We are all equal in the eyes of God, and He will reward all of us accordingly.

1. Galatians 3:28 - There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus.

2. Ephesians 2:14 - For he is our peace, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition between us.

Romans 2:11 For there is no respect of persons with God.

God shows no favoritism and does not judge based on partiality.

1: God’s Love is Unconditional - No matter our differences, God’s love is for everyone equally.

2: Judge Not Lest You Be Judged - We should not be biased towards others and should treat all people the same.

1: James 2:1-13 - We should not show favoritism to some over others.

2: John 3:16 - God showed love to all by sending his son to die for us.

Romans 2:12 For as many as have sinned without law shall also perish without law: and as many as have sinned in the law shall be judged by the law;

All people will be judged for their sins, regardless of whether or not they have the law.

1. The Lord is Just and Fair in His Judgements

2. Reaping What We Have Sown

1. Ecclesiastes 12:14 - For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil.

2. Colossians 3:25 - For he that doeth wrong shall receive for the wrong which he hath done: and there is no respect of persons.

Romans 2:13 (For not the hearers of the law are just before God, but the doers of the law shall be justified.

Justification before God is not based on simply hearing the law, but also on doing the law.

1. We Are Justified by Our Actions, Not Our Words

2. The Importance of Doing What We Have Learned

1. James 1:22-25 (But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves. For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass: For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was. But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed.)

2. Matthew 7:24-27 (Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock: And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock. And every one that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand: And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell: and great was the fall of it.)

Romans 2:14 For when the Gentiles, which have not the law, do by nature the things contained in the law, these, having not the law, are a law unto themselves:

The Gentiles, even though they do not have the law, are still able to do the things contained in it, and are their own law.

1. The Power of Natural Law: Understanding the Implications of Romans 2:14

2. A New Law: Living by Nature in Unfamiliar Territory

1. Galatians 5:14-15 - "For the whole law is fulfilled in one word: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' But if you bite and devour one another, watch out that you are not consumed by one another."

2. Ephesians 2:15 - "having abolished in His flesh the enmity, that is, the law of commandments contained in ordinances, so as to create in Himself one new man from the two, thus making peace."

Romans 2:15 Which shew the work of the law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness, and their thoughts the mean while accusing or else excusing one another;)

Paul explains that the law of God is written in the hearts of all people, and their

conscience bears witness to this.

1. The Power of the Law of God Written in our Hearts

2. The Power of Conscience Guiding our Actions

1. Romans 13:5: "Therefore you must be subject, not only to avoid God's wrath but also for the sake of conscience."

2. Proverbs 20:27: "The spirit of man is the lamp of the Lord, searching all his innermost parts."

Romans 2:16 In the day when God shall judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ according to my gospel.

God's judgement of all mankind will be fair and just.

1: We must be accountable before God for all our actions, as His judgement will be fair and just.

2: Everyone will face judgement, so let us strive to live an upright life before God.

1: Matthew 12:36 - "For I tell you, on the day of judgment people will give account for every careless word they speak."

2: Ecclesiastes 12:14 - "For God will bring every deed into judgment, with every secret thing, whether good or evil."

Romans 2:17 Behold, thou art called a Jew, and restest in the law, and makest thy boast of God,

The passage speaks of the Jews who rest in the law and boast of God.

1. We can learn about humilty and faithfulness from the Jews who trusted in God.

2. We must remember what it means to be part of God's chosen people and not take our

blessings for granted.

1. Isaiah 41:10, "fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand."

2. Matthew 5:16, "Let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven."

Romans 2:18 And knowest his will, and approvest the things that are more excellent, being instructed out of the law;

Passage Knowing the will of God through instruction from the law.

1. God's Will is Revealed Through His Word

2. Obedience Through Biblical Instruction

1. Colossians 3:16, "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord."

2. Deuteronomy 29:29, "The secret things belong unto the Lord our God: but those things which are revealed belong unto us and to our children for ever, that we may do all the words of this law."

Romans 2:19 And art confident that thou thyself art a guide of the blind, a light of them which are in darkness,

Paul explains that one should not judge others as they may be unaware of the truth and may be relying on those who are more knowledgeable for guidance.

1. Judging Others: The Real Blindness

2. The Role of a Guide: Seeing the Light

1. Matthew 7:1-2 “Judge not, that ye be not judged. For with what judgment ye judge, ye shall be judged: and with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you again.”

2. James 4:12 “There is one lawgiver, who is able to save and to destroy: who art thou that judgest another?”

Romans 2:20 An instructor of the foolish, a teacher of babes, which hast the form of knowledge and of the truth in the law.

This passage speaks of the importance of teaching and educating people in the law of God.

1. The Power of Teaching: How God's Law Can Transform Lives

2. The Teacher's Calling: Embracing the Responsibility of Passing on God's Truth

1. Proverbs 22:6 - Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it.

2. Matthew 28:19-20 - Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you.

Romans 2:21 Thou therefore which teachest another, teachest thou not thyself? thou that preachest a man should not steal, dost thou steal?

We must practice what we preach.

1: We must be careful to live out what we preach to others.

2: We should measure our own actions against the standards we set for others.

1: Luke 6:41-42 - "Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother’s eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye? How can you say to your brother, ‘Brother, let me take the speck out of your eye,’ when you yourself fail to see the plank in your own eye?"

2: James 1:22-25 - "Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like someone who looks at his face in a mirror and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately

forgets what he looks like. But whoever looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues in it—not forgetting what they have heard, but doing it—they will be blessed in what they do."

Romans 2:22 Thou that sayest a man should not commit adultery, dost thou commit adultery? thou that abhorrest idols, dost thou commit sacrilege?

The passage is questioning whether people who say one thing do the opposite themselves.

1. "Be the Example You Wish to See in the World"

2. "Practice What You Preach"

1. Matthew 7:3-5 - "Why do you see the speck that is in your brother's eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye? Or how can you say to your brother, 'Let me take the speck out of your eye,' when there is the log in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your brother's eye."

2. James 2:10 - "For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become accountable for all of it."

Romans 2:23 Thou that makest thy boast of the law, through breaking the law dishonourest thou God?

Those who pride themselves on their obedience to the law of God yet break it, are dishonoring God.

1. We must remember that God's law is not something we can simply ignore. We must take it seriously and strive to keep it.

2. We must strive to live up to the standards of God's law, and not make a mockery of it by flouting it.

1. James 2:10-12 - For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all.

2. Galatians 5:14 - For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this; Thou shalt love thy

neighbour as thyself.

Romans 2:24 For the name of God is blasphemed among the Gentiles through you, as it is written.

The Gentiles blaspheme the name of God because of the actions of the Jews.

1. The power of our actions and how we represent God to the world.

2. The importance of humility and recognizing our own imperfections.

1. James 2:14-17 - What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save them? 15 Suppose a brother or a sister is without clothes and daily food. 16 If one of you says to them, “Go in peace; keep warm and well fed,” but does nothing about their physical needs, what good is it? 17 In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.

2. Philippians 2:3-4 - Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, 4 not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.

Romans 2:25 For circumcision verily profiteth, if thou keep the law: but if thou be a breaker of the law, thy circumcision is made uncircumcision.

Paul is emphasizing the importance of living by God's law, even when one has been circumcised.

1. Living God's Law: The Importance of Following God's Commands

2. The Meaning of Circumcision: Obedience Above Ritual

1. Deuteronomy 10:12-13 - And now, Israel, what does the LORD your God require of you, but to fear the LORD your God, to walk in all his ways, to love him, to serve the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul.

2. Jeremiah 7:22-23 - For I did not speak to your fathers, or command them in the day that I brought them out of the land of Egypt, concerning burnt offerings or sacrifices. But this is what I commanded them, saying, 'Obey My voice, and I will be your God, and you shall be My people.

Romans 2:26 Therefore if the uncircumcision keep the righteousness of the law, shall not his uncircumcision be counted for circumcision?

Paul questions whether an uncircumcised person who follows the law will be treated as if they had been circumcised.

1. How To Live A Godly Life In An Uncircumcised State

2. The Symbolic Meaning of Circumcision

1. Romans 3:19-31

2. Galatians 5:1-6

Romans 2:27 And shall not uncircumcision which is by nature, if it fulfil the law, judge thee, who by the letter and circumcision dost transgress the law?

Paul asks the question if an uncircumcised person who fulfills the law can judge a person who is circumcised and transgresses the law.

1. The Power of Law: Exploring Romans 2:27

2. The Importance of Keeping God's Law: A Study of Romans 2:27

1. James 2:10-11 - For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all. For he that said, Do not commit adultery, said also, Do not kill. Now if thou commit no adultery, yet if thou kill, thou art become a transgressor of the law.

2. Galatians 5:1-3 - Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage. Behold, I Paul say unto you, that if ye be circumcised, Christ shall profit you nothing. For I testify again to every man that is circumcised, that he is a debtor to do the whole law.

Romans 2:28 For he is not a Jew, which is one outwardly; neither is that circumcision, which is outward in the flesh:

Paul is stressing that a person's true identity is not determined by their outward appearance, but rather by their inner faith.

1: Everyone is equal in the eyes of God and should be treated as such, no matter what their outward appearance may be.

2: We are all made in the image of God and should strive to live with a heart full of faith and love.

1: Galatians 3:28 - “There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus.”

2: Colossians 3:11 - “Where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcision nor uncircumcision, Barbarian, Scythian, bond nor free: but Christ is all, and in all.”

Romans 2:29 But he is a Jew, which is one inwardly; and circumcision is that of the heart, in the spirit, and not in the letter; whose praise is not of men, but of God.

Paul explains that true Jews are those who are circumcised in their hearts, not in the physical body, and their praise comes from God, not from people.

1. Our Faith Comes From God, Not From Men

2. The Necessity of an Inner Circumcision

1. Jeremiah 9:26 - "For all these things My hand has made, And all these things exist," declares the LORD. "But to this one I will look, To him who is humble and contrite of spirit, and who trembles at My word.

2. Philippians 3:3 - For we are the circumcision, who worship by the Spirit of God and glory in Christ Jesus and put no confidence in the flesh.

Romans 3 continues Paul's theological discourse on the universal sinfulness of humanity, both Jews and Gentiles, the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ, and the role of law in relation to faith.

1st Paragraph: The chapter begins with Paul addressing questions about the advantage of being a Jew and the value of circumcision. He asserts that Jews have been entrusted with the very words of God. Even if some were unfaithful, their unfaithfulness does not

nullify God’s faithfulness (Romans 3:1-4). He then discusses human sinfulness in relation to God's righteousness, arguing that our unrighteousness serves to show off God’s righteousness more clearly (Romans 3:5-8).

2nd Paragraph: In verses 9-20, Paul concludes that all people are under sin, both Jews and Gentiles. He quotes several Old Testament passages to make his point about universal human sinfulness: 'There is no one righteous, not even one; there is no one who understands; there is no one who seeks God' (Romans 3:10-11). He asserts that 'all have sinned fall short glory God' law makes us conscious our sins but cannot make us righteous sight God (Romans 3:19-20).

3rd Paragraph: From verse 21 onwards, Paul introduces a new theme - justification by faith apart from works Law. Righteousness he says now comes through faith Jesus Christ all believe there no difference between Jew Gentile since all have sinned fall short glory God are justified freely by His grace redemption came Christ Jesus whom presented as sacrifice atonement through shedding His blood received through faith (Romans 3:21-25). This justification by faith upholds rather than nullifies Law because it shows how completely we need rely on grace salvation rather than our own ability keep Law perfectly (Romans 3:26-31).

Romans 3:1 What advantage then hath the Jew? or what profit is there of circumcision?

The passage questions the advantage of the Jews and the benefit of circumcision.

1. "The Advantages of Being a Jew"

2. "The Meaning of Circumcision"

1. Deuteronomy 10:16 - Circumcise therefore the foreskin of your heart, and be no more stiffnecked.

2. Ephesians 2:8 - For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God.

Romans 3:2 Much every way: chiefly, because that unto them were committed the oracles of God.

The oracles of God were committed to the Jews, making them privileged in many ways.

1. God's Blessings: How the Jews Have Been Blessed

2. The Power of God's Word: How the Oracles of God Changed History

1. Romans 9:4-5 - "They are Israelites, and to them belong the adoption, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, the worship, and the promises. To them belong the patriarchs, and from their race, according to the flesh, is the Christ who is God over all, blessed forever. Amen."

2. Deuteronomy 4:5-8 - "See, I have taught you statutes and rules, as the Lord my God commanded me, that you should do them in the land that you are entering to take possession of it. Keep them and do them, for that will be your wisdom and your understanding in the sight of the peoples, who, when they hear all these statutes, will say, 'Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people.' For what great nation is there that has a god so near to it as the Lord our God is to us, whenever we call upon him? And what great nation is there, that has statutes and rules so righteous as all this law that I set before you today?"

Romans 3:3 For what if some did not believe? shall their unbelief make the faith of God without effect?

Paul questions the effect of unbelief on the faithfulness of God.

1. The Unshakable Faith of God: Romans 3:3

2. The Power of Unbelief: What Does it Mean for Us?

1. Isaiah 40:8 - “The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: but the word of our God shall stand for ever.”

2. Hebrews 11:6 - “But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.”

Romans 3:4 God forbid: yea, let God be true, but every man a liar; as it is written, That thou mightest be justified in thy sayings, and mightest overcome when thou art judged.

God is always true, even if every person is a liar.

1: Choose truth over lies, even when it is hard to do.

2: God's truth is unchangeable, and it will set us free.

1: Psalm 119:142 - Thy righteousness is an everlasting righteousness, and thy law is the truth.

2: John 8:31-32 - Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; and ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.

Romans 3:5 But if our unrighteousness commend the righteousness of God, what shall we say? Is God unrighteous who taketh vengeance? (I speak as a man)

God's righteousness is demonstrated in the face of unrighteousness, but does that make God unrighteous for taking vengeance?

1. God's Righteousness in an Unrighteous World

2. The Vengeance of God's Justice

1. Psalm 145:17 - The Lord is righteous in all his ways, and holy in all his works.

2. Isaiah 61:8 - For I the Lord love judgment, I hate robbery for burnt offering; and I will direct their work in truth, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them.

Romans 3:6 God forbid: for then how shall God judge the world?

The passage discusses the consequences of God not judging the world.

1. God’s Justice is Perfect - Romans 3:6

2. Why We Need God’s Judgment - Romans 3:6

1. Ecclesiastes 12:14 - “For God will bring every deed into judgment, with every secret thing, whether good or evil.”

2. Isaiah 33:22 - “For the Lord is our judge; the Lord is our lawgiver; the Lord is our king; he will save us.”

Romans 3:7 For if the truth of God hath more abounded through my lie unto his glory; why yet am I also judged as a sinner?

Paul questions why he is still judged as a sinner even though his lie has increased the truth of God and brought glory to Him.

1. "The Paradox of Sin: What to Do When the Truth of God is Increased Through Our Wrongdoing"

2. "The Dilemma of Sin: When Doing Wrong Increases the Righteousness of God"

1. Romans 4:7-8 - "Blessed are those whose lawless deeds are forgiven, and whose sins are covered; blessed is the man against whom the Lord will not count his sin."

2. 1 John 1:8-10 - "If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

Romans 3:8 And not rather, (as we be slanderously reported, and as some affirm that we say,) Let us do evil, that good may come? whose damnation is just.

Some people have falsely accused and reported that Christians advocate doing evil so that good may come, but this is not true and those who believe this have just damnation.

1. The Power of Words: How gossip and slander can lead to a false understanding of our faith

2. The Danger of False Teaching: How to recognize and reject lies about our faith

1. Proverbs 18:21 - Death and life are in the power of the tongue: and they that love it shall eat the fruit thereof.

2. Galatians 1:6-9 - I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel: Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ. But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you,

let him be accursed. As we said before, so say I now again, If any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed.

Romans 3:9 What then? are we better than they? No, in no wise: for we have before proved both Jews and Gentiles, that they are all under sin;

Both Jews and Gentiles are under sin and there is no one who is better than the other.

1. No one is Above Sin - Romans 3:9

2. All are Equal before God - Romans 3:9

1. Galatians 3:28 - There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus.

2. James 2:1 - My brethren, have not the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory, with respect of persons.

Romans 3:10 As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one:

No one is righteous, according to the Bible.

1. "The Power of God's Word: Recognizing Our Unrighteousness"

2. "The Mercy of God: Overcoming Our Unrighteousness"

1. Psalm 14:3 - "They are all gone aside, they are all together become filthy: there is none that doeth good, no, not one."

2. Romans 5:20 - "Moreover the law entered, that the offence might abound. But where sin abounded, grace did much more abound."

Romans 3:11 There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God.

No one is able to understand or seek God on their own.

1. "The Search for God: A Path of Understanding"

2. "Seeking God: The Road to Wisdom"

1. Jeremiah 29:13 - "You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart."

2. Proverbs 8:17 - "I love those who love me, and those who seek me diligently find me."

Romans 3:12 They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one.

All people are unprofitable and have gone astray from God, as none are able to do good.

1. The Power of Sin: Understanding the Corrupting Influence of the Fall

2. Grace and Truth: Learning to Embrace Both for True Holiness

1. Romans 5:12-14, “Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned— for sin indeed was in the world before the law was given, but sin is not counted where there is no law. Yet death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those whose sinning was not like the transgression of Adam, who was a type of the one who was to come.”

2. Psalm 14:1-3, “The fool says in his heart, “There is no God.” They are corrupt, they do abominable deeds; there is none who does good. The Lord looks down from heaven on the children of man, to see if there are any who understand, who seek after God. They have all turned aside; together they have become corrupt; there is none who does good, not even one.”

Romans 3:13 Their throat is an open sepulchre; with their tongues they have used deceit; the poison of asps is under their lips:

The passage speaks of deceitful words and treacherous actions that are compared to poison.

1: We must always be careful of our words and actions, for they can be like poison to others.

2: Let us strive to be honest and sincere in all that we do, for our words and actions should be a blessing and not a curse.

1: James 3:5-9 – We must be careful of the words that come out of our mouths, for they have the power to cause great harm.

2: Proverbs 12:18 – The words of the reckless pierce like swords, but the tongue of the wise brings healing.

Romans 3:14 Whose mouth is full of cursing and bitterness:

The passage speaks of people whose mouths are full of cursing and bitterness.

1. Learning to Speak Life: The Power of Positive Words

2. Let Your Words Be Few: Practicing Self-Control in Speech

1. James 3:5-10

2. Colossians 4:6

Romans 3:15 Their feet are swift to shed blood:

The passage speaks of the swiftness of people to shed blood.

1. A on the importance of guarding our hearts and minds from thoughts and actions of violence.

2. A on the power of redemption and the ability to choose a life of peace over a life of violence.

1. Proverbs 4:23 - Guard your heart above all else, for it determines the course of your life.

2. Isaiah 43:25 - I am the one who wipes away your transgressions, for my own sake, and remembers your sins no more.

Romans 3:16 Destruction and misery are in their ways:

The passage speaks of destruction and misery being in the ways of those who do not follow God.

1: Follow God and His Ways to Have Peace and Joy

2: Destruction and Misery Are Not Far from Those Who Turn Away from God

1: Jeremiah 17:5-8 - This passage speaks of the destruction that follows those who turn away from God.

2: Psalm 1:1-3 - This passage speaks of the blessings that come to those who delight in God's law.

Romans 3:17 And the way of peace have they not known:

The consequences of not knowing the way of peace are dire.

1. The importance of knowing the way of peace.

2. The cost of not knowing the way of peace.

1. Isaiah 59:8 - The way of peace they know not, and there is no judgment in their goings: they have made them crooked paths: whosoever goeth therein shall not know peace.

2. Psalm 119:165 - Great peace have they which love thy law: and nothing shall offend them.

Romans 3:18 There is no fear of God before their eyes.

People act without fear of God or His judgement.

1. The Fear of the Lord: The Basis of a Fruitful Life

2. God is Watching: How to Live in the Presence of the Almighty

1. Proverbs 9:10 - The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is insight.

2. Psalm 111:10 - The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom; all those who practice it have a good understanding. His praise endures forever!

Romans 3:19 Now we know that what things soever the law saith, it saith to them who are under the law: that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God.

The law applies to all people and all people are guilty before God.

1. The power of the law and how it applies to all of us.

2. How being guilty before God brings us closer to Him.

1. Psalm 51:3 - For I acknowledge my transgressions: and my sin is ever before me.

2. James 2:10 - For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all.

Romans 3:20 Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law is the knowledge of sin.

No one can be declared righteous before God by obeying the law; instead, it only brings knowledge of sin.

1. The Law Reveals Our Need of a Savior

2. The Freedom of Grace

1. Galatians 2:16 - Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the law: for by the works of the law shall no

flesh be justified.

2. Psalm 51:4 - Against thee, thee only, have I sinned, and done this evil in thy sight: that thou mightest be justified when thou speakest, and be clear when thou judgest.

Romans 3:21 But now the righteousness of God without the law is manifested, being witnessed by the law and the prophets;

God's righteousness is revealed apart from the law, and was foretold by the law and prophets.

1. God's righteousness is greater than the law

2. We are saved by grace through faith

1. Galatians 2:16 - Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the law: for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified.

2. Ephesians 2:8-9 - For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast.

Romans 3:22 Even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference:

This verse emphasizes that everyone who believes in Jesus Christ will receive the righteousness of God, regardless of any differences they may have.

1. God shows no partiality - Romans 3:22

2. Jesus Christ is the Way to Righteousness - Romans 3:22

1. Galatians 2:16 - "Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the law: for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified."

2. Ephesians 2:8-9 - "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast."

Romans 3:23 For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;

Everyone has sinned and fallen short of God's glory.

1. The Reality of Sin and Its Consequences

2. The Urgency of Change and the Hope of Forgiveness

1. Isaiah 59:2 - "But your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God, and your sins have hidden his face from you so that he does not hear."

2. Hebrews 4:16 - "Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need."

Romans 3:24 Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus:

This passage explains that believers are justified by God's grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus.

1. The Power of Grace: How God's Grace Justifies Us

2. Redemption Through Jesus: How Jesus Saves Us From Sin

1. Ephesians 2:8-9 “For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.”

2. Titus 3:5-7 “He saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.”

Romans 3:25 Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God;

God has made it possible for us to have our sins forgiven by sending Jesus as a sacrifice for us. We can receive this forgiveness through faith in Jesus and his blood.

1. The Power of the Cross: How Accepting Jesus' Sacrifice Brings Forgiveness

2. Finding Strength in Faith: How Believing in Jesus' Sacrifice Allows Us to Overcome Our Sins

1. Isaiah 53:5 - But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed.

2. Hebrews 9:22 - In fact, the law requires that nearly everything be cleansed with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness.

Romans 3:26 To declare, I say, at this time his righteousness: that he might be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus.

God's righteousness is declared through Jesus, who justifies those who believe in Him.

1. The Power of Jesus' Justification: How to Receive the Gift of Righteousness

2. Believe in Jesus: Reaping the Rewards of Faith

1. Isaiah 45:25 - "In the LORD all the descendants of Israel shall be justified, and shall glory."

2. Galatians 2:16 - "We have believed in Christ Jesus, so that we may be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the law, because by the works of the law no one will be justified."

Romans 3:27 Where is boasting then? It is excluded. By what law? of works? Nay: but by the law of faith.

No one can boast of achieving salvation through their own works. Salvation is only achieved through faith.

1. The Power of Faith in Salvation

2. Pride and Salvation

1. Ephesians 2:8-9 - For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.

2. Galatians 2:16 - Yet we know that a person is not justified by works of the law but through faith in Jesus Christ, so we also have believed in Christ Jesus, in order to be justified by faith in Christ and not by works of the law, because by works of the law no one will be justified.

Romans 3:28 Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith without the deeds of the law.

Mankind is justified from his or her sins by faith in God, not by following the laws of the Old Testament.

1. The Gift of Justification Through Faith in God

2. How to Receive the Gift of Justification

1. Galatians 2:16 - "Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the law: for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified."

2. James 2:17-18 - "Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone. Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: shew me thy faith without thy works, and I will shew thee my faith by my works."

Romans 3:29 Is he the God of the Jews only? is he not also of the Gentiles? Yes, of the Gentiles also:

Paul questions whether God is only the God of the Jews or if He is also the God of the Gentiles. He affirms that God is indeed the God of the Gentiles as well.

1. God is the God of All: A on Romans 3:29 and the universality of God's love.

2. No One is Excluded: A on Romans 3:29 and the inclusivity of God's kingdom.

1. Acts 10:34-35 - Peter's vision of the animals, showing that God is not exclusive to one people.

2. Ephesians 2:14-18 - Paul's teaching that God has made both Jew and Gentile into one body.

Romans 3:30 Seeing it is one God, which shall justify the circumcision by faith, and uncircumcision through faith.

One God justifies both the circumcised and the uncircumcised through faith.

1: Trusting in God is the only way to be justified.

2: No matter our physical circumstances, faith is the key to salvation.

1: Galatians 3:28 - There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus.

2: Ephesians 2:8-9 - For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast.

Romans 3:31 Do we then make void the law through faith? God forbid: yea, we establish the law.

Paul declares that faith in Jesus does not do away with the law, but rather serves to uphold it.

1. "Law and Love: How We Uphold God's Word"

2. "Living by Faith: How We Fulfill the Law"

1. Galatians 5:14-15, "For the whole law is fulfilled in one word: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” But if you bite and devour one another, watch out that you are not consumed by one another.

2. Matthew 5:17-20, “Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. For truly, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the Law until all is accomplished. Therefore whoever relaxes one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.”

Romans 4 continues Paul's discussion on justification by faith, using Abraham and David as examples to illustrate that righteousness is credited through faith, not works or adherence to the Law.

1st Paragraph: The chapter begins with Paul asking what we can say about Abraham, our forefather according to the flesh. He asserts that if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about but not before God. For Scripture says 'Abraham believed God it was credited him as righteousness' (Romans 4:1-3). Paul explains that workman's wages are due him as an obligation not a gift whereas person who does not work but trusts God justifies ungodly their faith is credited as righteousness (Romans 4:4-5).

2nd Paragraph: In verses 6-15, Paul brings in another example from the Old Testament - King David - who also speaks blessing those whom God credits righteousness apart from works saying 'Blessed are those whose transgressions are forgiven whose sins are covered blessed man whose sin Lord will never count against him' (Romans 4:6-8). He then discusses circumcision, arguing that it was a sign of the righteousness that Abraham had by faith while he was still uncircumcised. Therefore, he became father all believe though they uncircumcised so righteousness might be credited them also father circumcised who not only circumcised but also follow footsteps faith our father Abraham had before he was circumcised (Romans 4:9-12). The promise to Abraham and his offspring came through the righteousness of faith rather than adherence to Law.

3rd Paragraph: From verse 16 onwards, Paul elaborates on how this promise comes by faith so it may be guaranteed all of Abraham’s offspring—not only those under law but also those have faith like Abraham father us all sight Him whom believed—God gives life dead calls things exist were not against hope believed hope became father many nations according promise 'So shall your offspring be.' Without weakening his faith faced fact his body good dead since he about hundred years old Sarah's womb also dead did waver through unbelief regarding promise God strengthened his faith gave glory God being fully persuaded God power do what promised why 'it was credited him as righteousness.' These words 'it were written solely for his sake' they were written for us too will be credited us believe Him raised Jesus our Lord from dead delivered over death our sins raised life our justification (Romans 4:16-25).

Romans 4:1 What shall we say then that Abraham our father, as pertaining to the flesh,

hath found?

Abraham was a model of faith in the sight of God.

1. The Faith of Abraham: A Model for All of Us

2. Receiving the Promise of God through Faith

1. Genesis 15:6 - And he believed in the Lord; and he counted it to him for righteousness.

2. Hebrews 11:8-10 - By faith Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed; and he went out, not knowing whither he went. By faith he sojourned in the land of promise, as in a strange country, dwelling in tabernacles with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise: For he looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God.

Romans 4:2 For if Abraham were justified by works, he hath whereof to glory; but not before God.

Abraham was not justified by his works, but by his faith in God.

1. Faith in God Leads to Justification

2. Justification Does Not Come From Works

1. Hebrews 11:6 - "But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him."

2. James 2:24 - "Ye see then how that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only."

Romans 4:3 For what saith the scripture? Abraham believed God, and it was counted unto him for righteousness.

Abraham was counted as righteous by God because of his belief and faith.

1. The Power of Faith - How faith in God can lead to incredible blessings.

2. God's Righteousness - Understanding what it means to be counted as righteous by God.

1. Romans 4:3 - For what saith the scripture? Abraham believed God, and it was counted unto him for righteousness.

2. Hebrews 11:8 - By faith Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed; and he went out, not knowing whither he went.

Romans 4:4 Now to him that worketh is the reward not reckoned of grace, but of debt.

Paul explains that those who work are rewarded not as grace, but as a debt owed to them.

1. The Value of Work: God Rewards Those Who Work Hard

2. The Grace of God: Learning to Live in Gratitude

1. Colossians 3:23-24 - "Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving."

2. Ecclesiastes 9:10 - "Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with all your might, for in the realm of the dead, where you are going, there is neither working nor planning nor knowledge nor wisdom."

Romans 4:5 But to him that worketh not, but believeth on him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness.

God credits righteousness to those who believe in Him and do not rely on their own works.

1. Faith: A Gift From God

2. What it Means to Justify the Ungodly

1. Ephesians 2:8-9 - For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast.

2. Romans 5:1 - Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Romans 4:6 Even as David also describeth the blessedness of the man, unto whom God imputeth righteousness without works,

Paul emphasizes the importance of faith and not works when it comes to righteousness before God.

1: Faith over Works - Romans 4:6

2: The Blessing of Righteousness Without Works - Romans 4:6

1: Ephesians 2:8-9 - For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast.

2: Galatians 2:16 - Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the law: for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified.

Romans 4:7 Saying, Blessed are they whose iniquities are forgiven, and whose sins are covered.

Paul encourages believers to be grateful for the forgiveness of their sins by God.

1. "Grateful for Forgiveness: Experiencing the Blessing of Being Covered by God's Grace"

2. "Living in the Freedom of Forgiveness: Rejoicing in the Cleansing of Sins"

1. Psalm 103:12 - As far as the east is from the west, so far hath he removed our transgressions from us.

2. Isaiah 43:25 - I, even I, am he that blotteth out thy transgressions for mine own sake, and will not remember thy sins.

Romans 4:8 Blessed is the man to whom the Lord will not impute sin.

Passage God does not count the sins of those who trust in Him.

1. The Power of Faith: How Trust in God Frees Us from Sin

2. Rejoice in the Mercy of God: Finding Comfort in His Forgiveness

1. Psalm 32:1-2 “Blessed is the one whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered. Blessed is the one whose sin the Lord does not count against them.”

2. Isaiah 43:25 “I, even I, am he who blots out your transgressions, for my own sake, and remembers your sins no more.”

Romans 4:9 Cometh this blessedness then upon the circumcision only, or upon the uncircumcision also? for we say that faith was reckoned to Abraham for righteousness.

Paul questions whether the blessing of righteousness comes only to those who are circumcised, or to both circumcised and uncircumcised believers.

1. All Are Equally Blessed By Faith in Jesus

2. The Power of Faith Over Circumcision

1. Galatians 3:6-9 - "Even as Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness. Know ye therefore that they which are of faith, the same are the children of Abraham. And the scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the heathen through faith, preached before the gospel unto Abraham, saying, In thee shall all nations be blessed. So then they which be of faith are blessed with faithful Abraham."

2. James 2:14-17 - "What doth it profit, my brethren, though a man say he hath faith, and have not works? can faith save him? If a brother or sister be naked, and destitute of daily food, And one of you say unto them, Depart in peace, be ye warmed and filled; notwithstanding ye give them not those things which are needful to the body; what doth it profit? Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone."

Romans 4:10 How was it then reckoned? when he was in circumcision, or in

uncircumcision? Not in circumcision, but in uncircumcision.

Paul's letter to the Romans explains that justification is not based on circumcision, but on faith in Christ.

1. Faith is the Foundation of Justification

2. The Power of Uncircumcision

1. Galatians 2:15-16 – “We who are Jews by birth and not ‘Gentile sinners’ know that a person is not justified by the works of the law, but by faith in Jesus Christ. So we, too, have put our faith in Christ Jesus that we may be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the law, because by the works of the law no one will be justified.”

2. Ephesians 2:8-9 – “For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— not by works, so that no one can boast.”

Romans 4:11 And he received the sign of circumcision, a seal of the righteousness of the faith which he had yet being uncircumcised: that he might be the father of all them that believe, though they be not circumcised; that righteousness might be imputed unto them also:

Abraham was given the sign of circumcision as a sign of righteousness, even though he was not circumcised, so that all who believe in him, regardless of whether they are circumcised, might receive righteousness.

1. “The Power of Belief: Abraham and Righteousness”

2. “The Significance of Circumcision in Abrahamic Faith”

1. Galatians 3:6-7 - "Just as Abraham “believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness,” so those who believe are the descendants of Abraham.

7 Understand, then, that those who have faith are children of Abraham."

2. James 2:23 - "And the scripture was fulfilled that says, “Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness,” and he was called God’s friend."

Romans 4:12 And the father of circumcision to them who are not of the circumcision only, but who also walk in the steps of that faith of our father Abraham, which he had being yet uncircumcised.

Abraham was an example of faith for those who were not circumcised, as he had faith even before he was circumcised.

1. The Power of Faith: How Abraham's example of faith can inspire us to go beyond our current circumstances.

2. The Significance of Circumcision: A look at the spiritual implications of circumcision and how it relates to our faith.

1. Hebrews 11:8-9 - By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to the place which he would receive as an inheritance. He went out, not knowing where he was going.

2. James 2:21-23 - Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered Isaac his son on the altar? Do you see that faith was working together with his works, and by works faith was made perfect?

Romans 4:13 For the promise, that he should be the heir of the world, was not to Abraham, or to his seed, through the law, but through the righteousness of faith.

The promise that Abraham and his offspring would be the heirs of the world was not granted through the law but through faith.

1. Faith is the key to receiving God's promises.

2. We must live righteously through faith to receive God's promises.

1. Hebrews 11:6 “And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him.”

2. Galatians 3:29 “And if you are Christ’s, then you are Abraham’s offspring, heirs according to promise.”

Romans 4:14 For if they which are of the law be heirs, faith is made void, and the promise made of none effect:

The law cannot make someone an heir, faith is necessary for the promise of God to be fulfilled.

1. What Is Faith and How Does It Affect Our Lives?

2. How Can We Rely on God's Promises?

1. Hebrews 11:1-3 - Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

2. James 2:14-17 - What doth it profit, my brethren, though a man say he hath faith, and have not works? Faith without works is dead.

Romans 4:15 Because the law worketh wrath: for where no law is, there is no transgression.

The law brings wrath as no transgression can exist without a law.

1. The Purpose of the Law: To Foster Obedience and Discernment

2. The Consequences of Disobeying the Law: Wrath

1. Exodus 20:1-17, God's Law to Moses

2. Ezekiel 18:20, God takes no pleasure in the death of the wicked

Romans 4:16 Therefore it is of faith, that it might be by grace; to the end the promise might be sure to all the seed; not to that only which is of the law, but to that also which is of the faith of Abraham; who is the father of us all,

Paul explains in Romans 4:16 that faith is required to receive grace, and that Abraham is the father of all believers.

1. "Abraham: The Father of Faith"

2. "The Sure Promise of Salvation Through Faith and Grace"

1. Genesis 15:6 – "And he believed in the Lord; and he counted it to him for righteousness."

2. Galatians 3:7 – "Know ye therefore that they which are of faith, the same are the children of Abraham."

Romans 4:17 (As it is written, I have made thee a father of many nations,) before him whom he believed, even God, who quickeneth the dead, and calleth those things which be not as though they were.

Abraham was considered a father of many nations by God, despite being very old and his wife being barren, because of his faith and belief in God, who is able to bring life to the dead and make impossible things possible.

1. Faith in the face of adversity: Abraham's example of trusting God despite impossible odds.

2. The power of God: How God is able to make the impossible possible.

1. Hebrews 11:11-12 - "By faith Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed; and he went out, not knowing whither he went. By faith he sojourned in the land of promise, as in a strange country, dwelling in tabernacles with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise."

2. Galatians 3:7-9 - "Know ye therefore that they which are of faith, the same are the children of Abraham. And the scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the heathen through faith, preached before the gospel unto Abraham, saying, In thee shall all nations be blessed. So then they which be of faith are blessed with faithful Abraham."

Romans 4:18 Who against hope believed in hope, that he might become the father of many nations, according to that which was spoken, So shall thy seed be.

Paul's letter to the Romans is a reminder that despite seeming impossible, faith in Jesus can bring hope and renewal.

1: Never Give Up - We can trust in God and Jesus in the midst of impossible odds.

2: The Power of Faith - With faith, we can do anything that God has called us to do.

1: Philippians 4:13 - I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.

2: Isaiah 40:31 - But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.

Romans 4:19 And being not weak in faith, he considered not his own body now dead, when he was about an hundred years old, neither yet the deadness of Sarah's womb:

Abraham, despite being a hundred years old and despite his wife Sarah's inability to bear children, had strong faith and did not consider the limitations of his physical body or Sarah's womb.

1. "What is Faith? Abraham's Example"

2. "The Power of Hope in Difficult Circumstances"

1. Hebrews 11:1 - "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen."

2. Isaiah 40:31 - "But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint."

Romans 4:20 He staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God;

Paul teaches that faith in God provides strength and courage to overcome doubt.

1. “Standing Firm in Faith: Finding Strength in God’s Promises”

2. “Overcoming Unbelief: Celebrating the Victory of Faith”

1. Hebrews 11:1 – “Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.”

2. James 1:6-7 – “But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed. For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord.”

Romans 4:21 And being fully persuaded that, what he had promised, he was able also to perform.

Abraham was fully confident that God would fulfill His promise to him.

1. God's Faithfulness: Trusting in God's Promise

2. Faith in Action: Abraham's Story

1. Hebrews 11:8-10 - By faith Abraham, when called to go to a place he would later receive as his inheritance, obeyed and went, even though he did not know where he was going.

2. James 2:20-24 - Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness, and he was called God's friend.

Romans 4:22 And therefore it was imputed to him for righteousness.

This passage highlights the righteousness of Abraham, which was attributed to him by God.

1. The Unfailing Faith of Abraham: How We Can Follow His Example

2. The Power of Righteousness: Living a Life of Holiness

1. Genesis 15:6 - "And he believed in the Lord, and he counted it to him for righteousness."

2. James 2:23 - "And the scripture was fulfilled which saith, Abraham believed God, and it was imputed unto him for righteousness: and he was called the Friend of God."

Romans 4:23 Now it was not written for his sake alone, that it was imputed to him;

The passage speaks of God's blessing of Abraham and how it is applicable to all believers.

1: God's blessing of Abraham is a reminder of His faithfulness and love to all believers.

2: We can have faith and hope in God's promises through Abraham's example of faith.

1: Genesis 15:6 - "And he believed in the LORD; and he counted it to him for righteousness."

2: Hebrews 11:8-10 - "By faith Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed; and he went out, not knowing whither he went. By faith he sojourned in the land of promise, as in a strange country, dwelling in tabernacles with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise: For he looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God."

Romans 4:24 But for us also, to whom it shall be imputed, if we believe on him that raised up Jesus our Lord from the dead;

Paul is teaching that the same righteousness is imputed to us if we believe in the resurrection of Jesus.

1. The Power of Faith in the Resurrection of Jesus

2. Achieving Righteousness Through Belief in the Risen Christ

1. 1 Corinthians 15:12-14 - “Now if Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? But if there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. And if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain.”

2. John 20:27-28 - “Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side. Do not disbelieve, but believe.” Thomas answered him, “My Lord and my God!”

Romans 4:25 Who was delivered for our offences, and was raised again for our justification.

This passage speaks of Jesus Christ dying for our sin and being raised to life again, justifying us before God.

1. God's Justification Through the Death and Resurrection of Jesus

2. The Power of the Death and Resurrection of Jesus for Us

1. Isaiah 53:5 - "But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed."

2. Ephesians 2:4-5 - "But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ— by grace you have been saved."

Romans 5 continues Paul's discourse on justification by faith, discussing the benefits of being justified by faith, the universality of sin, and the gracious gift of God through Jesus Christ.

1st Paragraph: The chapter begins with Paul asserting that having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Through him, we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we boast in the hope of the glory of God. Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings because suffering produces perseverance; perseverance character; and character hope (Romans 5:1-4). He then emphasizes that this hope does not put us to shame because God’s love has been poured out into our hearts through Holy Spirit who has been given us (Romans 5:5).

2nd Paragraph: In verses 6-11, Paul explains how at just right time when we were still powerless Christ died for ungodly rarely will anyone die for a righteous person though for a good person someone might possibly dare to die but God demonstrates his own love for us in this while we were still sinners Christ died for us. He assures that since we have now been justified by his blood how much more shall be saved from God's wrath through him reconciled saved through his life rejoice in God through Lord Jesus Christ whom received reconciliation (Romans 5:6-11).

3rd Paragraph: From verse 12 onwards, Paul discusses how sin entered world death came as result spread all people because all sinned even before Law was given death reigned Adam Moses even over those did not sin breaking command as Adam did who pattern come (Romans 5:12-14). However he contrasts trespass one man led judgment condemnation many brought gift followed many trespasses brought justification reign life one man Jesus Christ resulted justification life all people just as result one trespass condemnation men so also result act righteousness was justification brings life men just as disobedience one man made many sinners so obedience one man made many righteous Law introduced increase trespass where sin increased grace increased all more

so just as reigned death also grace might reign righteousness bring eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord (Romans 5:15-21).

Romans 5:1 Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:

We have peace with God through Jesus Christ, who justifies us by faith.

1. The Peace of Christ: How Faith in Jesus Brings Us Closer to God

2. What is Justification? Exploring the Meaning of Faith in Christ

1. Romans 3:23-24 - For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus.

2. Galatians 2:16 - yet we know that a person is not justified by works of the law but through faith in Jesus Christ, so we also have believed in Christ Jesus, in order to be justified by faith in Christ and not by works of the law, because by works of the law no one will be justified.

Romans 5:2 By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.

We are given access to God's grace through faith and can rejoice in the hope of His glory.

1. Rejoicing in God's Grace - Romans 5:2

2. Standing in the Hope of the Glory of God - Romans 5:2

1. "But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble" - James 4:6

2. "The Lord is my strength and my shield; my heart trusted in him, and I am helped: therefore my heart greatly rejoiceth; and with my song will I praise him" - Psalm 28:7

Romans 5:3 And not only so, but we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation

worketh patience;

We can find glory in tribulations, as they help us develop patience and perseverance.

1. Rejoice in Trials - Philippians 4:4

2. Triumph Through Tribulation - Romans 8:37-39

1. James 1:2-4

2. 1 Peter 5:7-10

Romans 5:4 And patience, experience; and experience, hope:

Romans 5:4 speaks about patience leading to experience, and experience leading to hope.

1. Patience is a Virtue: How Patience Leads to Hope

2. Experiencing God's Faithfulness: How Experience Leads to Hope

1. James 1:2-4 - Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

2. Psalm 62:5-6 - For God alone, O my soul, wait in silence, for my hope is from him. He only is my rock and my salvation, my fortress; I shall not be shaken.

Romans 5:5 And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us.

Hope in God's love brings joy and peace to those who accept it.

1. “Hope in God’s Love”

2. “The Comfort of the Holy Spirit”

1. Isaiah 40:31 - “But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.”

2. Romans 8:38-39 - “For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

Romans 5:6 For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly.

Jesus died for us even when we were powerless to help ourselves.

1. All Things are Possible through Christ

2. The Power of Love: How Jesus Sacrificed His Life for Us

1. John 3:16 - For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

2. 1 John 4:9-10 - This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.

Romans 5:7 For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die.

A righteous man is rarely willing to die for another, but someone may be willing to die for a good man.

1. The Power of Goodness: How a Good Man Can Change the World

2. The Value of Righteousness: How Righteousness can Transform Lives

1. Luke 9:23 - And he said to them all, If any man will come after me, let him deny

himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me.

2. Matthew 25:34-36 - Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: For I was an hungred, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in: Naked, and ye clothed me: I was sick, and ye visited me: I was in prison, and ye came unto me.

Romans 5:8 But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

God's love is demonstrated in the sacrifice of Jesus Christ for the salvation of mankind, even while we were still sinners.

1. The Greatest Love Story: God's Unconditional Love for Us

2. The Power of Forgiveness: God's Redemption Through Jesus Christ

1. John 3:16-17 - "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved."

2. Romans 8:38-39 - "For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord."

Romans 5:9 Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him.

We are justified by Jesus' blood and are saved from God's wrath.

1. The Power of Jesus' Blood: How We Are Justified and Saved

2. God's Wrath: How We Receive Salvation from It

1. John 3:16-17 - For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into

the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

2. Ezekiel 18:20 - The soul who sins shall die. The son shall not suffer for the iniquity of the father, nor the father suffer for the iniquity of the son. The righteousness of the righteous shall be upon himself, and the wickedness of the wicked shall be upon himself.

Romans 5:10 For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life.

Through the death of Jesus Christ, we can be reconciled to God and saved through his life.

1. The Power of Reconciliation: How Jesus Christ Changed Our Lives

2. The Unconditional Love of God: How Jesus Christ Saved Us

1. 1 John 4:10 - In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

2. Ephesians 2:4-5 - But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved.

Romans 5:11 And not only so, but we also joy in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom we have now received the atonement.

We can rejoice in God through Jesus Christ, who makes us acceptable to God.

1. The Joy of Being Accepted by God

2. The Faithfulness of Jesus: Atonement for All

1. Ephesians 1:7 - In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace.

2. Psalm 51:1-2 - Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin!

Romans 5:12 Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:

Sin entered the world through Adam, and death passed to all humanity because all have sinned.

1. The Consequences of Sin: Understanding the Effects of Adam's Sin

2. The Grace of God: How Jesus Overcomes the Curse of Adam's Sin

1. Romans 3:23-24, "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus."

2. 1 Corinthians 15:22, "For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive."

Romans 5:13 (For until the law sin was in the world: but sin is not imputed when there is no law.

Sin entered the world through Adam's disobedience, and death followed.

1: We should all strive to obey God, for when we don't, we bring death and sorrow to the world.

2: We can have hope in Jesus Christ, who through his death brings us life and salvation.

1: Romans 6:23 - For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

2: 1 Corinthians 15:21-22 - For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.

Romans 5:14 Nevertheless death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over them that had not sinned after the similitude of Adam's transgression, who is the figure of him that was to come.

Death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those who had not sinned like Adam, who

is a representation of Christ.

1. The Reign of Death and the Hope of Salvation

2. The Consequences of Sin and the Promise of New Life

1. Genesis 3:19-20 - In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return.

2. John 3:16-17 - For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

Romans 5:15 But not as the offence, so also is the free gift. For if through the offence of one many be dead, much more the grace of God, and the gift by grace, which is by one man, Jesus Christ, hath abounded unto many.

The free gift of grace from God through Jesus Christ abounds to many, much more than the offence of one resulted in many being dead.

1. God's gift of grace through Jesus Christ is greater than the consequence of sin.

2. Jesus Christ is the one who brings us grace and mercy in abundance.

1. John 3:16 - For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

2. Titus 3:4-7 - But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life.

Romans 5:16 And not as it was by one that sinned, so is the gift: for the judgment was by one to condemnation, but the free gift is of many offences unto justification.

The free gift of justification comes from many offenses, not just one.

1: God's Gift of Grace and Forgiveness

2: The Power of Redemption and New Life

1: Ephesians 2:8-9 - For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast.

2: Luke 24:46-47 - Then He said to them, “Thus it is written, and thus it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead the third day, and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.

Romans 5:17 For if by one man's offence death reigned by one; much more they which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ.)

God's grace and the gift of righteousness allow us to enter into a life of peace and joy in Jesus Christ.

1. The Gift of Abundant Grace and Righteousness

2. Reigning in Life Through Jesus Christ

1. Ephesians 2:8-9 - For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.

2. John 3:16-17 - For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

Romans 5:18 Therefore as by the offence of one judgment came upon all men to condemnation; even so by the righteousness of one the free gift came upon all men unto justification of life.

The free gift of justification of life comes to all men through the righteousness of Christ.

1. The Gift of Eternal Life - Exploring the Free Gift of Justification Through Christ

2. Rom 5:18 - The Power of Righteousness to Overcome the Condemnation of Sin

1. Galatians 3:13 - Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us.

2. John 3:16 - For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.

Romans 5:19 For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous.

Many will be made righteous through the obedience of one man.

1. God's Provision of Righteousness Through Jesus Christ

2. The Power of Obedience and What it Achieves

1. Isaiah 53:11 - He shall see of the travail of his soul, and shall be satisfied: by his knowledge shall my righteous servant justify many; for he shall bear their iniquities.

2. Titus 3:5-7 - Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost; Which he shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Saviour; That being justified by his grace, we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

Romans 5:20 Moreover the law entered, that the offence might abound. But where sin abounded, grace did much more abound:

The law was given to show how much sin has taken over, but grace has taken over even more.

1. "God's Grace is Bigger Than Our Sin"

2. "The Power of God's Unconditional Love"

1. Ephesians 2:4-5 "But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ"

2. 1 John 4:19 "We love because he first loved us."

Romans 5:21 That as sin hath reigned unto death, even so might grace reign through righteousness unto eternal life by Jesus Christ our Lord.

Sin has caused death, but grace can bring eternal life through Jesus Christ.

1. Overcoming Sin through God's Grace

2. The Power of Jesus Christ to Save Us

1. Romans 3:23-24 - For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.

2. John 3:16 - For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

Romans 6 delves into the implications of grace, discussing the believer's relationship to sin, baptism as a symbol of union with Christ in His death and resurrection, and the contrast between being slaves to sin versus slaves to righteousness.

1st Paragraph: The chapter begins with Paul addressing a potential misunderstanding about grace. He asks if we should continue in sin so that grace may increase. He firmly refutes this saying 'By no means!' We died to sin; how can we live in it any longer? He explains that those who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death and just as Christ was raised from dead through glory Father too may live new life (Romans 6:1-4).

2nd Paragraph: In verses 5-14, Paul elaborates on this union with Christ both in his death and resurrection. If we have been united with him like this in his death, we will certainly also be united with him in his resurrection. Our old self was crucified with him so that body ruled by sin might be done away with should no longer be slaves to sin because anyone dies has been set free from sin (Romans 6:5-7). Therefore he encourages not let sin reign mortal bodies obey its evil desires but rather offer ourselves God those alive from dead instruments righteousness (Romans 6:12-14).

3rd Paragraph: From verse 15 onwards, Paul discusses freedom from slavery to sin and becoming slaves of righteousness instead. He uses analogy slavery emphasize obedience leads either sin resulting death or obedience leading righteousness ultimately eternal life (Romans 6:15-16). He commends them for wholeheartedly obeying form teaching they were entrusted now having been set free from sin become slaves righteousness then urges them offer every part themselves as instrument wickedness but rather those alive God sanctification leading eternal life (Romans 6:17-19). The chapter concludes stating

wages of sin is death but gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord contrasting outcomes depending whether one serves God or Sin (Romans 6:20-23).

Romans 6:1 What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound?

Paul questions whether or not Christians should continue to sin in order to make God's grace even greater.

1. Abound in Grace: How to Live a Life of Holiness Despite Sin

2. The Power of God's Grace: How to Overcome Sin by Trusting in God

1. Ephesians 2:8-9 - For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— not by works, so that no one can boast.

2. Romans 5:20-21 - The law was brought in so that the trespass might increase. But where sin increased, grace increased all the more, so that, just as sin reigned in death, so also grace might reign through righteousness to bring eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Romans 6:2 God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?

This passage reminds us that we have died to sin and should no longer live in it.

1. "Living No Longer in Sin: Our Freedom in Christ"

2. "Living in Freedom: The Life God has Intended for Us"

1. Galatians 5:1 - "For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery."

2. Colossians 3:5-6 - "Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. On account of these the wrath of God is coming."

Romans 6:3 Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were

baptized into his death?

Believers in Jesus Christ have been baptized into His death, signifying that they have died to their old selves and are now living in Him.

1. "Living a New Life in Christ: Understanding Baptism"

2. "The Power of Dying to Self for the Sake of Jesus"

1. Colossians 2:12-13 - We were buried with Him in baptism, in which you were also raised with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead.

13 And you, being dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He has made alive together with Him, having forgiven you all trespasses.

2. Galatians 2:20 - I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.

Romans 6:4 Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.

We are united with Christ through baptism, and as Christ was resurrected from the dead, so too we should live a new life.

1. Living a Resurrected Life

2. Living a New Life in Christ

1. Colossians 2:12-13 - Buried with him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with him through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead.

2. Romans 8:1-2 - There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death.

Romans 6:5 For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be

also in the likeness of his resurrection:

We are united with Christ in his death and resurrection.

1. Living United with Christ: The Power of Communion with the Crucified and Risen Lord

2. Partakers of the Resurrection: Experiencing the Blessings of the Life-Giving Spirit

1. Ephesians 2:4-5: “But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved.”

2. Colossians 3:1-3: “If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.”

Romans 6:6 Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin.

We are no longer slaves to sin because we have died and been raised with Christ.

1. Living a Life of Freedom from Sin

2. The Power of the Cross of Christ

1. Galatians 2:20 - "I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me."

2. Colossians 3:3 - "For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God."

Romans 6:7 For he that is dead is freed from sin.

The passage states that those who are dead are freed from sin.

1. We are released from our sins through the power of Jesus Christ.

2. Death is the ultimate liberation from sin.

1. Colossians 2:13-14 - “And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross.”

2. Romans 8:1-2 - “There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death.”

Romans 6:8 Now if we be dead with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him:

Believers in Christ are dead to sin and alive to righteousness because of their faith in Him.

1. Life in Christ: Living Dead to Sin, Alive to Righteousness

2. Abundant Life in Christ: A Life Beyond Sin and Death

1. Romans 6:8-11

2. Ephesians 4:17-24

Romans 6:9 Knowing that Christ being raised from the dead dieth no more; death hath no more dominion over him.

Death no longer has power over Jesus.

1: The Power of the Resurrection - Jesus’ victory over death shows us the power of faith in God.

2: Jesus Lives - Death is not the end of the story, through Jesus we receive eternal life.

1: Colossians 2:13-15 - “When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made you alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins, having canceled the charge of our legal indebtedness, which stood against us and condemned us; he has taken it away, nailing it to the cross. And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross.”

2: 1 Peter 1:3-5 - “Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you, who through faith are shielded by God’s power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time.”

Romans 6:10 For in that he died, he died unto sin once: but in that he liveth, he liveth unto God.

Jesus died to pay for our sins, but now he lives to serve God.

1. Living for God: How Jesus' Sacrifice Gives Us Hope

2. The Power of Jesus: How His Life Changed Ours

1. 1 Peter 2:24 - He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed.

2. Ephesians 2:4-5 - But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved.

Romans 6:11 Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord.

We are called to live a life of holiness, becoming dead to sin and alive in God through Jesus Christ.

1: Living a Life of Holiness: Becoming Dead to Sin and Alive in God

2: Dead to Sin and Alive in God: A Call to Holiness

1: 1 Peter 2:24 - “He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to

sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed.”

2: Matthew 5:48 - “Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.”

Romans 6:12 Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof.

We should not let sin rule our mortal bodies, and should not obey its desires.

1. We should deny our sinful desires and submit to God's will.

2. Our mortal bodies should be guided by the Holy Spirit, and not by our sinful desires.

1. 1 Corinthians 10:13 - “No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.”

2. Galatians 5:16 - “But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh.”

Romans 6:13 Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God.

The passage encourages us to turn away from sin and instead serve God faithfully.

1. The Power of Yielding to God

2. Overcoming Sin Through Obedience

1. John 15:5 - "I am the vine, you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing."

2. 1 Corinthians 6:19-20 - "Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body."

Romans 6:14 For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace.

Sin does not have control over us because we are under the grace of God, not the law.

1. The Freedom of Grace: Experiencing God's Unconditional Love

2. Escaping the Grip of Sin: Becoming Free through God's Mercy

1. Colossians 2:13-14 - And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. He set this aside, nailing it to the cross.

2. Ephesians 2:8-9 - For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.

Romans 6:15 What then? shall we sin, because we are not under the law, but under grace? God forbid.

Paul asks a rhetorical question: should we sin because we are no longer bound by the law, but instead live by grace? His answer is a resounding "no".

1. Living Under Grace: Finding Freedom in Righteousness

2. Understanding Grace: How to Live a Godly Life

1. Ephesians 2:8-9 - "For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, so that no one may boast."

2. Romans 5:8 - "But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us."

Romans 6:16 Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?

Paul warns us of the consequences of our choices, to either yield to sin or to obedience.

1: Choose obedience and righteousness to reap the eternal joys.

2: Obey God and reject sin to gain freedom from eternal death.

1: 1 John 1:9 - "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness".

2: John 14:15 - "If you love Me, keep My commandments".

Romans 6:17 But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you.

Paul expresses his gratitude to God for the fact that the Romans have obeyed the doctrine given to them from the heart.

1. The Value of Obedience: How to Follow God's Word with Your Whole Heart

2. Knowing the Difference: What Does it Mean to be a Servant of Sin or of God?

1. Deuteronomy 6:4-5 - "Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might."

2. Colossians 3:23 - "Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men."

Romans 6:18 Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness.

The passage speaks of being freed from sin and becoming a servant of righteousness.

1. The Power of Freedom: Overcoming the Chains of Sin

2. The Joy of Righteousness: Letting Go of Sin and Embracing a New Path

1. 1 Corinthians 15:34 - “Awake to righteousness, and sin not; for some have not the knowledge of God: I speak this to your shame.”

2. John 8:36 - “If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed.”

Romans 6:19 I speak after the manner of men because of the infirmity of your flesh: for as ye have yielded your members servants to uncleanness and to iniquity unto iniquity; even so now yield your members servants to righteousness unto holiness.

Paul urges the Romans to yield their members to righteousness and holiness, instead of to uncleanness and iniquity.

1. Breaking Away from Sin and Following God’s Word

2. The Power of Yielding to Righteousness

1. Colossians 3:5-10 – Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry.

2. Ezekiel 18:30-32 – Repent and turn from all your transgressions, lest iniquity be your ruin. Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed, and make yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel?

Romans 6:20 For when ye were the servants of sin, ye were free from righteousness.

This verse from Romans reminds us that when we are enslaved to sin, we are free from righteousness.

1. The Freedom of Sin: Breaking Free from the Shackles of Righteousness

2. The Bondage of Righteousness: Escaping to the Liberating Power of Sin

1. Galatians 5:1 - "It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery."

2. John 8:32 - "Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."

Romans 6:21 What fruit had ye then in those things whereof ye are now ashamed? for the end of those things is death.

The result of sinful behavior is death.

1. We must turn away from our sinful behavior or we will face death.

2. God has provided a way to escape death and it is through repentance and faith.

1. Proverbs 14:12—“There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way to death.”

2. Ephesians 2:8-9—“For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.”

Romans 6:22 But now being made free from sin, and become servants to God, ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life.

After being freed from sin, Christians become servants of God and receive eternal life as the ultimate reward of living a holy life.

1. The Power of Forgiveness: How Freedom From Sin Leads To Holiness

2. Making Righteous Choices: Reaping the Benefits of Living a Holy Life

1. Luke 1:74-75 - “That we being delivered out of the hand of our enemies might serve him without fear, in holiness and righteousness before him, all the days of our life.”

2. Colossians 3:5-7 - “Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry: For which things’ sake the wrath of God cometh on the children of disobedience: In the which ye also walked some time, when ye lived in them.”

Romans 6:23 For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

The consequence of sin is death, but God has given the gift of eternal life through Jesus Christ.

1. The Cost of Sin and the Gift of Eternal Life

2. Experiencing the Abundance of God's Greatest Gift

1. John 3:16 - For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

2. Ephesians 2:8-9 - For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— not by works, so that no one can boast.

Romans 7 continues Paul's discourse on the Christian's relationship to the Law, discussing the believer's release from the Law through Christ, the function of the Law in arousing sinful desires, and a personal struggle with sin.

1st Paragraph: The chapter begins with Paul using marriage as an analogy to explain how believers are released from the law through Christ. Just as a woman is bound by law to her husband while he is alive but if he dies she is released from law regarding husband similarly believers died to what once bound us through body Christ so we belong another Him raised dead order bear fruit God (Romans 7:1-4). He asserts that while we were in realm flesh sinful passions aroused by law were at work us bore fruit death now however been released from law died what held us captive so serve new way Spirit not old way written code (Romans 7:5-6).

2nd Paragraph: In verses 7-13, Paul discusses how the Law made him aware of sin. He explains that without Law he would not have known what sin was for instance would not have known what coveting really was if Law had not said 'You shall not covet.' But sin seizing opportunity afforded commandment produced every kind coveting him apart from law sin dead once alive apart from law when commandment came sin sprang life died found very commandment supposed bring life actually brought death (Romans 7:7-10). Therefore, he concludes that it was sin seizing opportunity through commandment produced death making it utterly sinful beyond measure (Romans 7:11-13).

3rd Paragraph: From verse 14 onwards, Paul describes his own personal struggle with sin despite his desire do good evil right there him inner being delights God’s law but sees another work members waging war against mind making prisoner of law of sin at work within members. He cries out who will rescue this body death? Thanks be God delivers me through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then myself serve God’s law although my sinful nature serves laws of Sin (Romans 7:14-25). This highlights ongoing struggle between spirit flesh within believer illustrating need reliance upon grace power Holy Spirit overcome.

Romans 7:1 Know ye not, brethren, (for I speak to them that know the law,) how that the

law hath dominion over a man as long as he liveth?

Paul is reminding the believers that the law has authority over them as long as they are alive.

1. The Power of the Law: How to Live Under its Authority

2. The Importance of Obeying the Law: How to Live as a Godly Citizen

1. James 2:10-12 - "For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become accountable for all of it. For he who said, “Do not commit adultery,” also said, “Do not murder.” If you do not commit adultery but do murder, you have become a transgressor of the law. So speak and so act as those who are to be judged by the law of liberty."

2. Matthew 22:36-40 - “‘Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?’ And he said to him, ‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets.’”

Romans 7:2 For the woman which hath an husband is bound by the law to her husband so long as he liveth; but if the husband be dead, she is loosed from the law of her husband.

This passage explains that a woman who is married is legally bound to her husband while he is alive, but is released from that law upon his death.

1. The Blessing of Marriage: Living in Obedience to God's Law

2. Finding Freedom in Following God's Commands

1. Ephesians 5:22-24 - “Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church, his body, and is himself its Savior. Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit in everything to their husbands.”

2. 1 Corinthians 7:39 - “A wife is bound to her husband as long as he lives. But if her husband dies, she is free to be married to whom she wishes, only in the Lord.”

Romans 7:3 So then if, while her husband liveth, she be married to another man, she shall be called an adulteress: but if her husband be dead, she is free from that law; so that she is no adulteress, though she be married to another man.

A woman is considered an adulteress if she is married to another man while her husband is still living, but she is free from that law if her husband is deceased.

1. The importance of marriage and honoring its sanctity

2. God's love for us, seen through His mercy and understanding of our circumstances

1. Matthew 19:3-9

2. Romans 8:1-4

Romans 7:4 Wherefore, my brethren, ye also are become dead to the law by the body of Christ; that ye should be married to another, even to him who is raised from the dead, that we should bring forth fruit unto God.

This passage explains how believers become free from the law by the death of Christ, so that they can be united with Him and produce good works for the glory of God.

1. “The Freedom from the Law: How the Death of Christ Sets Us Free”

2. “The Marriage of Believers: Uniting with Christ to Bring Forth Fruit”

1. 2 Corinthians 5:21 - For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.

2. Galatians 5:22-23 - But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.

Romans 7:5 For when we were in the flesh, the motions of sins, which were by the law, did work in our members to bring forth fruit unto death.

The law of God reveals the sinful nature of human beings, which results in death.

1: We must surrender our sinful nature to the will of God and put our trust in Him.

2: The law of God reveals our sinful nature, and it is only through His grace and mercy that we can be saved.

1: Romans 5:8 But God commended his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

2: Ephesians 2:8-9 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast.

Romans 7:6 But now we are delivered from the law, that being dead wherein we were held; that we should serve in newness of spirit, and not in the oldness of the letter.

This passage emphasizes the importance of serving in the spirit rather than adhering to the letter of the law.

1. The Power of Serving in the Spirit

2. The Freedom of Being Delivered from the Law

1. Galatians 5:13-15 - For you were called to freedom, brethren; only do not turn your freedom into an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another. For the whole Law is fulfilled in one word, in the statement, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”

2. Matthew 22:34-39 - But when the Pharisees heard that He had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together. Then one of them, a lawyer, asked Him a question, testing Him, and saying, “Teacher, which is the great commandment in the law?” Jesus said to him, “‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.”

Romans 7:7 What shall we say then? Is the law sin? God forbid. Nay, I had not known sin, but by the law: for I had not known lust, except the law had said, Thou shalt not covet.

Paul explains that the law is not sinful, rather it reveals what sin is, which is to covet.

1. The Power of the Law: How the Law Reveals Sin

2. The Beauty of the Law: How the Law Protects Us from Sin

1. Exodus 20:17 - Thou shalt not covet

2. James 1:14-15 - Each person is tempted when they are drawn away by their own desires and enticed. Then, when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death.

Romans 7:8 But sin, taking occasion by the commandment, wrought in me all manner of concupiscence. For without the law sin was dead.

Sin entered the world and corrupted man's heart through the law.

1: The Sinful Nature of Man - Romans 7:8

2: The Power of the Law to Reveal Sin - Romans 7:8

1: Genesis 3:1-7 (The Fall of Man)

2: James 1:13-15 (The Temptation of Sin)

Romans 7:9 For I was alive without the law once: but when the commandment came, sin revived, and I died.

Sin brings death.

1: Life is short but God's word is eternal, and it reveals to us how to live a life of peace.

2: We must all turn away from sin and embrace the teachings of the Lord, for it is only through obedience to His word that we will find true life.

1: James 1:14-15 “But each person is tempted when they are dragged away by their own evil desire and enticed. Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death.”

2: Proverbs 23:27-28 “For a prostitute can be had for a loaf of bread, but another man’s wife preys on your very life. Can a man scoop fire into his lap without his clothes being burned?”

Romans 7:10 And the commandment, which was ordained to life, I found to be unto death.

The commandment of God, which should have brought life, was found to be death instead.

1. The Paradox of God's Commandments - How God's Commandments can bring both life and death.

2. The Deceitfulness of Sin - How sin can look good, but ultimately leads to death.

1. Proverbs 14:12 - "There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death."

2. Romans 6:23 - "For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."

Romans 7:11 For sin, taking occasion by the commandment, deceived me, and by it slew me.

Sin can be deceptive and can lead one to their destruction.

1. Be aware of the deception of sin and be sure not to let it take control.

2. Recognize the dangerous consequences of sin and be sure to reject it.

1. Proverbs 14:12 - "There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way to death."

2. 1 Peter 5:8 - "Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour."

Romans 7:12 Wherefore the law is holy, and the commandment holy, and just, and good.

The law is holy, just, and good.

1: The Law of God is Good and Uplifting

2: God's Law is Holy and Just

1: Psalm 19:7-8 "The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul; the testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple; the precepts of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes."

2: James 1:25 "But the one who looks into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and perseveres, being no hearer who forgets but a doer who acts, he will be blessed in his doing."

Romans 7:13 Was then that which is good made death unto me? God forbid. But sin, that it might appear sin, working death in me by that which is good; that sin by the commandment might become exceeding sinful.

The death of sin is brought about through what is good, and sin is made more sinful by the commandment.

1. The Power of Goodness: How Even the Best Can Lead to Sin

2. The Strength of Sin: How Commandments Enhance Temptation

1. James 1:13-14 - “Let no one say when he is tempted, ‘I am being tempted by God,’ for God cannot be tempted with evil, and he himself tempts no one. But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire.”

2. 1 John 1:8-10 - “If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.”

Romans 7:14 For we know that the law is spiritual: but I am carnal, sold under sin.

Paul acknowledges that the law is spiritual, but he himself is carnal and under the influence of sin.

1. The Power of the Law: How We Can Overcome Carnality Through Obedience

2. The Struggle of Sin: How We Can Find Strength in Spiritual Wisdom

1. James 1:22-25 - But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.

2. Romans 6:12-14 - Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof.

Romans 7:15 For that which I do I allow not: for what I would, that do I not; but what I hate, that do I.

I struggle with doing what I know is right and doing what I want to do.

1. Living in the tension between our desires and God’s will

2. Overcoming the temptation to do wrong

1. James 1:13-15, “Let no one say when he is tempted, ‘I am being tempted by God,’ for God cannot be tempted with evil, and He Himself tempts no one. But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire. Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death.”

2. Galatians 5:16-17, “But I say, walk by the Spirit, and do not gratify the desires of the flesh. For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh; for these are opposed to each other, to prevent you from doing what you would.”

Romans 7:16 If then I do that which I would not, I consent unto the law that it is good.

Paul is explaining that doing what one does not want to do is a sign of the goodness of the law.

1. The Power of the Law: How to Embrace Its Goodness.

2. Achieving True Freedom Through Submission to the Law.

1. Galatians 5:13-14 - For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another. For the whole law is fulfilled in one word: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”

2. James 2:8-12 - If you really fulfill the royal law according to the Scripture, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself,” you are doing well. But if you show partiality, you are committing sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors. For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become accountable for all of it. For he who said, “Do not commit adultery,” also said, “Do not murder.” If you do not commit adultery but do murder, you have become a transgressor of the law. So speak and so act as those who are to be judged under the law of liberty.

Romans 7:17 Now then it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me.

Paul acknowledges that he is no longer the one in control, but that it is sin that dwells within him.

1. "Acknowledge Your Sins and Take Responsibility"

2. "The Power of Sin and Its Impact on Our Lives"

1. James 1:14-15 - "But each person is tempted when they are dragged away by their own evil desire and enticed. Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death."

2. Galatians 5:19-21 - "The acts of the flesh are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God."

Romans 7:18 For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not.

Paul acknowledges that there is no good in his flesh, but he is willing to do good, yet he finds it difficult to do so.

1. The Struggle to Do Good: Learning from Paul's Example

2. Overcoming the Weakness of the Flesh: Achieving Good with the Help of God

1. Psalm 51:17 - "My sacrifice, O God, is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart you, God, will not despise."

2. Philippians 4:13 - "I can do all this through him who gives me strength."

Romans 7:19 For the good that I would I do not: but the evil which I would not, that I do.

The struggle between good and evil is real.

1. Our hearts are divided between our desires for good and the temptations of evil - Romans 7:19

2. We must daily fight to choose what is right and avoid what is wrong - Romans 7:19

1. James 4:7 - Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

2. Galatians 5:17 - For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do.

Romans 7:20 Now if I do that I would not, it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me.

Paul states that if he does something he does not want to do, it is not him, but the sin that lives in him.

1. Understanding the Nature of Sin: How We Can Overcome Its Power

2. The Struggle with Sin: Learning to Live in the Freedom of Christ

1. Romans 6:14 - For sin shall no longer be your master, because you are not under the

law, but under grace.

2. 1 Corinthians 10:13 - No temptation has overtaken you except what is common to mankind. And God is faithful; He will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, He will also provide a way out so that you can endure it.

Romans 7:21 I find then a law, that, when I would do good, evil is present with me.

Paul realizes that he has an internal struggle between doing what is good and being tempted by evil.

1) The Struggle Between Good and Evil: Learning to Overcome Temptation

2) The Power of the Law of God: Guidance for Living a Life of Virtue

1) James 1:13-15 - When tempted, no one should say, "God is tempting me." For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone; but each person is tempted when they are dragged away by their own evil desire and enticed.

2) Galatians 5:16-18 - So I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. For the flesh desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the flesh. They are in conflict with each other, so that you are not to do whatever you want. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.

Romans 7:22 For I delight in the law of God after the inward man:

The passage in Romans 7:22 highlights the joy of delighting in the law of God.

1. The Joy of Delighting in the Law of God

2. Rejoicing in the Will of God

1. Psalm 19:7-11 - The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul; the testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple.

2. Isaiah 58:13-14 - “If you turn back your foot from the Sabbath, from doing your pleasure on my holy day, and call the Sabbath a delight and the holy day of the Lord honorable; if you honor it, not going your own ways, or seeking your own pleasure, or

talking idly;

Romans 7:23 But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members.

The law of sin wars against the law of the mind, leading to captivity to sin.

1. The Conflict Within: Understanding the Struggle between Sin and Righteousness

2. Taking Captive Our Thoughts: Overcoming the Power of Sin

1. James 1:13-15 - Let no one say when he is tempted, “I am tempted by God”; for God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He Himself tempt anyone. But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed. Then, when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death.

2. Colossians 3:5-7 - Therefore put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. Because of these things the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience, in which you yourselves once walked when you lived in them.

Romans 7:24 O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death?

Paul expresses his frustration with his sinful nature, asking who can save him from his mortality.

1. The Power of Deliverance: How the Gospel Sets Us Free from Sin

2. Recognizing Our Frailty: Understanding the Sinful Nature of Man

1. Psalm 40:2 “He lifted me out of the slimy pit, out of the mud and mire; he set my feet on a rock and gave me a firm place to stand.”

2. Galatians 5:16 “So I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh.”

Romans 7:25 I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord. So then with the mind I myself

serve the law of God; but with the flesh the law of sin.

Paul expresses his gratitude to God for His salvation through Jesus Christ and acknowledges his struggle to serve the law of God in his mind while his flesh pursues the law of sin.

1. The Struggle of Obedience: How to Serve the Law of God

2. Grace and Gratitude: Our Response to God's Salvation

1. Philippians 4:13 - "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."

2. Galatians 5:16-17 - "But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do."

Romans 8 is a powerful chapter in Paul's letter, discussing life in the Spirit, our status as children of God, the hope of future glory, and the assurance of God's love.

1st Paragraph: The chapter begins with Paul asserting that there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit who gives life has set us free from law sin death (Romans 8:1-2). He explains that what Law was powerless to do because it was weakened by flesh, God did by sending his own Son likeness sinful flesh be sin offering so he condemned sin flesh order righteous requirement Law might be fully met us who do not live according to flesh but according to Spirit (Romans 8:3-4).

2nd Paragraph: In verses 5-17, Paul contrasts living according to flesh versus living according to Spirit. Those who live according to flesh have their minds set on what flesh desires; but those who live accordance with Spirit have their minds set on what Spirit desires (Romans 8:5). He assures that if by Spirit we put death misdeeds body will live all led by God’s children did not receive spirit slavery fall back into fear received spirit sonship whereby cry 'Abba Father' Holy Spirit himself testifies with our spirit we are God’s children if children then heirs—heirs of God co-heirs with Christ if indeed share his sufferings order may also share his glory (Romans 8:13-17).

3rd Paragraph: From verse 18 onwards, Paul discusses hope future glory creation waits eager expectation revelation sons God has been subjected frustration not its own choice hope will liberated from its bondage decay brought freedom glory children God ourselves groan inwardly eagerly wait adoption sonship redemption bodies this hope saved. Moreover he asserts intercession Holy Spirit weaknesses when we do not know what pray for intercedes us wordless groans everything works together good love called purpose

nothing separate love Christ trouble hardship persecution famine nakedness danger sword overwhelming victory ours through him loved us convinced neither death nor life angels nor demons present nor future powers height depth anything else all creation will be able separate love God is in Christ Jesus our Lord (Romans 8:18-39). This offers a powerful message of assurance about Christian's eternal security in the love of God.

Romans 8:1 There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.

No one in Christ Jesus will be condemned for following the Spirit instead of the flesh.

1. The Blessings of Life in Christ - Embracing the freedom of righteousness through faith in Christ

2. Avoiding Condemnation - Walking according to the Spirit instead of the flesh

1. Romans 8:1-4 - There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death. For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh: That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.

2. Galatians 5:16 - This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh.

Romans 8:2 For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death.

This passage talks about the power of the spirit of life in Christ Jesus to free us from the bondage of sin and death.

1. The Freedom of Life in Christ - Exploring the power of the Spirit of life found in Christ Jesus to set us free from the law of sin and death.

2. The Power of the Cross - Examining the transformative power of the cross to bring freedom to our lives.

1. Galatians 5:1 - "For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery."

2. John 8:36 - "So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed."

Romans 8:3 For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh:

God sent His own Son to condemn sin and make the law possible.

1: God's Greatest Gift

2: The Power of the Cross

Romans 5:8 - But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

John 3:16 - For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

Romans 8:4 That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.

The righteousness of the law can be fulfilled in us when we follow the Spirit rather than our own desires.

1. Letting Go of Self and Embracing the Spirit

2. The Power of the Spirit to Bring Fulfillment

1. Colossians 3:5-10

2. Galatians 5:16-26

Romans 8:5 For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that

are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit.

People who are controlled by their sinful nature are focused on earthly desires, while those guided by the Spirit focus on spiritual things.

1. Renewing our Minds: A Study of Romans 8:5

2. The Things That Matter Most: A Reflection on the Spirit and the Flesh

1. Colossians 3:2 - “Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth.”

2. Matthew 16:26 - “For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul?”

Romans 8:6 For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.

The passage emphasizes the importance of having a spiritual mindset, as opposed to a carnal one, to experience life and peace.

1. Discovering Life and Peace through a Spiritual Mindset

2. Understanding the Difference between Carnality and Spirituality

1. Colossians 3:2 - Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth.

2. Romans 12:2 - Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.

Romans 8:7 Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be.

The carnal mind is at odds with God and can never be subject to God's law.

1: We must submit our wills to God and seek to obey His law in order to draw near to

Him.

2: We must not allow ourselves to be enticed by the desires of the flesh, but instead strive to keep our minds and hearts focused on God and His ways.

1: Philippians 4:8, "Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things."

2: Colossians 3:2, "Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth."

Romans 8:8 So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God.

Those who live according to the desires of the flesh cannot please God.

1. The Flesh Versus The Spirit: How To Live A Life Pleasing To God

2. The Power Of God's Grace: How To Overcome The Flesh

1. Galatians 5:16-17 - "This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh. For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would."

2. 1 John 2:15-17 - "Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever."

Romans 8:9 But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.

The Spirit of God dwells in believers, and those without the Spirit of Christ are not of Christ.

1. The Spirit of God - A Closer Walk with God

2. The Necessity of the Spirit of Christ - Fulfilling Our Covenant with God

1. 1 Corinthians 6:19-20 - “Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.”

2. John 14:16-17 - “And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you.”

Romans 8:10 And if Christ be in you, the body is dead because of sin; but the Spirit is life because of righteousness.

The presence of Christ in us makes us alive in spirit because of righteousness despite the body being dead because of sin.

1. The Power of the Holy Spirit in Our Lives

2. Overcoming Sin Through Righteousness

1. Romans 8:10

2. John 3:16-17 - For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.

Romans 8:11 But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you.

The Spirit of God who raised Jesus from the dead lives in us and will also give life to our mortal bodies.

1. The Power of God in Us: How the Spirit of God Raised Jesus from the Dead and Can Revive Us

2. Experiencing the Resurrection: Connecting with the Spirit of God to Receive Life

1. John 11:25-26 - Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die.

2. Ephesians 3:16-17 - That according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith.

Romans 8:12 Therefore, brethren, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live after the flesh.

We are called to live in a manner that is not according to the desires of the flesh.

1. "Living Against the Flesh: Following the Ways of God"

2. "A Debt We Owe: Serving God through Our Lives"

1. Galatians 5:16-26 - A reminder of the struggle between the desires of the flesh and the desires of the Spirit.

2. Colossians 3:1-17 - A call to put to death the desires of the flesh and live a life of holiness.

Romans 8:13 For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live.

This passage reminds us that the choices we make have consequences and that living according to the Spirit of God will bring life, while living according to the desires of the flesh will bring death.

1. The Choices We Make: The Consequences of Living According to the Flesh

2. The Power of the Spirit: Choosing Life Over Death

1. Galatians 5:19-21 - Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

2. Matthew 6:24 - No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon.

Romans 8:14 For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.

The Spirit of God leads believers to become children of God.

1: Let the Spirit of God guide you to become a child of God.

2: Follow the Spirit of God and become a son or daughter of God.

1: Galatians 4:6-7 "And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, “Abba! Father!” So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God."

2: John 1:12-13 "But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God."

Romans 8:15 For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father.

Christians have received the Spirit of adoption, which allows them to call God "Abba, Father".

1. The Comfort of Adoption: How the Spirit of Adoption Changes Our Relationship with God

2. Fear Not: Rejecting the Spirit of Bondage and Embracing the Spirit of Adoption

1. Galatians 4:4-7 - But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, 5 to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. 6 And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, “Abba! Father!” 7 So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.

2. Ephesians 1:5 - He predestined us for adoption as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will.

Romans 8:16 The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God:

The Spirit of God testifies that believers are children of God.

1. Testifying to Our Identity as Children of God

2. The Power of the Spirit and Our Standing in God's Family

1. Galatians 4:6-7 - "And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, “Abba! Father!” So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God."

2. John 1:12-13 - "But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God."

Romans 8:17 And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together.

Believers in Christ are heirs of God and joint-heirs with Christ, and if they are willing to suffer with Him, they will also be glorified together.

1. The Promise of Glorification: Experiencing God's Splendor in Unison with Christ

2. Suffering with Christ: The Path to Becoming a Joint-Heir with Him

1. Galatians 3:26-29 - For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus. And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.

2. Ephesians 1:3-5 - Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ: According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without

blame before him in love: Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will.

Romans 8:18 For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.

The present sufferings are incomparable to the glory that will be revealed.

1: We must look to the future glory that awaits us despite the current hardships we face.

2: While we face trials and tribulations in this life, we must keep our eyes on the prize of the glory that awaits us in the future.

Romans 5:3-5 - Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope.

Hebrews 11:1 - Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see.

Romans 8:19 For the earnest expectation of the creature waiteth for the manifestation of the sons of God.

The creature awaits the manifestation of the sons of God.

1. The Hope of Those Who Wait

2. Faithful Expectations of God's Children

1. Isaiah 40:31 - But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.

2. Habakkuk 2:3 - For the vision is yet for an appointed time, but at the end it shall speak, and not lie: though it tarry, wait for it; because it will surely come, it will not tarry.

Romans 8:20 For the creature was made subject to vanity, not willingly, but by reason of him who hath subjected the same in hope,

The creature was subjected to vanity by God in hope.

1. Hope in God despite life's hardships

2. Recognizing God's sovereignty even in difficult times

1. Lamentations 3:22-23 - "It is of the Lord’s mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not. They are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness."

2. Isaiah 43:2 - "When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee: when thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned; neither shall the flame kindle upon thee.”

Romans 8:21 Because the creature itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God.

The creature will be freed from the bondage of corruption into the glorious freedom of God's children.

1. The Glorious Freedom of God's Children

2. Delivered from the Bondage of Corruption

1. Galatians 5:1 - Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free.

2. 2 Corinthians 3:17 - Now the Lord is that Spirit: and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty.

Romans 8:22 For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now.

Creation has been in a state of suffering and pain since the beginning of time.

1. "The Groaning of Creation: How Pain Shapes Our Perspective"

2. "Hope in Suffering: The Power of Perseverance"

1. Isaiah 55:8: “For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the Lord.”

2. 2 Corinthians 4:16-18: “So we do not lose heart. Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day. For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal.”

Romans 8:23 And not only they, but ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body.

Christians groan in anticipation of the redemption of their bodies, which is part of God's plan of adoption.

1. The Groaning of the Saints: Learning to Wait on the Lord

2. The Redemption of Our Bodies: Our Hope and Assurance of Eternal Life

1. Romans 8:18-25

2. Isaiah 40:31

Romans 8:24 For we are saved by hope: but hope that is seen is not hope: for what a man seeth, why doth he yet hope for?

We are saved by hope, which is not visible, so why do we still hope for something we cannot see?

1. The Power of Hope: What It Means to Believe in the Unseen

2. How to Persevere in Faith Even When We Don’t See the Outcome

1. Hebrews 11:1 - “Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.”

2. Jeremiah 29:11 - “For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.”

Romans 8:25 But if we hope for that we see not, then do we with patience wait for it.

We are asked to have patience and hope for what we cannot see.

1. Patience is a Virtue: Waiting with Hope

2. Anticipating the Unseen: Faith and Hope

1. Hebrews 11:1 - Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

2. James 5:7-8 - Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains.

Romans 8:26 Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.

The Spirit intercedes for us when we do not know what to pray for.

1. The Spirit Intercedes: How God's Love Supports Us in Prayer

2. The Incalculable Gift of the Holy Spirit

1. 1 John 3:20, "For if our heart condemn us, God is greater than our heart, and knoweth all things."

2. Psalm 139:23-24, "Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts: And see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting."

Romans 8:27 And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God.

God knows our hearts and intercedes for us according to His will.

1. God's Unfailing Love: Understanding the Heart of the Father

2. The Power of Intercession: Knowing God's Will for Our Lives

1. Psalm 139: 23-24 - Search me, O God, and know my heart! Try me and know my thoughts! And see if there be any grievous way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting!

2. Hebrews 4:12-13 - For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart. And no creature is hidden from his sight, but all are naked and exposed to the eyes of him to whom we must give account.

Romans 8:28 And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.

God works all things together for the good of those who love Him and are called according to His purpose.

1. Learning to Trust God in Difficult Times

2. God's Purpose and Work in Our Lives

1. Jeremiah 29:11 - “For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.”

2. Philippians 4:13 - I can do all things through him who strengthens me.

Romans 8:29 For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.

God predestined those He knew beforehand to be like His Son, Jesus Christ, so that He would be the firstborn of many brothers and sisters.

1. God's Love: Predestined to be Conformed to Jesus

2. Predestination: Our Path to Becoming Like Christ

1. 1 John 3:1 - See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are.

2. Ephesians 1:4-5 - Even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love he predestined us for adoption as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will.

Romans 8:30 Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified.

God has predestined, called, justified, and glorified those He has chosen.

1. The Glorification of God's Chosen

2. Predestination: A Gift of God's Love

1. Ephesians 1:4-5 - “Even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blemish before him in love: Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will”

2. Isaiah 43:7 - “Every one that is called by my name: for I have created him for my glory, I have formed him; yea, I have made him.”

Romans 8:31 What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us?

God is always on our side and will protect us from any opposition.

1. God is Always With Us - Romans 8:31

2. God's Unfailing Love - Romans 8:31

1. Psalm 118:6 - The LORD is on my side; I will not fear: what can man do unto me?

2. Isaiah 41:10 - Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness.

Romans 8:32 He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?

God has given us an ultimate gift by sending His son, Jesus Christ, and He will continue to freely give us all things.

1. The Unfathomable Gift of Jesus Christ

2. God's Unsurpassable Generosity

1. John 3:16 - For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

2. 2 Corinthians 9:15 - Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!

Romans 8:33 Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God's elect? It is God that justifieth.

God is faithful and just and will never charge the elect with any wrong-doing.

1. God's Unfailing Faithfulness

2. God's Righteous Justification

1. Romans 3:21-26 - But now the righteousness of God apart from the law is revealed, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets, even the righteousness of God, through faith in Jesus Christ, to all and on all who believe. For there is no difference; for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.

2. Psalm 103:12 - As far as the east is from the west, So far has He removed our transgressions from us.

Romans 8:34 Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us.

Christ died for us and rose again, and now intercedes for us at the right hand of God.

1. The Love and Intercession of Jesus Christ

2. The Salvation and Grace of Christ

1. Isaiah 53:5 - But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed.

2. 1 John 2:1-2 - My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous: And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world.

Romans 8:35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

Paul asks who can separate us from the love of Christ, listing various hardships we may endure.

1. "The Unshakable Love of Christ"

2. "The Strength of Our Faith During Hard Times"

1. Hebrews 13:5 - "Keep your life free from love of money, and be content with what you have, for he has said, “I will never leave you nor forsake you.”

2. 2 Corinthians 12:9 - But he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.”

Romans 8:36 As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.

God's people are willing to suffer for his sake.

1: We must be willing to suffer for Christ and carry our cross every day.

2: God will carry us through our suffering for His glory.

1: 1 Peter 5:6-7 - “Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you, casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you.”

2: Isaiah 41:10 - “Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.”

Romans 8:37 Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.

In Christ, we can overcome any obstacle or challenge that comes our way.

1. Overcoming Challenges Through Christ

2. Conquering Fear Through Faith

1. 1 John 4:18; Perfect love casts out fear

2. Isaiah 41:10; Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God

Romans 8:38 For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come,

The passage states that nothing can separate us from the love of God.

1: The Unending Love of God - No matter what we face in this life, we can always be sure of God's love for us.

2: The Changeless Character of God - God's love for us does not fluctuate with our circumstances, it remains constant and sure.

1: Jeremiah 31:3 - The Lord has appeared of old to me, saying: “Yes, I have loved you with an everlasting love; Therefore with lovingkindness I have drawn you.

2: Isaiah 40:8 - The grass withers, the flower fades, But the word of our God stands forever.

Romans 8:39 Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Nothing can separate us from God's love, which is found in Jesus Christ.

1: The Unending Love of God

2: Overcoming the Separation of Sin

1: Jeremiah 31:3 - The Lord appeared to us in the past, saying: “I have loved you with an everlasting love; I have drawn you with unfailing kindness.

2: 1 John 4:18 - There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love.

Romans 9 is a complex chapter where Paul discusses God's sovereignty in choosing Israel, His righteousness in election, and the inclusion of the Gentiles in God's plan of salvation.

1st Paragraph: The chapter begins with Paul expressing his deep sorrow and unceasing anguish for his own people, the Israelites. He even wishes that he himself were cursed and cut off from Christ for their sake (Romans 9:1-3). He acknowledges the privileges given to them as adoption sonship divine glory covenants receiving law temple worship promises patriarchs human ancestry Christ who is God over all forever praised (Romans 9:4-5). However, he clarifies that not all who are descended from Israel are Israel nor because they are Abraham’s descendants are they all his children but 'In Isaac your offspring will be reckoned' (Romans 9:6-7).

2nd Paragraph: In verses 8-18, Paul explains God's sovereign choice in election using examples of Isaac over Ishmael and Jacob over Esau even before they were born or had done anything good or bad. This shows that it does not depend on human desire or effort but on God’s mercy (Romans 9:8-16). He further illustrates this by referring to Pharaoh whom God raised up to display His power and proclaim His name throughout earth thereby showing mercy whom wants hardens whom wants (Romans 9:17-18).

3rd Paragraph: From verse 19 onwards, Paul anticipates objections about fairness of God's sovereignty. He uses analogy potter clay say right object created 'Why did you make me like this?' when potter has right over same lump clay make one pottery noble purposes another common use (Romans 9:19-21). He then discusses how if God bore with great patience objects wrath prepared destruction what if did so make riches glory known objects mercy prepared advance glory us he called not only Jews but also Gentiles? As it is written 'I will call them my people who are not my people I will call her beloved was not beloved' 'It will happen place where was said you ‘You are not my people’ there they will be called ‘children living God’' concerning Israel hardening part happened until full number Gentiles come all Israel saved. This sets stage for next chapters where explains mystery partial hardening Israel until fullness Gentiles comes leading ultimate salvation all Israel.

Romans 9:1 I say the truth in Christ, I lie not, my conscience also bearing me witness in the Holy Ghost,

Paul expresses his sincere belief in the truth of his statements about the Jews’ kinship to God.

1. The importance of truth and integrity in our relationships with God and each other.

2. God's faithfulness to His promises to the Jews.

1. 2 Corinthians 1:12 - For our boasting is this: the testimony of our conscience that we conducted ourselves in the world in simplicity and godly sincerity, not with fleshly wisdom but by the grace of God.

2. Deuteronomy 7:9 - Know therefore that the LORD your God is God; he is the faithful God, keeping his covenant of love to a thousand generations of those who love him and keep his commandments.

Romans 9:2 That I have great heaviness and continual sorrow in my heart.

Paul expresses his deep sorrow and distress in his heart for the people of Israel.

1: "God's Love Endures Despite Our Failings"

2: "The Sorrow of Spiritual Disobedience"

1: Lamentations 3:22-23 - "The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness."

2: Hebrews 4:15-16 - "For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need."

Romans 9:3 For I could wish that myself were accursed from Christ for my brethren, my kinsmen according to the flesh:

Paul expresses his desire to give up his salvation for the sake of his fellow Jews who had rejected Jesus.

1. The Power of Love: Sacrificing for Others

2. The Cost of Discipleship: A Heart that Aches

1. John 15:13 - “Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends.”

2. Matthew 19:29 - “And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or lands, for my name's sake, will receive a hundredfold and will inherit eternal life.”

Romans 9:4 Who are Israelites; to whom pertaineth the adoption, and the glory, and the covenants, and the giving of the law, and the service of God, and the promises;

Paul reminds us of the many privileges the Israelites have been given, such as the adoption, glory, covenants, law, service of God, and the promises.

1. God's Heart for His Chosen People: A Study of Romans 9:4

2. The Privileges of the Israelites: Celebrating the Blessings of God

1. Deuteronomy 7:6-8 - For thou art an holy people unto the Lord thy God: the Lord thy God hath chosen thee to be a special people unto himself, above all people that are upon

the face of the earth.

2. Ephesians 3:6 - That the Gentiles should be fellowheirs, and of the same body, and partakers of his promise in Christ by the gospel.

Romans 9:5 Whose are the fathers, and of whom as concerning the flesh Christ came, who is over all, God blessed for ever. Amen.

God chose the fathers of Jesus Christ, whom He has blessed forever.

1: We have no higher honor than to be chosen by God.

2: We can be assured of God's blessing when we accept Jesus Christ.

1: Ephesians 1:3-6 - Praising God for His blessedness and grace.

2: Isaiah 45:25 - Praising God for His blessing and salvation.

Romans 9:6 Not as though the word of God hath taken none effect. For they are not all Israel, which are of Israel:

Not everyone who is of Israel is true Israel, as the word of God applies to some and not others.

1. God's Word Does Not Apply to Everyone

2. The Meaning of True Israel

1. Galatians 6:16 - "And as many as walk according to this rule, peace be on them, and mercy, and upon the Israel of God."

2. Acts 13:46 - "Then Paul and Barnabas waxed bold, and said, It was necessary that the word of God should first have been spoken to you: but seeing ye put it from you, and judge yourselves unworthy of everlasting life, lo, we turn to the Gentiles."

Romans 9:7 Neither, because they are the seed of Abraham, are they all children: but, In

Isaac shall thy seed be called.

This passage emphasizes that just because someone is a descendant of Abraham, it does not automatically make them a child of God. The promise of God to Abraham is fulfilled through Isaac.

1. The Promise of God to Abraham is Fulfilled through Isaac

2. Being Descendants of Abraham Does Not Automatically Make Us Children of God

1. Galatians 3:16, “Now to Abraham and his seed were the promises made. He saith not, And to seeds, as of many; but as of one, And to thy seed, which is Christ.”

2. Hebrews 11:17-19, “By faith Abraham, when he was tried, offered up Isaac: and he that had received the promises offered up his only begotten son, Of whom it was said, That in Isaac shall thy seed be called: Accounting that God was able to raise him up, even from the dead; from whence also he received him in a figure.”

Romans 9:8 That is, They which are the children of the flesh, these are not the children of God: but the children of the promise are counted for the seed.

God's chosen people are not determined by physical lineage, but by those chosen through His promises.

1. The Children of Promise: Why We Are Chosen by God

2. Knowing Our Identity: Who We Are in Christ

1. Galatians 3:26-29 - For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus.

2. Ephesians 1:3-6 - In love he predestined us for adoption to sonship through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will.

Romans 9:9 For this is the word of promise, At this time will I come, and Sarah shall have a son.

God promised Abraham and Sarah a son at the right time and that promise was fulfilled.

1. God's Faithfulness - How God's Promises are always fulfilled

2. The Power of Prayer - How prayer can bring forth God's promises

1. Jeremiah 29:11 - For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.

2. Psalm 37:4 - Take delight in the Lord, and he will give you the desires of your heart.

Romans 9:10 And not only this; but when Rebecca also had conceived by one, even by our father Isaac;

God chose Rebecca and Isaac to be parents of two great nations.

1. God's plan is often difficult to understand, but we can trust that it is always good.

2. We can have faith that God has a plan for each of us, even when it doesn't make sense.

1. Genesis 25:21-26 - Rebecca conceives two sons.

2. Romans 8:28 - All things work together for God's good.

Romans 9:11 (For the children being not yet born, neither having done any good or evil, that the purpose of God according to election might stand, not of works, but of him that calleth;)

God's election is based on his purpose, not on works.

1. God's Unconditional Love - Recognizing God's sovereign grace and mercy to all.

2. The Election of God - Understanding why God chooses certain people.

1. Ephesians 2:8-9 - For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast.

2. Romans 11:33 - Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and His ways past finding out!

Romans 9:12 It was said unto her, The elder shall serve the younger.

The passage from Romans 9:12 states that the elder shall serve the younger.

1. God has a plan for everyone, no matter their age, and it is important to remember that the younger generation has just as much potential as the older.

2. Age is not a measure of importance or purpose in life, but instead a reminder that everyone can contribute to the greater good.

1. Proverbs 16:31 - Gray hair is a crown of glory; it is gained in a righteous life.

2. Philippians 2:3-4 - Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.

Romans 9:13 As it is written, Jacob have I loved, but Esau have I hated.

God chose to love Jacob and hate Esau before either of them were even born.

1. God's love is powerful and perfect, even when it is not understood

2. We must remember that God's plans are beyond our understanding and His love is greater than anything we could ever comprehend

1. Deuteronomy 7:6-8 - For you are a people holy to the Lord your God. The Lord your God has chosen you to be a people for his treasured possession, out of all the peoples who are on the face of the earth. It was not because you were more in number than any other people that the Lord set his love on you and chose you, for you were the fewest of all peoples

2. Jeremiah 31:3 - The Lord appeared to him from far away. I have loved you with an everlasting love; therefore I have continued my faithfulness to you.

Romans 9:14 What shall we say then? Is there unrighteousness with God? God forbid.

Paul asks if God is unrighteous, and quickly dismisses the idea.

1. God is Good: How to Reaffirm Our Faith in a Troubled World

2. God's Justice: A Study on Romans 9:14

1. Psalm 145:17 - The Lord is righteous in all his ways and loving toward all he has made.

2. James 2:13 - For judgment will be merciless to one who has shown no mercy; mercy triumphs over judgment.

Romans 9:15 For he saith to Moses, I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion.

God is sovereign and has mercy and compassion on whom He chooses.

1. God's Sovereignty and His Mercy

2. Understanding God's Compassion

1. Exodus 33:19 - “And he said, ‘I will make all my goodness pass before you and will proclaim before you my name ‘The Lord.’ And I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will show mercy on whom I will show mercy.”

2. James 2:13 - “For judgment is without mercy to one who has shown no mercy. Mercy triumphs over judgment.”

Romans 9:16 So then it is not of him that willeth, nor of him that runneth, but of God that sheweth mercy.

God's mercy is the ultimate determiner of our lives, not human will or action.

1. The Power of God's Mercy

2. The Sovereignty of God

1. James 1:17 - Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows.

2. Psalm 136:1-2 - Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good. His love endures forever. Give thanks to the God of gods. His love endures forever.

Romans 9:17 For the scripture saith unto Pharaoh, Even for this same purpose have I raised thee up, that I might shew my power in thee, and that my name might be declared throughout all the earth.

The scripture tells Pharaoh that God raised him up to show His power and be declared throughout the world.

1. God is All-Powerful: A on Romans 9:17

2. Declaring God's Name Everywhere: A on Romans 9:17

1. Exodus 9:16 - For this purpose have I raised thee up, that I might shew my power in thee, and that my name may be declared throughout all the earth.

2. Psalm 66:3 - Say unto God, How terrible art thou in thy works! Through the greatness of thy power shall thine enemies submit themselves unto thee.

Romans 9:18 Therefore hath he mercy on whom he will have mercy, and whom he will he hardeneth.

God's mercy and power are not subject to human control.

1. God's Sovereignty: Embracing Mercy and Hardening

2. Understanding God's Mercy: Who does He Choose?

1. Isaiah 55:8-9 - "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts."

2. Matthew 19:26 - "But Jesus looked at them and said, “With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.”

Romans 9:19 Thou wilt say then unto me, Why doth he yet find fault? For who hath resisted his will?

God's sovereignty and power is limitless, and His wisdom is beyond human understanding.

1: We should accept God's will, trusting in His ultimate goodness, even when we don't understand why He allows certain things.

2: We must never question God's power and wisdom, but instead seek to understand His divine will with humility and reverence.

1: Isaiah 55:8-9 - “For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.”

2: Job 42:2 - “I know that you can do all things, and that no purpose of yours can be thwarted.”

Romans 9:20 Nay but, O man, who art thou that repliest against God? Shall the thing formed say to him that formed it, Why hast thou made me thus?

Paul questions why humans would challenge God's decisions or authority.

1. The Sovereignty of God: Understanding How God Works in Our Lives

2. Trusting in God's Perfect Plan

1. Isaiah 45:9-10 - "Woe unto him that striveth with his Maker! Let the potsherd strive with the potsherds of the earth. Shall the clay say to him that fashioneth it, What makest thou? or thy work, He hath no hands?"

2. Job 40:1-2 - "Moreover the LORD answered Job, and said, Shall he that contendeth with the Almighty instruct him? he that reproveth God, let him answer it."

Romans 9:21 Hath not the potter power over the clay, of the same lump to make one vessel unto honour, and another unto dishonour?

God is the potter and has the power to create vessels for honor and dishonor out of the same lump of clay.

1. The Power of God: How God Exercises His Sovereignty

2. The Potter and the Clay: The Sovereignty of God and Man's Responsibility

1. Isaiah 64:8 - “Yet, O Lord, You are our Father; We are the clay, and You our potter; And all of us are the work of Your hand.”

2. Jeremiah 18:1-6 - “The word which came to Jeremiah from the Lord, saying: “Arise and go down to the potter's house, and there I will cause you to hear My words.”

Romans 9:22 What if God, willing to shew his wrath, and to make his power known, endured with much longsuffering the vessels of wrath fitted to destruction:

God's power and wrath is demonstrated through His longsuffering with the vessels of wrath fitted to destruction.

1. God's Power and Wrath in Enduring Longsuffering

2. Understanding God's Wrath and Longsuffering

1. Ephesians 2:4-5 - But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ.

2. 1 Peter 3:18-19 - For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit.

Romans 9:23 And that he might make known the riches of his glory on the vessels of mercy, which he had afore prepared unto glory,

The Lord reveals his glory to those he has chosen to be vessels of mercy.

1. God's Mercy: Choosing Those Who Receive His Glory

2. Preparing to Receive His Glory: Who is the Vessel of Mercy?

1. Ephesians 2:4-9 (But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us,)

2. Psalm 103:8-14 (The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and plenteous in mercy.)

Romans 9:24 Even us, whom he hath called, not of the Jews only, but also of the Gentiles?

Paul, writing to the Romans, reminds them that God calls both Jews and Gentiles to faith in him.

1. God's Love is for All: Exploring the Inclusive Nature of God's Call

2. The Greatness of God: Celebrating God's Mercy and Grace to Both Jew and Gentile

1. Ephesians 2:11-22 - Exploring the Inclusion of the Gentiles into the Kingdom of God

2. Amos 9:7-12 - God's Promise of Restoration and Salvation to All Nations

Romans 9:25 As he saith also in Osee, I will call them my people, which were not my people; and her beloved, which was not beloved.

Paul quotes the prophet Hosea in Romans 9:25, illustrating how God calls those who are not his people, and loves those who were not previously beloved.

1. God's Unconditional Love: How God Loves Even Those Who Are Not His Own

2. The Power of Love: How God's Love Can Transform Lives

1. 1 John 4:7-8 "Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love."

2. Galatians 5:22-23 "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law."

Romans 9:26 And it shall come to pass, that in the place where it was said unto them, Ye are not my people; there shall they be called the children of the living God.

God will bring salvation to those who are not His people and will call them His children.

1. The Unconditional Love of God: How He brings salvation to all

2. How to be a Child of the Living God: Steps to receive salvation

1. John 3:16 - For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

2. 1 John 5:11-12 - And this is the testimony: God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life.

Romans 9:27 Esaias also crieth concerning Israel, Though the number of the children of Israel be as the sand of the sea, a remnant shall be saved:

God's promises are true and will be fulfilled; a remnant of Israel will be saved.

1. "The Saving Power of God's Promises"

2. "The Remnant of God's People"

1. Isaiah 10:22 - "For though thy people Israel be as the sand of the sea, yet a remnant of them shall return"

2. Isaiah 11:11 - "And it shall come to pass in that day, that the Lord shall set his hand again the second time to recover the remnant of his people"

Romans 9:28 For he will finish the work, and cut it short in righteousness: because a short work will the Lord make upon the earth.

God will finish what he starts and will do it in a righteous manner.

1. God's Promises - God is faithful to fulfill his promises, no matter the difficulty

2. Righteousness - We can trust God to always do what is right

1. Isaiah 46:10-11 - Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure.

11 Calling a ravenous bird from the east, the man that executeth my counsel from a far country: yea, I have spoken it, I will also bring it to pass; I have purposed it, I will also do it.

2. 2 Peter 3:9 - The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.

Romans 9:29 And as Esaias said before, Except the Lord of Sabaoth had left us a seed, we had been as Sodoma, and been made like unto Gomorrha.

God's mercy has preserved us from destruction, just as He preserved a remnant of Israel.

1. God's Mercy: The Difference Between Destruction and Preservation

2. The Power of God's Love: From Sodom and Gomorrah to Salvation

1. Isaiah 1:9 - "Unless the Lord Almighty had left us some survivors, we would have become like Sodom, we would have been like Gomorrah."

2. Joel 2:32 - "And everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved; for on Mount Zion and in Jerusalem there will be deliverance, as the Lord has said, even among the survivors whom the Lord calls."

Romans 9:30 What shall we say then? That the Gentiles, which followed not after righteousness, have attained to righteousness, even the righteousness which is of faith.

God's righteousness is attained through faith, not works.

1: Faith is the key to acquiring God's righteousness.

2: The Gentiles have been able to obtain righteousness through faith, not works.

1: Ephesians 2:8-9 “For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.”

2: Galatians 3:11 “Now it is evident that no one is justified before God by the law, for “The righteous shall live by faith.”

Romans 9:31 But Israel, which followed after the law of righteousness, hath not attained to the law of righteousness.

Israel did not attain righteousness through obedience to the law.

1: Obedience to God’s law is right, but it is not enough. We must also have faith in Jesus Christ to be saved.

2: Obeying God’s law does not earn us righteousness; only through faith in Jesus can we be saved.

1: Galatians 3:11 - “Now it is evident that no one is justified before God by the law, for ‘The righteous shall live by faith.’”

2: Ephesians 2:8-9 - “For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.”

Romans 9:32 Wherefore? Because they sought it not by faith, but as it were by the works of the law. For they stumbled at that stumblingstone;

People failed to obtain righteousness through faith but instead tried to earn it through works of law. As a result, they stumbled at Jesus, who is the stumblingstone.

1. God's grace is a free gift, not something we can earn through good works.

2. Jesus is the cornerstone of our faith, and we should not let anything stand in the way of our relationship with Him.

1. Ephesians 2:8-9 - For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast.

2. 1 Peter 2:6-7 - Wherefore also it is contained in the scripture, Behold, I lay in Sion a chief corner stone, elect, precious: and he that believeth on him shall not be confounded.

Romans 9:33 As it is written, Behold, I lay in Sion a stumblingstone and rock of offence: and whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed.

Paul quotes Isaiah 28:16 to describe Jesus Christ as a stumbling stone and rock of offense for those who reject Him, but for those who believe in Him, they will not be ashamed.

1. The Benefits of Believing in Jesus: Salvation and No Shame

2. The Consequences of Rejection: Stumbling and Offence

1. Isaiah 28:16 "Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD, Behold, I lay in Zion for a foundation a stone, a tried stone, a precious corner stone, a sure foundation: he that believeth shall not make haste."

2. 1 Peter 2:6-8 "Wherefore also it is contained in the scripture, Behold, I lay in Sion a chief corner stone, elect, precious: and he that believeth on him shall not be confounded. Unto you therefore which believe he is precious: but unto them which be disobedient, the stone which the builders disallowed, the same is made the head of the corner, And a stone of stumbling, and a rock of offence, even to them which stumble at the word, being disobedient: whereunto also they were appointed."

Romans 10 continues Paul's discussion on the righteousness that comes from God, focusing on Israel's failure to attain this righteousness and the universal availability of salvation through faith in Christ.

1st Paragraph: The chapter begins with Paul expressing his heart's desire and prayer to God for the Israelites is that they may be saved. He acknowledges their zeal for God but

notes it is not based on knowledge since they are ignorant of the righteousness that comes from God and sought to establish their own (Romans 10:1-3). He states Christ is culmination law so there may be righteousness everyone who believes (Romans 10:4).

2nd Paragraph: In verses 5-13, Paul contrasts the righteousness based on law which says 'Do this you will live' with righteousness based on faith which does not depend human effort but confession belief heart Jesus Lord raised dead resulting justification salvation. He emphasizes there no difference between Jew Gentile same Lord rich all call him 'Everyone who calls name Lord will be saved' (Romans 10:5-13).

3rd Paragraph: From verse 14 onwards, Paul discusses how faith comes from hearing message about Christ hence necessity preaching gospel. However he laments despite widespread proclamation gospel not all Israelites accepted good news as Isaiah says 'Lord who has believed our message?' Yet he asserts word near us even our mouths hearts message concerning faith proclaim if confess mouth 'Jesus Lord' believe heart God raised him dead will be saved (Romans 10:14-17). The chapter ends with Paul quoting Moses Isaiah show both Gentiles attained righteousness while Israel despite pursuing law did not reach it because pursued as if works rather than faith disobedient obstinate people (Romans 10:18-21). This further emphasizes his argument about importance faith over works achieving right standing before God.

Romans 10:1 Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is, that they might be saved.

Paul expresses his sincere desire and prayer that the people of Israel would be saved.

1. The Power of Persistent Prayer: Paul's Heartfelt Plea for Israel

2. What Does It Mean to Be Saved?

1. Matthew 7:7-8 - "Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you: For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened."

2. James 5:16 - "The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much."

Romans 10:2 For I bear them record that they have a zeal of God, but not according to knowledge.

Paul is expressing that the Jews have a zealous attitude towards God, but they do not

possess the knowledge to back it up.

1. The Zeal of the Lord: Striving to Serve God with Knowledge

2. Pursuing the Lord: Understanding the Need for Biblical Knowledge

1. Proverbs 9:10 - The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.

2. Colossians 2:3 - In whom are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.

Romans 10:3 For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God.

Ignorance of God's righteousness leads to a misguided attempt to establish one's own righteousness, instead of submitting to God's.

1: We must submit ourselves to God's righteousness and not rely on our own.

2: We must seek to understand God's righteousness so that we can more fully submit to it.

1: Philippians 3:9 - And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith.

2: Isaiah 64:6 - But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away.

Romans 10:4 For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth.

Paul states that Christ is the fulfillment of the law and is the only way to receive righteousness.

1. "The Fulfillment of the Law: Christ's Passage to Righteousness"

2. "Achieving Righteousness Through Faith in Jesus"

1. Galatians 3:24-25 - "So the law was our guardian until Christ came, in order that we might be justified by faith. But now that faith has come, we are no longer under a guardian."

2. John 14:6 - "Jesus said to him, ?□ am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."

Romans 10:5 For Moses describeth the righteousness which is of the law, That the man which doeth those things shall live by them.

Moses describes the righteousness of the law, explaining that those who follow the law will live by it.

1. The Righteousness of the Law: Why We Follow It

2. The Blessing of Obeying God's Law

1. Matthew 5:17-20

2. Psalm 119:1-2

Romans 10:6 But the righteousness which is of faith speaketh on this wise, Say not in thine heart, Who shall ascend into heaven? (that is, to bring Christ down from above:)

The righteousness that comes from faith speaks of the futility of searching for Christ in a physical sense.

1: Believe in Christ and his power, not in our own abilities.

2: To ascend to Heaven is not necessary in order to have faith in Christ.

1: Hebrews 11:6 - But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.

2: James 2:17-18 - Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone. Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: shew me thy faith without thy works, and I will shew thee my faith by my works.

Romans 10:7 Or, Who shall descend into the deep? (that is, to bring up Christ again from the dead.)

This passage from Romans 10:7 speaks to the power of God to bring Christ back from the dead.

1: God's Power to Raise the Dead

2: The Power of Resurrection

1: 1 Corinthians 15:20-22 - But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept.

2: John 11:25-26 - Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live.

Romans 10:8 But what saith it? The word is nigh thee, even in thy mouth, and in thy heart: that is, the word of faith, which we preach;

The word of faith is near us, in our mouths and hearts, which is preached by Christians.

1. The Power of the Word of Faith in Our Lives

2. The Importance of Preaching the Word of Faith

1. Deuteronomy 30:14 - "But the word is very nigh unto thee, in thy mouth, and in thy heart, that thou mayest do it."

2. Romans 10:17 - "So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God."

Romans 10:9 That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.

Believing in Christ is the only way to salvation.

1: Believe in Jesus and be saved.

2: No other path leads to eternal salvation but through the Lord Jesus Christ.

1: John 3:16 - "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."

2: Acts 16:31 - "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house."

Romans 10:10 For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

Belief in Christ leads to righteousness and salvation.

1. The Power of Faith: How Believing in Jesus Can Lead to Righteousness and Salvation

2. Confessing the Lord: The Necessity of Confession in Achieving Righteousness and Salvation

1. Ephesians 2:8-9 - For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast.

2. 1 John 5:13 - These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.

Romans 10:11 For the scripture saith, Whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed.

The scripture states that those who believe in Jesus will not be ashamed.

1. Don?□ be Ashamed of Your Faith - Romans 10:11

2. The Comfort of Knowing We Will Not be Ashamed - Romans 10:11

1. Isaiah 45:17 - But the Lord will save you; he will rejoice over you with singing.

2. Psalm 25:3 - Indeed, none who wait for you shall be put to shame; they shall be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous.

Romans 10:12 For there is no difference between the Jew and the Greek: for the same Lord over all is rich unto all that call upon him.

The same Lord is rich and available to all who call on Him, regardless of race or background.

1: There is power in unity and connecting with the Lord.

2: God? love is abundant and available to everyone.

1: Galatians 3:28 ? here is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus.??

2: Ephesians 2:14-17 ? or he is our peace, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition between us; Having abolished in his flesh the enmity, even the law of commandments contained in ordinances; for to make in himself of twain one new man, so making peace; And that he might reconcile both unto God in one body by the cross, having slain the enmity thereby: And came and preached peace to you which were afar off, and to them that were nigh.??

Romans 10:13 For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.

All who call upon the Lord will be saved.

1. The Power of Prayer: How Calling on the Lord Can Bring Salvation

2. The Promise of Salvation: Experiencing Eternal Life Through the Name of the Lord

1. Acts 2:21 - And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved.

2. John 3:16 - For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

Romans 10:14 How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher?

This passage highlights the importance of preaching in order to spread the word of God.

1. The Power of Preaching - exploring how the power of preaching can bring people closer to God

2. The Necessity of Preaching - discussing how preaching is a necessary tool for spreading the Good News

1. Isaiah 53:1 - Who hath believed our report? and to whom is the arm of the Lord revealed?

2. Matthew 28:19-20 - Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.

Romans 10:15 And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!

Preaching the gospel of peace is a divine mission that demands to be carried out by those who are sent by God.

1. The Power of Proclamation: How to Spread the Gospel of Peace

2. The Joy of Preaching: Rejoicing in the Message of Peace

1. Isaiah 52:7 - How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him that bringeth good tidings, that publisheth peace; that bringeth good tidings of good, that publisheth salvation; that saith unto Zion, Thy God reigneth!

2. Ephesians 6:15 - And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace;

Romans 10:16 But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Esaias saith, Lord, who hath believed our report?

Not everyone has obeyed the gospel, as Isaiah asked who would believe it?

1. Putting Your Faith in the Gospel

2. The Need to Believe the Gospel

1. Ephesians 1:13-14 - In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.

2. Mark 16:15-16 - And he said to them, ?□o into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation. Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned.

Romans 10:17 So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

Faith comes through hearing the Word of God.

1: Our faith is strengthened through hearing and studying the Word of God.

2: The power of God's Word leads us to faith.

1: Hebrews 11:1 - Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.

2: Romans 4:17-21 - As it is written, ?□ have made you the father of many nations?□□□n the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist. In hope he believed against hope, that he should become the father of many nations, as he had been told, ?□o shall your offspring be.??He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was as good as dead (since he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah?□ womb. No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised.

Romans 10:18 But I say, Have they not heard? Yes verily, their sound went into all the earth, and their words unto the ends of the world.

Paul is referencing that the gospel has been heard and spread throughout the world.

1. The Power of the Gospel: How God's Word Travels Far and Wide

2. Spreading the Good News: The Incredible Reach of the Gospel

1. Matthew 28:19-20 Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world.

2. Acts 1:8 But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

Romans 10:19 But I say, Did not Israel know? First Moses saith, I will provoke you to jealousy by them that are no people, and by a foolish nation I will anger you.

Paul discusses how the Jews were provoked to jealousy by a foolish nation, citing Moses' words.

1: "The Danger of Jealousy"

2: "God's Choice of a Foolish Nation"

1: James 3:14-16 (But if ye have bitter envying and strife in your hearts, glory not, and lie not against the truth.)

2: 1 Corinthians 1:27-29 (But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty.)

Romans 10:20 But Esaias is very bold, and saith, I was found of them that sought me not; I was made manifest unto them that asked not after me.

God can be found by those who seek Him, even if they don't know they're looking.

1. God's Unseen Hand - How to Find God Even When You Don't Know You're Looking

2. The Boldness of Isaiah - Drawing Closer to God Despite Uncertainty

1. Jeremiah 29:13 - "You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart."

2. Luke 11:9-10 - "So I say to you: Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you."

Romans 10:21 But to Israel he saith, All day long I have stretched forth my hands unto a disobedient and gainsaying people.

God repeatedly reaches out to the people of Israel, even though they often disobey and oppose Him.

1. God's Unending Love - How God's love for us is unconditional and never-ending, even in the face of disobedience and opposition.

2. The Steadfastness of God - The importance of relying on God's faithfulness and steadfastness, no matter what we face.

1. Jeremiah 29:11-14 - For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.

2. Lamentations 3:22-23 - The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, His mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning, great is your faithfulness.

Romans 11 discusses the mystery of Israel's partial hardening, the salvation of the Gentiles, and a future hope for all Israel. It serves as a conclusion to Paul's discourse on God's dealings with Israel and His plan for their salvation.

1st Paragraph: The chapter begins with Paul refuting the idea that God has rejected His people by pointing out that he himself is an Israelite. He mentions Elijah’s despair over Israel’s unfaithfulness, but also how God had reserved for Himself seven thousand who had not bowed knee to Baal. In similar way at present time there is remnant chosen by

grace (Romans 11:1-5). He emphasizes again that it is by grace and not works otherwise grace no longer becomes grace (Romans 11:6).

2nd Paragraph: In verses 7-24, Paul explains that what Israel sought so earnestly it did not obtain but elect did rest were hardened as it is written 'God gave them spirit stupor eyes could not see ears could not hear.' But their transgression means riches world their loss riches Gentiles how much greater will their full inclusion be! (Romans 11:7-12). He warns Gentile believers against arrogance reminding them they are grafted into cultivated olive tree faith while some natural branches were broken off due unbelief can also be cut off if they do not continue in kindness of God (Romans 11:13-24).

3rd Paragraph: From verse 25 onwards, Paul reveals mystery partial hardening happened to Israel until full number Gentiles has come in this way all Israel will be saved as written 'The deliverer will come from Zion he will turn godlessness away from Jacob' 'This my covenant with them when I take away their sins.' He concludes acknowledging depth riches wisdom knowledge God his judgments beyond tracing out his paths beyond understanding exclaiming 'For from him through him to him are all things. To him be glory forever! Amen' (Romans 11:25-36). This highlights both divine sovereignty human responsibility unfolding plan salvation emphasizes ultimate aim glorifying God.

Romans 11:1 I say then, Hath God cast away his people? God forbid. For I also am an Israelite, of the seed of Abraham, of the tribe of Benjamin.

God has not abandoned His chosen people, the Israelites.

1. God's faithfulness and mercy towards His chosen people.

2. God's protection of the Israelites through His covenant promises.

1. Romans 11:1 - I say then, Hath God cast away his people? God forbid. For I also am an Israelite, of the seed of Abraham, of the tribe of Benjamin.

2. Isaiah 41:10 - Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness.

Romans 11:2 God hath not cast away his people which he foreknew. Wot ye not what the scripture saith of Elias? how he maketh intercession to God against Israel, saying,

God has not abandoned his chosen people.

1. Hope in God's Provision and Faithfulness

2. Reclaiming Our Identity as God's People

1. Isaiah 54:17 - No weapon formed against you shall prosper

2. Psalm 145:18-19 - The Lord is near to all who call upon him, to all who call upon him in truth. He will fulfill the desire of those who fear him; he also will hear their cry and save them.

Romans 11:3 Lord, they have killed thy prophets, and digged down thine altars; and I am left alone, and they seek my life.

God's faithfulness and protection of His people in the face of persecution.

1: God is faithful to His people, no matter what the world throws at them.

2: We can trust in God's protection and never have to fear those who seek to harm us.

1: Psalm 34:7 - The angel of the Lord encamps around those who fear Him, and delivers them.

2: Isaiah 41:10 - Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.

Romans 11:4 But what saith the answer of God unto him? I have reserved to myself seven thousand men, who have not bowed the knee to the image of Baal.

God has reserved a special group of people for himself who have not bowed to the image of Baal.

1. The Power of God's Reservation: How God Reserves A People For Himself

2. Never Bow The Knee To The Image Of Baal: The Blessing Of Staying Determined To God

1. 1 Corinthians 1:18-31 - Paul's message of the foolishness of the cross

2. 2 Corinthians 4:7-12 - Paul's message of the treasure in jars of clay

Romans 11:5 Even so then at this present time also there is a remnant according to the election of grace.

There is a remnant of people chosen by grace, even in the present.

1. "God's Election of Grace"

2. "Remnant of the Chosen People"

1. Ephesians 2:8-9; For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith-and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God.

2. Isaiah 49:6; He says: "It is too small a thing for you to be my servant to restore the tribes of Jacob and bring back those of Israel I have kept. I will also make you a light for the Gentiles, that you may bring my salvation to the ends of the earth.

Romans 11:6 And if by grace, then is it no more of works: otherwise grace is no more grace. But if it be of works, then is it no more grace: otherwise work is no more work.

Paul explains that if salvation is by grace, it cannot also be by works, and vice versa.

1. The Paradox of Grace and Works: How Do We Receive Salvation?

2. The Blending of Faith and Works: What is the Balance for True Salvation?

1. Ephesians 2:8-9 (For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast.)

2. James 2:17-18 (Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone. Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: shew me thy faith without thy works, and I will shew thee my faith by my works.)

Romans 11:7 What then? Israel hath not obtained that which he seeketh for; but the election hath obtained it, and the rest were blinded.

Israel did not obtain what they desired, but those chosen by God did, and the others were unable to see.

1. God has a plan for everyone, and we must trust in His wisdom.

2. We must never forget that our ultimate goal should be to seek God's will and glorify Him.

1. Jeremiah 29:11-13 - "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart."

2. Psalm 37:4 - Take delight in the Lord, and he will give you the desires of your heart.

Romans 11:8 (According as it is written, God hath given them the spirit of slumber, eyes that they should not see, and ears that they should not hear;) unto this day.

This passage explains that God has caused certain people to be spiritually asleep and unable to understand spiritual truths.

1. "Wake Up and See: A on Romans 11:8"

2. "God's Mysterious Ways: Understanding Romans 11:8"

1. Isaiah 6:9-10 - "And he said, Go, and tell this people, Hear ye indeed, but understand not; and see ye indeed, but perceive not."

2. Matthew 13:14-15 - "And in them is fulfilled the prophecy of Esaias, which saith, By hearing ye shall hear, and shall not understand; and seeing ye shall see, and shall not perceive."

Romans 11:9 And David saith, Let their table be made a snare, and a trap, and a stumblingblock, and a recompence unto them:

Paul quotes a passage from David in Romans 11:9, describing the consequences of rejecting God's plan of salvation.

1. "The Danger of Rejecting God's Plan"

2. "God's Table: Blessing or Bane?"

1. Proverbs 1:32, "For the turning away of the simple shall slay them, and the prosperity of fools shall destroy them."

2. James 4:17, "Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin."

Romans 11:10 Let their eyes be darkened, that they may not see, and bow down their back alway.

God's judgement is that those who have sinned should be punished by having their eyes darkened and their backs bent down.

1. God Is Just: Understanding the Consequences of Sin

2. God's Mercy and Grace in the Midst of His Judgement

1. Daniel 9:9-10 - To the Lord our God belong mercies and forgiveness, though we have rebelled against him;

2. Isaiah 60:2 - For behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, and gross darkness the people: but the Lord shall arise upon thee, and his glory shall be seen upon thee.

Romans 11:11 I say then, Have they stumbled that they should fall? God forbid: but rather through their fall salvation is come unto the Gentiles, for to provoke them to jealousy.

The passage speaks about how through the fall of the Jews, salvation was come to the Gentiles.

1. The Power of God's Mercy: How the Fall of the Jews Brings Salvation to the Gentiles

2. God's Plan: Understanding His Provoking Jealousy Through the Fall of the Jews

1. Isaiah 55:8-9 - For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.

2. Ephesians 2:11-13 - Wherefore remember, that ye being in time past Gentiles in the flesh, who are called Uncircumcision by that which is called the Circumcision in the flesh made by hands; That at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world: But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ.

Romans 11:12 Now if the fall of them be the riches of the world, and the diminishing of them the riches of the Gentiles; how much more their fulness?

Paul asks how much more abundant the blessings of God will be if the Jews accept the gospel and find salvation.

1. The Riches of God: An Examination of Paul's Question in Romans 11:12

2. The Abundance of God's Blessing: Reaping the Benefits of Salvation

1. Ephesians 1:18-19 - "having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints."

2. Isaiah 55:8-9 - "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts."

Romans 11:13 For I speak to you Gentiles, inasmuch as I am the apostle of the Gentiles, I magnify mine office:

Paul declares that he is the apostle of the Gentiles and magnifies his office.

1. Serving God Without Fear: A Study of Romans 11:13

2. Living in Obedience to God's Calling: Romans 11:13

1. Romans 1:5 - Through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith for the sake of his name among all the nations,

2. Acts 26:17 - Delivering you from the people and from the Gentiles, to whom I now send you,

Romans 11:14 If by any means I may provoke to emulation them which are my flesh, and might save some of them.

Paul expresses his desire to provoke his people to emulate his example and be saved.

1: Paul’s Love for His People - Romans 11:14

2: Emulating the Example of Paul - Romans 11:14

1: Galatians 6:9-10 - “And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not. As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith.”

2: Philippians 3:17 - “Brethren, be followers together of me, and mark them which walk so as ye have us for an ensample.”

Romans 11:15 For if the casting away of them be the reconciling of the world, what shall the receiving of them be, but life from the dead?

Paul wonders what it would be like for the Jews to be received back into the faith, suggesting that it would be like life coming from death.

1. "The Power of Reconciliation: How the Jews Can Bring Life From Death"

2. "The Beauty of Acceptance: How We Can Welcome Others Into Our Faith"

1. Colossians 1:20-21 - "And, having made peace through the blood of his cross, by him to reconcile all things unto himself; by him, I say, whether they be things in earth, or

things in heaven. And you, that were sometime alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now hath he reconciled"

2. 2 Corinthians 5:18-19 - "And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation; To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation."

Romans 11:16 For if the firstfruit be holy, the lump is also holy: and if the root be holy, so are the branches.

This verse reminds us that our holiness originates from the root of our faith, which is God.

1. The Roots of Our Faith: Finding Holiness in God

2. The Holiness of the Church: Connecting to Our Faithful Origin

1. Hebrews 12:14-15 - Pursue holiness without which no one will see the Lord

2. Matthew 5:48 - Be perfect as your heavenly Father is perfect

Romans 11:17 And if some of the branches be broken off, and thou, being a wild olive tree, wert graffed in among them, and with them partakest of the root and fatness of the olive tree;

God is able to graft people from other cultures into his family and provide them with the same spiritual blessings as his own people.

1. God's Love Unites All People

2. New Beginnings: Finding Belonging in God's Family

1. Galatians 3:26-28 - For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus.

2. Ephesians 2:11-22 - That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus.

Romans 11:18 Boast not against the branches. But if thou boast, thou bearest not the root, but the root thee.

This passage tells us that we should not be boastful against one another, as it will have no effect on the foundation of our faith.

1. Boasting Is Futile: Pride Is Unbecoming To Christians

2. The Root Of Our Faith: Our Foundation Is Our Strength

1. Proverbs 27:2 - "Let another praise you, and not your own mouth; someone else, and not your own lips."

2. James 1:17 - "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change."

Romans 11:19 Thou wilt say then, The branches were broken off, that I might be graffed in.

This passage talks about how God allows believers to be grafted into His plan.

1. God's Plan is Unfailing - Romans 11:19

2. The Power of Faith - Romans 11:19

1. Ephesians 2:8-9 - For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast.

2. Isaiah 40:28-29 - Hast thou not known? hast thou not heard, that the everlasting God, the LORD, the Creator of the ends of the earth, fainteth not, neither is weary? there is no searching of his understanding. He giveth power to the faint; and to them that have no might he increaseth strength.

Romans 11:20 Well; because of unbelief they were broken off, and thou standest by faith. Be not highminded, but fear:

Because of their unbelief, Israel was broken off from God's covenant. Christians are called to stand by faith and to not be prideful, but to fear the Lord.

1. The Power of Unbelief: How to Stand by Faith and Avoid Pride

2. The Danger of Pride: Learning from Israel’s Unbelief

1. Proverbs 16:18: “Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall.”

2. James 4:6: “But he gives more grace. Therefore it says, ‘God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.’”

Romans 11:21 For if God spared not the natural branches, take heed lest he also spare not thee.

God will not spare those who do not follow him, so take caution.

1. The Danger of Not Following God: Romans 11:21

2. God's Mercy and Our Obligation: Romans 11:21

1. Jeremiah 13:15-17 - Hear ye and give ear; be not proud: for the Lord hath spoken.

2. Psalm 33:12 - Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord; and the people whom he hath chosen for his own inheritance.

Romans 11:22 Behold therefore the goodness and severity of God: on them which fell, severity; but toward thee, goodness, if thou continue in his goodness: otherwise thou also shalt be cut off.

God's goodness and severity are both shown: those who have strayed from God's goodness will be subject to His severity, but if one continues in His goodness, they will experience His goodness.

1. Knowing God's Goodness and Severity: How to Follow His Path

2. Continuing in His Goodness: Reaping the Rewards of God's Kindness

1. James 1:17 - Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.

2. Psalm 54:6 - I will freely sacrifice unto thee: I will praise thy name, O LORD; for it is good.

Romans 11:23 And they also, if they abide not still in unbelief, shall be graffed in: for God is able to graff them in again.

God is able to restore those who do not remain in their unbelief.

1. A New Chance: God's Promise of Restoration

2. Don't Give Up: The Hope of God's Redemption

1. Isaiah 43:18-19 - “Remember not the former things, nor consider the things of old. Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.”

2. Jeremiah 29:11 - “For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope.”

Romans 11:24 For if thou wert cut out of the olive tree which is wild by nature, and wert graffed contrary to nature into a good olive tree: how much more shall these, which be the natural branches, be graffed into their own olive tree?

Paul is questioning how much more will those who are already the natural branches be grafted into their own olive tree if someone who is wild by nature can be grafted into a good olive tree contrary to nature.

1. The Power of Grafting: How God Transforms our Lives

2. How Our Faith Unites Us: Living in Unity with God

1. Isaiah 11:1-2 - And there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots: And the spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD

2. Ephesians 2:11-22 - Therefore remember that at one time you Gentiles in the flesh, called “the uncircumcision” by what is called the circumcision, which is made in the flesh by hands— remember that you were at that time separated from Christ, alienated from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.

Romans 11:25 For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery, lest ye should be wise in your own conceits; that blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in.

Paul warns the Christians not to be prideful and reminds them that Israelites have been partially blinded until the Gentiles have been included in the covenant of grace.

1. Pride Will Blind You: Examining Paul's Warning in Romans 11:25

2. Let Not Your Heart Be Lifted Up: Understanding the Consequences of Pride in Romans 11:25

1. Proverbs 16:18-19 - "Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall. Better to be of a humble spirit with the lowly, than to divide the spoil with the proud."

2. James 4:6-7 - "But he gives more grace. Therefore it says, “God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble.” Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you."

Romans 11:26 And so all Israel shall be saved: as it is written, There shall come out of Sion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob:

Paul is quoting Isaiah 59:20-21, saying that all of Israel will be saved and a deliverer will come from Zion to turn Israel away from their ungodliness.

1. Living a Life of Holiness - A Study of Romans 11:26

2. The Salvation of All Israel - Understanding the Message of Isaiah 59:20-21

1. Isaiah 59:20-21 - "And the Redeemer shall come to Zion, and unto them that turn from transgression in Jacob, saith the Lord."

2. Matthew 3:2 - "Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

Romans 11:27 For this is my covenant unto them, when I shall take away their sins.

God has promised to take away the sins of his people through a covenant.

1. The Power of God's Covenant of Forgiveness

2. The Grace of God in Taking Away Our Sins

1.Isaiah 43:25-26 - “I, even I, am he who blots out your transgressions, for my own sake, and remembers your sins no more.”

2.Psalm 103:12 - As far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us.

Romans 11:28 As concerning the gospel, they are enemies for your sakes: but as touching the election, they are beloved for the fathers' sakes.

Paul explains that although non-believers oppose the gospel, they are still beloved by God because of the promises He made to their ancestors.

1. The Unconditional Love of God - Exploring God's love for those who oppose the gospel.

2. The Promise of Election - Examining the promises God has made to our ancestors.

1. Psalm 103:17 - But from everlasting to everlasting the LORD’s love is with those who fear him, and his righteousness with their children’s children.

2. Isaiah 43:25 - “I, even I, am he who blots out your transgressions, for my own sake, and remembers your sins no more.

Romans 11:29 For the gifts and calling of God are without repentance.

God's gifts to us are irrevocable and He will never take them away.

1. God's Unfailing Love: His Gifts and Calling Remain

2. The Unchangeable Nature of God: His Gifts and Calling Endure

1. Deuteronomy 7:9 - Know therefore that the Lord your God is God, the faithful God who keeps covenant and steadfast love with those who love him and keep his commandments, to a thousand generations.

2. Hebrews 13:8 - Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.

Romans 11:30 For as ye in times past have not believed God, yet have now obtained mercy through their unbelief:

God has shown mercy to those who have not believed in him in the past.

1. Faithful Even When We Don't Believe: God's Mercy in Unbelief

2. Unbelief Is Not an Excuse: Understanding Mercy Through Romans 11:30

1. Hebrews 11:6 - "But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him."

2. James 2:13 - "For he shall have judgment without mercy, that hath shewed no mercy; and mercy rejoiceth against judgment."

Romans 11:31 Even so have these also now not believed, that through your mercy they also may obtain mercy.

Many have not believed in the mercy of God, but they can still receive it through the mercy of believers.

1. "A Look at Mercy: How God's Mercy is Extended to All"

2. "The Mercy of Believers: How We Can Participate in Spreading Mercy"

1. Isaiah 55:7 Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the LORD, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.

2. Luke 6:36 Be ye therefore merciful, as your Father also is merciful.

Romans 11:32 For God hath concluded them all in unbelief, that he might have mercy upon all.

God has concluded all people in unbelief in order to have mercy on all.

1. The Mercy of God For All

2. Everyone In Unbelief: An Opportunity for Mercy

1. Matthew 9:13 - "But go and learn what that means: 'I desire mercy and not sacrifice.' For I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners."

2. James 2:13 - "For judgment is without mercy to the one who has shown no mercy. Mercy triumphs over judgment."

Romans 11:33 O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! how unsearchable are his judgments, and his ways past finding out!

God's wisdom and knowledge is so deep and rich that it is impossible to fully understand His judgments and ways.

1. The Wonder of God's Wisdom and Knowledge

2. How We Cannot Fully Comprehend the Ways of God

1. Job 42:2 "I know that You can do all things, and that no purpose of Yours can be withheld from You."

2. Psalm 19:1-2 "The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament shows His handiwork. Day unto day utters speech, and night unto night reveals knowledge."

Romans 11:34 For who hath known the mind of the Lord? or who hath been his counsellor?

Paul questions the ability of anyone to fully understand God's plan and counsel.

1. God's Unfathomable Wisdom - A exploring the mystery of God's wisdom and how it is beyond our comprehension.

2. The Sovereignty of God - A about God's absolute authority and how it transcends all understanding.

1. Isaiah 40:13 - “Who has directed the Spirit of the LORD, or as His counselor has instructed Him?”

2. Job 42:2 - “I know that You can do all things, and that no purpose of Yours can be thwarted.”

Romans 11:35 Or who hath first given to him, and it shall be recompensed unto him again?

God's wisdom and power are unfathomable.

1: We need to recognize that we can never fully understand God's ways, but we must trust in His mercy and grace.

2: We should be in awe of God's immense greatness and humbly seek to understand His will for us.

1: Jeremiah 32:17 - "Ah Lord GOD! behold, thou hast made the heaven and the earth by thy great power and stretched out arm, and there is nothing too hard for thee".

2: Isaiah 40:28 - "Hast thou not known? hast thou not heard, that the everlasting God, the LORD, the Creator of the ends of the earth, fainteth not, neither is weary? there is no searching of his understanding".

Romans 11:36 For of him, and through him, and to him, are all things: to whom be glory for ever. Amen.

God is the source of all things and is worthy of our praise and glory.

1: We are to give glory to God for all that He has provided.

2: We should offer thanks and praise to God for all He has done.

1: Colossians 1:16-17 - For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him.

2: Psalm 136:1-3 - Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever. Give thanks to the God of gods, for his steadfast love endures forever. Give thanks to the Lord of lords, for his steadfast love endures forever.

Romans 12 marks a transition in Paul's letter from theological teachings to practical instructions for Christian living. The chapter covers themes of sacrificial living, spiritual gifts, and the call to love others.

1st Paragraph: The chapter begins with Paul urging believers to offer their bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is their true and proper worship. He encourages them not conform pattern world but be transformed renewing mind then will be able test approve what God’s will is—his good pleasing perfect will (Romans 12:1-2). This sets the stage for practical guidance on how Christians should live out their faith.

2nd Paragraph: In verses 3-8, Paul discusses spiritual gifts. He advises believers not think more highly themselves than ought but rather think sober judgment each according faith God has distributed them (Romans 12:3). Using body as an analogy, he emphasizes that we have different gifts according grace given us whether prophecy accordance faith serving serving teaching teaching encouraging encouragement giving generosity leading diligence mercy cheerfulness (Romans 12:4-8). This highlights importance recognizing using unique gifts service body Christ.

3rd Paragraph: From verse 9 onwards, Paul gives exhortations on love and ethical behavior. He urges believers love must sincere hate what evil cling what good devoted one another love honor one another above yourselves never lacking zeal keep spiritual fervor serving Lord patient affliction faithful prayer share with Lord’s people who are in need practice hospitality bless those persecute you rejoice with those rejoice mourn with those mourn live harmony one another do not repay anyone evil for evil careful do right eyes everyone possible far depends you live peaceably all (Romans 12:9-18). He concludes chapter saying 'Do not be overcome by evil but overcome evil with good' (Romans 12:21), emphasizing theme loving response even face opposition.

Romans 12:1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.

Paul encourages Christians to dedicate their lives to God as an act of worship.

1. "Living Sacrifices: Dedicating Your Life to God"

2. "Holy and Acceptable: What it Means to Worship God"

1. Matthew 22:37-40 - Jesus teaching to love God with all your heart, soul, and mind.

2. Psalm 51:17 - A prayer for a broken and contrite heart, acceptable to God.

Romans 12:2 And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

We should not conform to the standards of the world, but instead be transformed by renewing our minds so that we can discern and do God's will.

1. Don't be a Sheep - Choose to Stand Out.

2. Don't Follow the Crowd - Follow God.

1. Ephesians 4:23-24 - And be renewed in the spirit of your mind; And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.

2. 1 Peter 1:13-16 - Therefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and hope to the end for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ; As obedient children, not fashioning yourselves according to the former lusts in your ignorance: But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation; Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy.

Romans 12:3 For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith.

Christians should have an honest and humble view of themselves, and should recognize the faith that God has granted them.

1. The Grace of Humbleness

2. Living a Life of Faithful Sobriety

1. James 4:10 - Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up.

2. 1 Corinthians 4:7 - For who maketh thee to differ from another? and what hast thou that thou didst not receive? now if thou didst receive it, why dost thou glory, as if thou hadst not received it?

Romans 12:4 For as we have many members in one body, and all members have not the same office:

The passage speaks of the importance of understanding that there are different roles and responsibilities within the body of Christ.

1: Different members, different roles: A look at how the body of Christ works together

2: Celebrating Unity in Diversity: Appreciating the beauty of our differences within the church

1: 1 Corinthians 12:14-26 - A look at the different spiritual gifts within the church

2: Ephesians 4:1-16 - A look at the different roles of leadership and how they serve to build up the church.

Romans 12:5 So we, being many, are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another.

Believers are united through Christ, and are connected to each other as members of one body.

1. "The Body of Christ: Unity through our Connection"

2. "Strengthen your Bond with Your Brothers and Sisters in Christ"

1. Colossians 3:14-15 - "And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful."

2. Ephesians 4:1-3 - "I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace."

Romans 12:6 Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, whether prophecy, let us prophesy according to the proportion of faith;

We should use our gifts in accordance with the grace God has given us.

1. Use Your Gifts to Serve God

2. Making the Most of the Gifts God Has Given You

1. Ephesians 4:7-8 - But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ’s gift. Therefore it says, “When He ascended on high, He led captivity captive, And gave gifts to men.”

2. 1 Corinthians 12:4-7 - Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit. And there are varieties of ministries, and the same Lord. There are varieties of effects, but the same God who works all things in all persons. But to each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. For to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, and to another the word of knowledge according to the same Spirit.

Romans 12:7 Or ministry, let us wait on our ministering: or he that teacheth, on teaching;

This passage encourages us to be devoted to our tasks and to serve faithfully in whatever role we are called to.

1. "The Call to Serve Faithfully"

2. "True Devotion to our Tasks"

1. Colossians 3:23-24 - "Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving."

2. 1 Corinthians 15:58 - "Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain."

Romans 12:8 Or he that exhorteth, on exhortation: he that giveth, let him do it with simplicity; he that ruleth, with diligence; he that sheweth mercy, with cheerfulness.

The passage encourages us to serve with excellence, diligence, cheerfulness, and simplicity.

1: Serving with Excellence

2: Serving with Cheerfulness

1: Colossians 3:23-24 - "Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving."

2: 1 Corinthians 10:31 - "So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God."

Romans 12:9 Let love be without dissimulation. Abhor that which is evil; cleave to that which is good.

Love sincerely and consistently, avoid evil and pursue good.

1. Pursuing Love: The Power of Consistency

2. The Difference Between Good and Evil

1. James 1:22 - "But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves."

2. 1 Corinthians 13:4-7 - "Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things."

Romans 12:10 Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another;

Christians should show love and honor to one another.

1. "Love Your Brother: An Examination of Romans 12:10"

2. "Honor One Another: The Power of Romans 12:10"

1. John 13:34-35 "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."

2. 1 Peter 4:8 "And above all things have fervent love for one another, for love will cover a multitude of sins."

Romans 12:11 Not slothful in business; fervent in spirit; serving the Lord;

The passage emphasizes the importance of being active and enthusiastic in service to the Lord.

1. “Living an Active Faith: The Power of Being Fervent in Spirit”

2. “Serving the Lord: The Joy of Living a Life of Faithful Service”

1. Jeremiah 29:11-13 – “For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope. Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will hear you. You will seek me and find me, when you seek me with all your heart.”

2. Psalm 37:4-5 – “Delight yourself in the Lord, and he will give you the desires of your heart. Commit your way to the Lord; trust in him, and he will act.”

Romans 12:12 Rejoicing in hope; patient in tribulation; continuing instant in prayer;

The passage encourages us to remain hopeful and patient in times of tribulation and to continue in prayer.

1. Rejoice in Hope: The Power of Prayer in Times of Trouble

2. Patience in Tribulation: How to Stay Strong in Difficult Times

1. Philippians 4:4-7 - Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice! Let your gentleness be known to all men. The Lord is at hand. Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

2. James 1:2-5 - My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing. If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him. But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind.

Romans 12:13 Distributing to the necessity of saints; given to hospitality.

This passage encourages us to be generous and hospitable to those in need.

1: "The Joy of Generosity"

2: "The Hospitality of the Saints"

1: Luke 6:38 - "Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you."

2: James 2:15-17 - "Suppose a brother or a sister is without clothes and daily food. If one of you says to them, “Go in peace; keep warm and well fed,” but does nothing about their physical needs, what good is it? In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead."

Romans 12:14 Bless them which persecute you: bless, and curse not.

This passage encourages us to show love and kindness even to those who persecute us.

1. The Power of Forgiveness: How to Love Your Enemies

2. Breaking the Cycle of Revenge: Choosing Blessing Over Curse

1. Matthew 5:44 - “But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you.”

2. Ephesians 4:31-32 - “Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.”

Romans 12:15 Rejoice with them that do rejoice, and weep with them that weep.

Christians should share in the joys and sorrows of others.

1. "Living Outlove: Experiencing Joy and Sorrow with Others"

2. "The Power of Compassion: A Call to Rejoice and Weep"

1. Job 16:20-21 – “My intercessor is my friend as my eyes pour out tears to God; on behalf of a man He pleads with God as one pleads for a friend.”

2. James 5:11 – “Behold, we consider those blessed who endured. You have heard of the endurance of Job and have seen the outcome of the Lord's dealings, that the Lord is full of compassion and is merciful.”

Romans 12:16 Be of the same mind one toward another. Mind not high things, but condescend to men of low estate. Be not wise in your own conceits.

Christians should have a humble attitude towards one another, not thinking too highly of themselves and not looking down on others.

1. The Power of Humility in Christian Fellowship

2. Pride Versus Humility: A Study of Romans 12:16

1. Philippians 2:3–4 - "Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, 4 not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others."

2. James 4:10 - "Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up."

Romans 12:17 Recompense to no man evil for evil. Provide things honest in the sight of all men.

Do not respond to evil with evil, instead act in an honest and honorable way in the sight of everyone.

1. The Power of a Positive Response - Exploring how we can make a positive response to evil instead of responding with evil.

2. Living a Life of Integrity - Understanding the importance of acting in an honest and honorable way in all situations.

1. Proverbs 20:22 - Do not say, "I will repay evil"; wait for the Lord, and he will deliver you.

2. Matthew 5:38-39 - You have heard that it was said, 'An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.' But I tell you, do not resist an evil person. If anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to them the other cheek also.

Romans 12:18 If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men.

This passage encourages us to strive for peaceful relationships with all people.

1. "A Call to Live Peaceably"

2. "Living in Harmony with Our Neighbors"

1. Matthew 5:9 - "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God."

2. Proverbs 15:1 - "A soft answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger."

Romans 12:19 Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord.

Believers should not take matters of vengeance into their own hands, instead allowing God to take care of justice.

1. "The Lord Will Avenge: Trusting in God's Justice" 2. "Forbearing Wrath: Practicing Forgiveness in the Face of Injustice"

1. Proverbs 20:22 - "Do not say, “I’ll pay you back for this wrong!” Wait for the Lord, and he will avenge you." 2. Hebrews 10:30 - "For we know him who said, “Vengeance is mine; I will repay,” and again, “The Lord will judge his people.”

Romans 12:20 Therefore if thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him drink: for in so doing thou shalt heap coals of fire on his head.

Christians should love their enemies and show them kindness, even when they are not deserving of it.

1. The Power of Love Over Hatred

2. Doing Good to Those Who Wrong Us

1. Matthew 5:44 - "But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you."

2. Proverbs 25:21-22 - "If your enemy is hungry, give him food to eat; if he is thirsty, give him water to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head, and the Lord will reward you."

Romans 12:21 Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good.

Believers should not let evil overcome them, but instead should overcome evil by doing good.

1. "The Power of Good Over Evil"

2. "Overcoming Evil with God's Strength"

1. Matthew 5:44 – "But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you."

2. Ephesians 4:31–32 – "Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you."

Romans 13 is a chapter in which Paul addresses the relationship between Christians and civil authorities, as well as the obligations of love and moral conduct.

1st Paragraph: The chapter begins with Paul advising believers to submit to governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. He warns that those who rebel against authority are rebelling against what God has instituted, and they will bring judgment on themselves. For rulers hold no terror for those who do right, but for those who do wrong (Romans 13:1-3). He further explains that authorities are God's servants for our good and bear the sword as an avenger to carry out God's wrath on wrongdoer hence it is necessary submit not only because wrath but also conscience (Romans 13:4-5).

2nd Paragraph: In verses 6-7, Paul instructs believers to pay taxes and respect to whom it is owed because authorities are God’s servants give everyone what owe—if taxes tax revenue if revenue respect respect if honor honor (Romans 13:6-7). This shows Christian responsibility towards society including fulfilling civic duties faithfully.

3rd Paragraph: From verse 8 onwards, Paul discusses love as fulfillment of the law. He encourages believers let no debt remain outstanding except continuing debt love one another whoever loves others has fulfilled law commandments 'You shall not commit adultery' 'You shall not murder' 'You shall not steal' 'You shall not covet' whatever other command there may be summed up this one command 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' Love does no harm neighbor therefore love fulfillment law (Romans 13:8-10). The chapter concludes with a call to holy living in light of the present time understanding moment already time wake up sleep salvation nearer now than when first believed night nearly over day almost here so let us put aside deeds darkness put armor light behave decently as in daytime (Romans 13:11-14). This section reinforces theme living out Christian faith through genuine love ethical behavior anticipation Christ's return.

Romans 13:1 Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God.

Every soul should obey the governing authorities as God has put them in their position of power.

1. The Power of Obedience: Submitting to Authority

2. Understanding the Sovereignty of God

1. Daniel 2:21: "He [God] changes times and seasons; He removes kings and sets up kings"

2. Titus 3:1: "Remind them to be subject to rulers and authorities, to obey, to be ready for every good work"

Romans 13:2 Whosoever therefore resisteth the power, resisteth the ordinance of God: and they that resist shall receive to themselves damnation.

This passage emphasizes the importance of respecting authority, as resisting the power is seen as resisting God's ordinance and will result in punishment.

1. The Power of Authority: Respecting the Order of God

2. Obeying Authority: Submitting to the Will of God

1. 1 Peter 2:13-14: "Be subject for the Lord's sake to every human institution, whether it be to the emperor as supreme, or to governors as sent by him to punish those who do wrong and to praise those who do right."

2. Psalm 33:12: "Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord, the people whom he has chosen as his heritage!"

Romans 13:3 For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to the evil. Wilt thou then not be afraid of the power? do that which is good, and thou shalt have praise of the same:

Rulers should not be feared for doing good works, only for doing evil. Doing good earns praise from those in power.

1. Doing Good is Rewarded by Those in Authority

2. Fear Not the Power, Follow the Path of Good

1. Proverbs 21:3 - To do justice and judgment is more acceptable to the LORD than sacrifice.

2. Psalm 37:3 - Trust in the LORD, and do good; so shalt thou dwell in the land, and verily thou shalt be fed.

Romans 13:4 For he is the minister of God to thee for good. But if thou do that which is evil, be afraid; for he beareth not the sword in vain: for he is the minister of God, a revenger to execute wrath upon him that doeth evil.

The passage suggests that God has appointed rulers to punish those who do evil and reward those who do good.

1. The Power of God's Authority: Living Righteously in a Broken World

2. Submission to Authority: Understanding the Role of Government in the Kingdom of God

1. James 4:7 - Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

2. Ephesians 6:12 - For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.

Romans 13:5 Wherefore ye must needs be subject, not only for wrath, but also for conscience sake.

We are called to submit to the authorities God has placed over us, not only out of fear, but also out of obedience to His will.

1: Obedience to God's Will

2: Submitting to Authority

1: Ephesians 6:1-3 - Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. Honor your father and mother, that your days may be long in the land that the Lord your God is giving you.

2: 1 Peter 2:13-15 - Be subject for the Lord’s sake to every human institution, whether it be to the emperor as supreme, or to governors as sent by him to punish those who do evil and to praise those who do good.

Romans 13:6 For for this cause pay ye tribute also: for they are God's ministers, attending continually upon this very thing.

We owe respect and support to our government and its leaders, as they are God's servants.

1: We are called to respect and honor our government and its leaders, as they are God's servants.

2: We should be obedient to our government and its leaders, as they are appointed by God.

1: Matthew 22:21 - “Render therefore to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s, and to God the things that are God’s.”

2: 1 Peter 2:13-14 - “Submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord’s sake: whether it be to the king, as supreme; Or unto governors, as unto them that are sent by him for the punishment of evildoers, and for the praise of them that do well.”

Romans 13:7 Render therefore to all their dues: tribute to whom tribute is due; custom to whom custom; fear to whom fear; honour to whom honour.

Give due respect and honor to those in authority.

1: Our society is based on law and order, and as Christians, we must respect the people in authority.

2: Our actions must reflect our respect and honor for those in authority, and we must pay tribute to those who deserve it.

1: 1 Peter 2:17 - Honor all people, love the brotherhood, fear God, honor the king.

2: Titus 3:1 - Remind them to be subject to rulers and authorities, to obey, to be ready for every good work.

Romans 13:8 Owe no man any thing, but to love one another: for he that loveth another hath fulfilled the law.

Owe nothing to anyone except love one another: fulfilling the law through love.

1. The Power of Love: How to Fulfill the Law

2. The Commandment to Love: Overcoming Debt

1. Galatians 5:14 - "For the whole law is fulfilled in one word: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”

2. Matthew 22:36-40 - “Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?” And he said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets.”

Romans 13:9 For this, Thou shalt not commit adultery, Thou shalt not kill, Thou shalt not steal, Thou shalt not bear false witness, Thou shalt not covet; and if there be any other commandment, it is briefly comprehended in this saying, namely, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.

The passage is about fulfilling the commandments of God, specifically the Ten Commandments, by loving one's neighbor as oneself.

1. Love Thy Neighbor: Fulfilling the Commandments of God

2. The Power of Loving Our Neighbors: Living Out the Words of Romans 13:9

1. Matthew 22:37-40: “Jesus said to him, ‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.”

2. Galatians 5:14: “For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’”

Romans 13:10 Love worketh no ill to his neighbour: therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.

Love is the foundation of fulfilling the law.

1. Love is the Path to Fulfilling God's Law

2. Living Out Love as Our Foundation

1. John 13:34-35 - “A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”

2. Matthew 22:36-40 - “‘Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?’ And he said to him, ‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets.’”

Romans 13:11 And that, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed.

This passage encourages believers to wake up and recognize that salvation is closer than ever.

1: Wake Up! Recognizing the Closeness of Salvation

2: Don't Sleep On It: Salvation Is Near

1: 1 Thessalonians 5:6-8 Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be sober. For they that sleep sleep in the night; and they that be drunken are drunken in the

night. But let us, who are of the day, be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love; and for an helmet, the hope of salvation.

2: Hebrews 6:11-12 And we desire that every one of you do show the same diligence to the full assurance of hope unto the end: That ye be not slothful, but followers of them who through faith and patience inherit the promises.

Romans 13:12 The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light.

We should cast off sinful behavior and instead embrace righteousness during this new day.

1. The Day of Redemption: Don't Waste Another Moment

2. Don't Get Caught in the Dark: Put on the Armour of Light

1. Ephesians 6:11-17 - Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

2. Colossians 3:5-11 - Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry.

Romans 13:13 Let us walk honestly, as in the day; not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness, not in strife and envying.

Live a holy life by avoiding immoral activities such as drunkenness and promiscuity.

1. Living a Life of Purity and Holiness

2. The Power of Righteous Living

1. 1 Thessalonians 4:3-8 - For this is the will of God, even your sanctification, that ye should abstain from fornication: That every one of you should know how to possess his vessel in sanctification and honour; Not in the lust of concupiscence, even as the Gentiles which know not God: That no man go beyond and defraud his brother in any matter: because that the Lord is the avenger of all such, as we also have forewarned you and testified. For God hath not called us unto uncleanness, but unto holiness. He therefore that despiseth, despiseth not man, but God, who hath also given unto us his holy Spirit.

2. Titus 2:12 - Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world.

Romans 13:14 But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof.

Live according to the teachings of Jesus Christ and resist the temptations of the flesh.

1. The Power of Christ to Resist Temptation

2. How to Follow Jesus' Teachings in Everyday Life

1. 1 Corinthians 10:13, "No temptation has overtaken you except what is common to mankind. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can endure it."

2. Galatians 5:16-17, "So I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. For the flesh desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the flesh. They are in conflict with each other, so that you are not to do whatever you want."

Romans 14 discusses the theme of Christian liberty, dealing with disputes over doubtful matters, and the principle of not causing a fellow believer to stumble.

1st Paragraph: The chapter begins with Paul advising believers to accept those who are weak in faith without quarreling over disputable matters. He uses example food observance days highlight differences convictions among believers each should be fully convinced their own mind because we live Lord die Lord whether live die belong Lord (Romans 14:1-8). This sets tone discussion regarding tolerance diversity within Christian community.

2nd Paragraph: In verses 9-12, Paul emphasizes that Christ died and returned to life so that he might be the Lord of both the dead and the living. Hence, we will all stand before God’s judgment seat each us give account ourselves God (Romans 14:9-12). This underscores importance personal accountability God rather than judging fellow believers over non-essential issues.

3rd Paragraph: From verse 13 onwards, Paul instructs believers not pass judgment one another any longer but rather decide never put stumbling block obstacle way brother sister (Romans 14:13). He explains while everything may be clean for one believer if it

causes another to stumble it is wrong (Romans 14:20) hence kingdom God not matter eating drinking but righteousness peace joy Holy Spirit whoever serves Christ this way pleasing God receives human approval (Romans 14:17-18). The chapter concludes with exhortation pursue peace mutual edification do not destroy work God sake food keep what you believe between yourself God blessed is one does not condemn himself by what he approves (Romans 14:19-22). This highlights principle living love consideration others even midst personal freedom.

Romans 14:1 Him that is weak in the faith receive ye, but not to doubtful disputations.

Believers should accept each other without argument over matters of personal faith.

1. We Should Not Judge Others' Faith

2. Accepting Each Other in Love

1. 1 Corinthians 13:4-7 - Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs.

2. James 4:11-12 - Do not speak evil against one another, brothers. The one who speaks against a brother or judges his brother, speaks evil against the law and judges the law. But if you judge the law, you are not a doer of the law but a judge.

Romans 14:2 For one believeth that he may eat all things: another, who is weak, eateth herbs.

Two people have different views on what they can eat. One believes they can eat all things, while the other, who is weak, only eats herbs.

1. The Strength of Knowing Your Limits

2. The Power of Accepting Differences

1. Matthew 6:25-34 - Consider the lilies of the field

2. Philippians 4:4-7 - Rejoice in the Lord Always

Romans 14:3 Let not him that eateth despise him that eateth not; and let not him which eateth not judge him that eateth: for God hath received him.

Christians should not judge one another based on their dietary habits, because God has accepted them both.

1. The Power of Forgiveness: A Study in Romans 14:3

2. Unconditional Love: Living Out Romans 14:3

1. Luke 6:37 - "Judge not, and ye shall not be judged: condemn not, and ye shall not be condemned: forgive, and ye shall be forgiven:"

2. Ephesians 4:32 - "And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you."

Romans 14:4 Who art thou that judgest another man's servant? to his own master he standeth or falleth. Yea, he shall be holden up: for God is able to make him stand.

Christians should not judge one another as everyone has their own master, God, to whom they ultimately answer.

1. "We are Each Accountable to God"

2. "The Power of God and His Ability to Make Us Stand"

1. Romans 3:23 "For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God."

2. Isaiah 40:28-31 "Have you not known? Have you not heard? The everlasting God, the LORD, the Creator of the ends of the earth, neither faints nor is weary. His understanding is unsearchable. He gives power to the weak, and to those who have no might He increases strength. Even the youths shall faint and be weary, and the young men shall utterly fall, but those who wait on the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint."

Romans 14:5 One man esteemeth one day above another: another esteemeth every day alike. Let every man be fully persuaded in his own mind.

Everyone should form their own opinions on how to best honor God.

1: The importance of having your own opinion and standing by it.

2: The importance of respecting other people's opinions.

1: Proverbs 3:5-6 - "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight."

2: Philippians 4:8 - "Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things."

Romans 14:6 He that regardeth the day, regardeth it unto the Lord; and he that regardeth not the day, to the Lord he doth not regard it. He that eateth, eateth to the Lord, for he giveth God thanks; and he that eateth not, to the Lord he eateth not, and giveth God thanks.

Paul encourages believers to recognize that everything they do should be done for God's glory, whether it be observing a day, or eating or not eating.

1. "Living for God in All Things"

2. "God's Presence in Everyday Life"

1. Colossians 3:23 - "Whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men."

2. 1 Corinthians 10:31 - "Whether, then, you eat or drink or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God."

Romans 14:7 For none of us liveth to himself, and no man dieth to himself.

All people live and die for something greater than themselves.

1. Living and Dying for Something Greater - Romans 14:7

2. Focusing on the Bigger Picture - Romans 14:7

1. Galatians 6:7 Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.

2. Hebrews 12:1–2 Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Romans 14:8 For whether we live, we live unto the Lord; and whether we die, we die unto the Lord: whether we live therefore, or die, we are the Lord's.

In all stages of life, believers belong to the Lord - whether living or dying.

1. Living and Dying for the Lord - Romans 14:8

2. Belonging to the Lord in Every Season - Romans 14:8

1. Psalm 116:15 - Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints.

2. Deuteronomy 10:12 - What does the Lord your God require of you, but to fear the Lord your God, to walk in all his ways, to love him, to serve the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul.

Romans 14:9 For to this end Christ both died, and rose, and revived, that he might be Lord both of the dead and living.

God's ultimate goal is to be Lord of both the living and the dead.

1: Living for Eternity: The Gift of Knowing Christ

2: The Power of the Resurrection: The Hope of Salvation

1: John 11:25-26 - Jesus said, “I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in

me will live, even though they die.”

2: Romans 8:11 - The Spirit of God, who raised Jesus from the dead, lives in you. And just as God raised Christ Jesus from the dead, he will give life to your mortal bodies by this same Spirit living within you.

Romans 14:10 But why dost thou judge thy brother? or why dost thou set at nought thy brother? for we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ.

We should not judge or belittle one another as we will all stand before the judgement of Christ.

1. Reflecting on Romans 14:10 - How to Treat Others with Respect

2. The Judgment Seat of Christ - Why We Should Not Judge One Another

1. Matthew 7:1-5 - Do Not Judge Others

2. James 4:11-12 - Do Not Speak Evil of One Another

Romans 14:11 For it is written, As I live, saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God.

Every person will one day acknowledge and bow before God.

1: We must live our lives in preparation for the day when we will bow before God.

2: Our words and actions should honor and glorify God now, so that when we bow before Him, we will have no regrets.

1: Philippians 2:10-11 - At the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

2: Isaiah 45:23 - “I have sworn by Myself; The word has gone out of My mouth in righteousness, And shall not return, That to Me every knee shall bow, Every tongue shall take an oath.

Romans 14:12 So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God.

Everyone will be held accountable to God for their actions.

1. The Day of Reckoning: Understanding the Accountability We Have to God

2. Living Out Our Faith: Fulfilling Our Responsibilities to God

1. Matthew 12:36-37 - “But I tell you that everyone will have to give account on the day of judgment for every empty word they have spoken. For by your words you will be acquitted, and by your words you will be condemned.”

2. Hebrews 4:13 - “Nothing in all creation is hidden from God’s sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account.”

Romans 14:13 Let us not therefore judge one another any more: but judge this rather, that no man put a stumblingblock or an occasion to fall in his brother's way.

The passage encourages us to not judge each other and to help our brothers and sisters.

1. Living in Harmony: Avoiding Judgment and Encouraging Unity

2. Stumblingblocks: How to Support Rather than Disrupt Our Neighbor

1. Galatians 5:22-23 "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law."

2. Matthew 7:12 "Therefore, whatever you want men to do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets."

Romans 14:14 I know, and am persuaded by the Lord Jesus, that there is nothing unclean of itself: but to him that esteemeth any thing to be unclean, to him it is unclean.

Paul is convinced by Jesus that there is nothing inherently unclean, but whatever someone perceives as unclean is unclean to them.

1. The importance of respecting the beliefs of others and not judging them for their differences.

2. The power of our own beliefs and how they shape our thoughts and actions.

1. Proverbs 3:5-6 - Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.

2. Galatians 5:1 - For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.

Romans 14:15 But if thy brother be grieved with thy meat, now walkest thou not charitably. Destroy not him with thy meat, for whom Christ died.

We should not let our actions destroy someone for whom Christ died, even if it causes them grief.

1) Love thy neighbor despite differences in opinion

2) The importance of charity and mercy

1) Ephesians 4:32 - "And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you."

2) John 15:13 - "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends."

Romans 14:16 Let not then your good be evil spoken of:

Living according to God's will is more important than pleasing people.

1. Doing God's Will above All Else

2. Recognizing the Value of Others

1. Philippians 2:3-4 - Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves.

2. James 4:7 - Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

Romans 14:17 For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost.

The Kingdom of God is not based on physical things, but instead on righteousness, peace, and joy found in the Holy Spirit.

1. "Living in the Kingdom of God: Finding Righteousness, Peace, and Joy in the Holy Spirit"

2. "The Kingdom of God: Beyond Material Possessions"

1. Matthew 6:33 - "But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you."

2. Colossians 3:15 - "And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful."

Romans 14:18 For he that in these things serveth Christ is acceptable to God, and approved of men.

Serving Christ is pleasing to both God and people.

1. The Power of Service: How Doing Good for Others Brings Us Closer to God

2. The Acceptance of Serving: How Doing Good for Others Brings Us Acceptance from Others

1. Colossians 3:23-24 - "Whatever you do, do your work heartily, as for the Lord rather than for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance. It is the Lord Christ whom you serve."

2. Matthew 25:31-40 - "When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with

him, he will sit on his glorious throne. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. He will put the sheep on his right and the goats on his left. Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.' Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?' The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'

Romans 14:19 Let us therefore follow after the things which make for peace, and things wherewith one may edify another.

We should strive for peace and use our words and actions to build each other up.

1. The Power of Peace: How We Can Work Together for Unity

2. Building Up One Another: How We Can Make a Difference

1. Philippians 4:8-9 - Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me—practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you.

2. Colossians 3:12-14 - Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.

Romans 14:20 For meat destroy not the work of God. All things indeed are pure; but it is evil for that man who eateth with offence.

Do not allow your food choices to destroy the work of God. Everything is pure, but it is wrong to eat in a way that causes offense.

1. Eating with Humility and Respect

2. The Power of Food Choices

1. Philippians 2:3-4 - "Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others."

2. 1 Corinthians 8:9 - "But take care that this right of yours does not somehow become a stumbling block to the weak."

Romans 14:21 It is good neither to eat flesh, nor to drink wine, nor any thing whereby thy brother stumbleth, or is offended, or is made weak.

We should not do anything that causes another person to be weak, stumble, or be offended.

1. Doing Good to Others: The Spiritual Impact of Selfless Acts

2. Loving Others: Not Causing Harm by Our Actions

1. Matthew 7:12 - "Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them: for this is the law and the prophets."

2. Ephesians 4:32 - "Be kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you."

Romans 14:22 Hast thou faith? have it to thyself before God. Happy is he that condemneth not himself in that thing which he alloweth.

Believers should not judge themselves based on what they allow themselves to do.

1. "Living in the Balance: What We Allow and What We Condemn"

2. "The Power of Self-Reflection: Finding Contentment in God's Plan"

1. Philippians 4:11-13 - "Not that I am speaking of being in need, for I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content. I know how to be brought low, and I know how to

abound. In any and every circumstance, I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need. I can do all things through him who strengthens me."

2. Galatians 5:13-14 - "For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another. For the whole law is fulfilled in one word: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”

Romans 14:23 And he that doubteth is damned if he eat, because he eateth not of faith: for whatsoever is not of faith is sin.

Those who are unsure of what to do should not act out of doubt, because anything done without faith is considered sin.

1. Let your faith guide your actions.

2. Doubt is the enemy of faith.

1. Hebrews 11:6 - "And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him."

2. James 1:5-8 - "If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him. But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea that is driven and tossed by the wind. For that person must not suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways."

Romans 15 continues the discussion from the previous chapter on Christian living, focusing on mutual edification, Christ as a model of acceptance and Paul's ministry to the Gentiles.

1st Paragraph: The chapter begins with Paul advising believers that we who are strong ought to bear with failings weak not please ourselves each us should please our neighbors good build them up. He points Christ did not please himself but as it is written 'The insults those insult you have fallen me' (Romans 15:1-3). He notes that everything that was written in past was written teach us so through endurance encouragement Scriptures might have hope (Romans 15:4).

2nd Paragraph: In verses 5-13, Paul offers a prayer for unity among believers so that with one mind and one voice they may glorify God. He urges them to accept one another just as Christ accepted them in order to bring praise to God. He then outlines how Jesus became servant Jews confirm promises made patriarchs Gentiles might glorify God his

mercy quoting several Old Testament passages show inclusive nature God's salvation plan culminating his hope 'May God hope fill you all joy peace believing so power Holy Spirit may overflow hope' (Romans 15:5-13).

3rd Paragraph: From verse 14 onwards, Paul shares about his ministry among Gentiles expressing his ambition preach gospel where Christ was not known so he would not be building someone else’s foundation (Romans 15:20). He explains why he has been hindered from visiting Rome because of this mission work but now there no more place these regions since he has been longing many years visit when he goes Spain hopes see them while passing through be assisted journey there by them if first enjoyed their company some time (Romans 15:22-24). The chapter ends with Paul's plan visit Jerusalem service Lord’s people there requesting prayers may be kept safe unbelievers Judea service offering may be acceptable saints purpose come safely see them according will God filled joy together refreshment Romans 15:30-32). This provides glimpse into apostle's missionary heart passion spread gospel unreached areas.

Romans 15:1 We then that are strong ought to bear the infirmities of the weak, and not to please ourselves.

We should be willing to help those in need, rather than always looking out for our own interests.

1: Be a Good Samaritan - Loving and Serving Others

2: Not Pleasing Ourselves - Putting Others Before Ourselves

1: Matthew 22:36-40 - Love God and Love Your Neighbor

2: Philippians 2:3-4 - Do Nothing Out of Selfish Ambition

Romans 15:2 Let every one of us please his neighbour for his good to edification.

We should strive to please our neighbors in order to build each other up.

1. "Love Your Neighbor: The Key to Edification"

2. "The Power of Unity Through Love"

1. Ephesians 4:29 "Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers."

2. Colossians 3:12-14 "Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering; Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye. And above all these things put on charity, which is the bond of perfectness."

Romans 15:3 For even Christ pleased not himself; but, as it is written, The reproaches of them that reproached thee fell on me.

Christ's self-sacrifice is a model of how to put others first.

1: We should follow Christ's example of selflessness to put others first in our lives.

2: As Jesus did, we should endure the insults of others for the benefit of others.

1: Philippians 2:3-4 - "Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others."

2: Matthew 5:39 - "But I tell you, do not resist an evil person. If anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to them the other cheek also."

Romans 15:4 For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope.

God's Word is a source of comfort and hope for us.

1: "Patience and Comfort in the Scriptures"

2: "The Hope We Receive from God's Word"

1: Psalm 119:105 "Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path."

2: Hebrews 4:12 "For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and

discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart."

Romans 15:5 Now the God of patience and consolation grant you to be likeminded one toward another according to Christ Jesus:

Paul urges the Roman church to be unified in their faith and to be patient with each other, as Jesus Christ was.

1. "Patience in Unity: The Power of Christ in our Lives"

2. "Living in Accordance with Jesus: Achieving Unity through Patience"

1. Ephesians 4:3 - "Make every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace."

2. Colossians 3:13 - "Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you."

Romans 15:6 That ye may with one mind and one mouth glorify God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

We can honor and glorify God through unified and unified expressions of praise.

1: "Unity in Praise"

2: "Glorifying God Together"

1: Philippians 2:5-11 - Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men.

2: Psalm 34:3 - Oh, magnify the LORD with me, and let us exalt his name together!

Romans 15:7 Wherefore receive ye one another, as Christ also received us to the glory of God.

Christians should receive each other as Christ received us, to bring glory to God.

1. The Power of Acceptance: How We Can Glorify God Through Loving Others

2. Loving All: How We Can Reflect Christ Through Our Actions

1. John 13:34-35 - "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."

2. Ephesians 4:2-3 – "With all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love, endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace."

Romans 15:8 Now I say that Jesus Christ was a minister of the circumcision for the truth of God, to confirm the promises made unto the fathers:

Jesus Christ was a minister of God to fulfil the promises made to the fathers.

1. The Fulfilment of God's Promises

2. Jesus Christ: Minister of God

1. Isaiah 55:11 - "So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it."

2. Hebrews 11:17-19 – "By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises offered up his only begotten son, of whom it was said, 'In Isaac your seed shall be called,' concluding that God was able to raise him up, even from the dead, from which he also received him in a figurative sense."

Romans 15:9 And that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy; as it is written, For this cause I will confess to thee among the Gentiles, and sing unto thy name.

The Gentiles were able to glorify God for his mercy, which was written in Romans 15:9.

1. God's Mercy: A Source of Blessings and Glory

2. Celebrating God's Mercy: An Expression of Gratitude

1. Psalm 18:49 - Therefore I will give thanks unto thee, O LORD, among the heathen, and I will sing praises unto thy name.

2. Ephesians 2:4-5 - But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved).

Romans 15:10 And again he saith, Rejoice, ye Gentiles, with his people.

Paul calls for Gentiles to rejoice and celebrate with the people of God.

1. The Power of Unity: Rejoicing with God's People

2. The Joy of Belonging: Celebrating with the Family of God

1. Psalm 133:1 - “Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!”

2. Galatians 6:10 - “Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith.”

Romans 15:11 And again, Praise the Lord, all ye Gentiles; and laud him, all ye people.

Paul exhorts both Gentiles and people to praise and laud the Lord.

1. The Power of Praise: How Giving Honor to God Unlocks His Blessing

2. Rejoicing in the Lord: Celebrating Our Salvation Through Praise

1. Psalm 28:6-7 - "Blessed be the LORD! For he has heard the voice of my pleas for mercy. The LORD is my strength and my shield; in him my heart trusts, and I am helped; my heart exults, and with my song I give thanks to him."

2. Revelation 5:11-13 - "Then I looked, and I heard around the throne and the living creatures and the elders the voice of many angels, numbering myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands, saying with a loud voice, “Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!” And I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, and all that is in them, saying, “To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever!”

Romans 15:12 And again, Esaias saith, There shall be a root of Jesse, and he that shall rise to reign over the Gentiles; in him shall the Gentiles trust.

This verse from the book of Romans speaks about the coming of a root of Jesse who will rule over the Gentiles and in whom the Gentiles will trust.

1. The Promise of a Trustworthy Ruler: How Jesus Fulfills the Prophecy of Isaiah

2. The Hope of a King: Relying on Jesus in a Troubled World

1. Isaiah 11:10 - "And in that day there shall be a root of Jesse, which shall stand for an ensign of the people; to it shall the Gentiles seek:"

2. Isaiah 11:1-2 - "And there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots: And the spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD."

Romans 15:13 Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that ye may abound in hope, through the power of the Holy Ghost.

God gives us joy and peace through believing in Him, allowing us to have hope in Him.

1. The Power of Hope in the Holy Spirit

2. Fulfilling Joy and Peace Through Faith

1. Isaiah 40:31 They that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.

2. Psalm 31:24 Be of good courage, and he shall strengthen your heart, all ye that hope in the Lord.

Romans 15:14 And I myself also am persuaded of you, my brethren, that ye also are full of goodness, filled with all knowledge, able also to admonish one another.

The brethren in Romans 15:14 are full of goodness and knowledge, and are able to admonish each other.

1. The Power of Working Together: Recognizing the Benefits of Unity in a Community of Believers

2. The Strength of Support: How to Encourage and Uplift Each Other as a Church

1. Ephesians 4:2-3 - "With all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace."

2. 1 Corinthians 12:12-13 - "For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and all were made to drink of one Spirit."

Romans 15:15 Nevertheless, brethren, I have written the more boldly unto you in some sort, as putting you in mind, because of the grace that is given to me of God,

Paul is reminding the Roman church of the grace that God has given him.

1. The Unwavering Grace of God

2. The Power of Reminders

1. Ephesians 2:8–9 For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast.

2. Proverbs 3:5–6 Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths.

Romans 15:16 That I should be the minister of Jesus Christ to the Gentiles, ministering

the gospel of God, that the offering up of the Gentiles might be acceptable, being sanctified by the Holy Ghost.

Paul was appointed to be the minister of Jesus Christ to the Gentiles, preaching the gospel of God in order for Gentiles to be sanctified by the Holy Spirit.

1. Accepting the Call: Paul's Ministry to the Gentiles

2. The Sanctifying Power of the Holy Spirit

1. Isaiah 61:1-2 - "The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me; because the Lord hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; he hath sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound; To proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord."

2. 2 Corinthians 5:17-21 - "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new. And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation; To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation. Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God. For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him."

Romans 15:17 I have therefore whereof I may glory through Jesus Christ in those things which pertain to God.

Paul speaks of his glory through Jesus Christ in regards to God.

1. The Power of Faith: How Jesus Can Help Us Live Our Lives for God

2. Reaching for the Glory: How to Find Significance Through Jesus Christ

1. Colossians 3:17 - And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

2. John 15:5 - I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.

Romans 15:18 For I will not dare to speak of any of those things which Christ hath not wrought by me, to make the Gentiles obedient, by word and deed,

Paul states that he will not speak of anything which Christ has not worked through him to make the Gentiles obedient in both word and deed.

1. The Power of Obedience: Paul’s Example of Serving Christ

2. Working Together For God’s Kingdom: Unity Through Obedience

1. Ephesians 4:1-3 - I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

2. Philippians 2:12-13 - Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

Romans 15:19 Through mighty signs and wonders, by the power of the Spirit of God; so that from Jerusalem, and round about unto Illyricum, I have fully preached the gospel of Christ.

Paul preached the gospel of Christ throughout Jerusalem and Illyricum with the power of the Spirit of God.

1: The Power of Preaching the Gospel

2: The Strength of the Holy Spirit

1: Acts 1:8 - "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

2: 1 Corinthians 2:4 - “My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the Spirit’s power.”

Romans 15:20 Yea, so have I strived to preach the gospel, not where Christ was named,

lest I should build upon another man's foundation:

Paul strived to preach the Gospel in places where Christ was not known, so that he would not need to build upon another man's foundation.

1. The Importance of Being a Pioneer for the Gospel

2. The Responsibility of Being a Gospel Witness

1. Romans 10:14-15 - How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach, except they be sent?

2. Acts 16:6-10 - Now when they had gone throughout Phrygia and the region of Galatia, and were forbidden of the Holy Ghost to preach the word in Asia, After they were come to Mysia, they assayed to go into Bithynia: but the Spirit suffered them not. And they passing by Mysia came down to Troas. And a vision appeared to Paul in the night; There stood a man of Macedonia, and prayed him, saying, Come over into Macedonia, and help us. And after he had seen the vision, immediately we endeavoured to go into Macedonia, assuredly gathering that the Lord had called us for to preach the gospel unto them.

Romans 15:21 But as it is written, To whom he was not spoken of, they shall see: and they that have not heard shall understand.

God's message of salvation is for everyone, not just those who were already familiar with it.

1: The Good News of Salvation is for All

2: Understanding the Unfamiliar through Faith

1: Isaiah 52:15, “So shall he sprinkle many nations; the kings shall shut their mouths at him: for that which had not been told them shall they see; and that which they had not heard shall they consider.”

2: Luke 24:47, “And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.”

Romans 15:22 For which cause also I have been much hindered from coming to you.

Paul was hindered from visiting the Romans due to some unspecified reason.

1. The Importance of Overcoming Obstacles in Life

2. The Power of Perseverance

1. Philippians 4:13 - I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.

2. 2 Corinthians 12:9-10 - My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.

Romans 15:23 But now having no more place in these parts, and having a great desire these many years to come unto you;

Paul expresses his desire to visit the Roman believers.

1. The Power of Desire: Learning to Pursue Our Dreams with Resolve

2. The Value of Relationships: Growing Spiritually in Fellowship

1. Philippians 3:10-14 - Pursuing Christ and His Righteousness

2. Hebrews 10:24-25 - Encouraging One Another and Stirring Up Love and Good Works

Romans 15:24 Whensoever I take my journey into Spain, I will come to you: for I trust to see you in my journey, and to be brought on my way thitherward by you, if first I be somewhat filled with your company.

Paul is expressing his desire to visit the Romans in Spain and be accompanied by them on his journey.

1. The importance of companionship on our journeys through life.

2. How companionship can help us on our spiritual journey.

1. Ecclesiastes 4:9-12 - Two are better than one; because they have a good reward for their labour.

2. Proverbs 27:17 - Iron sharpeneth iron; so a man sharpeneth the countenance of his friend.

Romans 15:25 But now I go unto Jerusalem to minister unto the saints.

Paul is travelling to Jerusalem to minister to the saints.

1. God's Faithful Servants: Paul and the Power of Dedication

2. Serving the Saints: A Call to Christian Action

1. Philippians 2:3-4 – “Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.”

2. 1 Peter 4:10 – “As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace.”

Romans 15:26 For it hath pleased them of Macedonia and Achaia to make a certain contribution for the poor saints which are at Jerusalem.

The people of Macedonia and Achaia were pleased to provide a financial contribution to the poor saints in Jerusalem.

1. Generosity: The Pleasure of Giving

2. God's Favor: Richly Bless Those Who Give

1. 2 Corinthians 9:7 - Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

2. Proverbs 11:24-25 - One person gives freely, yet gains even more; another withholds unduly, but comes to poverty. A generous person will prosper; whoever refreshes others

will be refreshed.

Romans 15:27 It hath pleased them verily; and their debtors they are. For if the Gentiles have been made partakers of their spiritual things, their duty is also to minister unto them in carnal things.

The Gentiles are obligated to minister to the Jewish people in temporal matters, as the Jews have shared their spiritual gifts with the Gentiles.

1. Reaping what we sow: The obligation of the Gentiles to the Jews.

2. Sharing our blessings: The importance of giving back.

1. Galatians 6:7-8 - Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap. For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life.

2. Proverbs 19:17 - Whoever is generous to the poor lends to the Lord, and he will repay him for his deed.

Romans 15:28 When therefore I have performed this, and have sealed to them this fruit, I will come by you into Spain.

Paul was planning to travel to Spain and bring the fruit of his mission with him.

1. The Fruit of Our Faith: What We Bring with Us on Our Journey

2. God's Plan for Our Lives: Following the Path That He Has Laid Out for Us

1. Matthew 6:33 - But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

2. Philippians 4:13 - I can do all this through him who gives me strength.

Romans 15:29 And I am sure that, when I come unto you, I shall come in the fulness of the blessing of the gospel of Christ.

Paul is confident that upon his arrival to the Romans, he will be bringing the fullness of the Gospel of Christ.

1. The Blessing of the Gospel - Romans 15:29

2. Fulfilling the Gospel - Romans 15:29

1. Romans 10:14-15 - How can they hear without someone preaching to them?

2. Galatians 6:9 - Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.

Romans 15:30 Now I beseech you, brethren, for the Lord Jesus Christ's sake, and for the love of the Spirit, that ye strive together with me in your prayers to God for me;

Paul requests the brethren to pray for him in the name of Jesus Christ and for the love of the Spirit.

1. The Power of Praying Together

2. The Importance of Supporting One Another

1. Acts 12:5 - Peter was in prison and the church prayed for him and he was miraculously released.

2. Ephesians 6:18 - Pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests.

Romans 15:31 That I may be delivered from them that do not believe in Judaea; and that my service which I have for Jerusalem may be accepted of the saints;

Paul desires to be delivered from those who do not believe in Judaea and hopes his service to Jerusalem will be accepted by the saints.

1. Living in Unbelief: The Danger of Refusing to Believe

2. Serving the Lord: The Power of Dedication and Commitment

1. John 3:16-18 “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God.”

2. James 1:22-25 “But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks intently at his natural face in a mirror. For he looks at himself and goes away and at once forgets what he was like. But the one who looks into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and perseveres, being no hearer who forgets but a doer who acts, he will be blessed in his doing.”

Romans 15:32 That I may come unto you with joy by the will of God, and may with you be refreshed.

Paul expresses his desire to come to the Roman believers with joy and to be refreshed in their presence.

1. Relying on God's Will: How We Find Joy and Refreshment

2. The Power of Fellowship: How We Receive Joy and Refreshment from Each Other

1. Philippians 4:4-7 - Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice. Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

2. Hebrews 10:24-25 - And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

Romans 15:33 Now the God of peace be with you all. Amen.

Paul sends a blessing to the people of Rome, wishing them peace from God.

1. The Peace of God in our Lives: How to Live in the Comfort of His Protection

2. The Blessing of Peace: Releasing Our Troubles to God

1. Philippians 4:6-7 - Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

2. Luke 12:22-26 - And he said to his disciples, “Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat, nor about your body, what you will put on. For life is more than food, and the body more than clothing. Consider the ravens: they neither sow nor reap, they have neither storehouse nor barn, and yet God feeds them. Of how much more value are you than the birds! And which of you by being anxious can add a single hour to his span of life? If then you are not able to do as small a thing as that, why are you anxious about the rest?

Romans 16 is the concluding chapter of Paul's letter to the Romans. It contains personal greetings to various individuals in the Roman church, warnings against divisive people, and a final doxology.

1st Paragraph: The chapter begins with Paul commending Phoebe, a deaconess of the church at Cenchreae, asking believers in Rome to receive her in a way worthy of saints and assist her in whatever she may need from them. He sends greetings to Priscilla and Aquila, his fellow workers in Christ Jesus who risked their lives for him (Romans 16:1-4). He continues by greeting numerous other individuals such as Epenetus, Mary, Andronicus, Junia and others highlighting their contributions faithfulness (Romans 16:5-15).

2nd Paragraph: In verses 17-20, Paul issues a warning against those who cause divisions and put obstacles contrary doctrine they have learned advising believers keep away from them (Romans 16:17). He cautions that such people are not serving Christ but their own appetites using smooth talk flattery deceive minds naive (Romans 16:18). Despite this warning he commends Romans obedience being reported everyone so he rejoices over them wants them be wise what good innocent what evil God peace will soon crush Satan under feet grace Lord Jesus be with you (Romans 16:19-20).

3rd Paragraph: From verse 21 onwards Paul sends greetings on behalf his companions like Timothy Lucius Jason Sosipater Tertius Gaius Erastus Quartus (Romans 16:21-23). The letter concludes with an elaborate doxology 'Now him able establish you accordance my gospel proclamation Jesus Christ revelation mystery kept secret long ages past now revealed through prophetic writings command eternal God made known all nations bring about obedience faith glory only wise God through Jesus Christ forever! Amen' (Roman 16:25-27). This reinforces themes gospel salvation through faith Jesus Christ divine wisdom plan unfolding ages for glory God.

Romans 16:1 I commend unto you Phebe our sister, which is a servant of the church which is at Cenchrea:

Paul commends Phebe, a servant of the church in Cenchrea, to the readers of his letter.

1. The Importance of Serving the Church

2. Celebrating the Contributions of Women in the Church

1. Hebrews 13:17 - Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you.

2. 1 Peter 4:10 - As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.

Romans 16:2 That ye receive her in the Lord, as becometh saints, and that ye assist her in whatsoever business she hath need of you: for she hath been a succourer of many, and of myself also.

This passage speaks of the importance of helping and supporting those who have done the same for us and others.

1. "Be A Succourer: Supporting Others in Need"

2. "The Power of Encouragement: Uplifting Others Through Kindness"

1. Philippians 2:3-4 - "Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others."

2. Proverbs 3:27-28 - "Do not withhold good from those to whom it is due, when it is in your power to act. Do not say to your neighbor, “Come back tomorrow and I’ll give it to you”— when you already have it with you."

Romans 16:3 Greet Priscilla and Aquila my helpers in Christ Jesus:

Paul greets Priscilla and Aquila, who were his helpers in spreading the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

1. The Power of Partnership in Ministry

2. Showing Appreciation to Those Who Serve

1. Ephesians 4:1-3 - I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

2. 1 Thessalonians 5:12-13 - We ask you, brothers, to respect those who labor among you and are over you in the Lord and admonish you, and to esteem them very highly in love because of their work. Be at peace among yourselves.

Romans 16:4 Who have for my life laid down their own necks: unto whom not only I give thanks, but also all the churches of the Gentiles.

Paul expresses his gratitude to those who have risked their lives for his, and the Gentile churches.

1: The Power of Gratitude: How to Show Appreciation for Those Who Go Above and Beyond

2: The Risk of Faith: How to Persevere When We Face Uncertainty

1: Hebrews 11:1 – “Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.”

2: James 2:26 – “For just as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is also dead.”

Romans 16:5 Likewise greet the church that is in their house. Salute my well-beloved Epaenetus, who is the firstfruits of Achaia unto Christ.

This passage is about Paul's instructions to greet the church in Epaenetus' house and to also salute Epaenetus, who was the first convert to Christianity in Achaia.

1: Everyone has the potential to be the firstfruits of the gospel - Epaenetus was the first convert in Achaia, and he stands as a reminder to be the first to share the gospel.

2: We should always take the time to greet and recognize one another, just as Paul instructed the church in Epaenetus' house to do.

1: Matthew 28:19-20 - "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

2: Acts 8:4 - "Now those who were scattered went about preaching the word."

Romans 16:6 Greet Mary, who bestowed much labour on us.

Mary was a hardworking and faithful servant of the church.

1. The Value of Hard Work - Romans 16:6

2. Recognizing Faithful Service - Romans 16:6

1. Proverbs 10:4 - "He becometh poor that dealeth with a slack hand: but the hand of the diligent maketh rich."

2. Proverbs 12:24 - "The hand of the diligent shall bear rule: but the slothful shall be under tribute."

Romans 16:7 Salute Andronicus and Junia, my kinsmen, and my fellow-prisoners, who are of note among the apostles, who also were in Christ before me.

Andronicus and Junia were of note among the apostles, having been in Christ before Paul.

1. The Significance of Andronicus and Junia as Apostles

2. The Power of Being in Christ Before Others

1. Acts 17:11-12, Paul's message of salvation in Christ

2. Matthew 22:37-40, Christ's commandment to love God and neighbor

Romans 16:8 Greet Amplias my beloved in the Lord.

Paul sends a greeting to Amplias, expressing his love for him in the Lord.

1. Loving One Another in the Lord: The Example of Paul and Amplias

2. Being Beloved in the Lord: The Blessing of Amplias

1. 1 John 4:7-11, "Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another."

2. 1 Corinthians 13:1-8, "If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. If I give away all I have, and if I deliver up my body to be burned, but have not love, I gain nothing. Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things."

Romans 16:9 Salute Urbane, our helper in Christ, and Stachys my beloved.

This passage is a greeting from Paul to two of his friends, Urbane and Stachys, who have helped him in his ministry of spreading the Gospel.

1. The Power of Encouragement: How Urbane and Stachys Helped Paul in His Mission

2. The Importance of Friendship in the Christian Life

1. Hebrews 10:24-25 – "And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but

encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching."

2. Ephesians 4:29 – "Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear."

Romans 16:10 Salute Apelles approved in Christ. Salute them which are of Aristobulus' household.

Paul instructs his readers to greet Apelles and those in Aristobulus' household who are approved in Christ.

1. The Importance of Encouraging Others in their Faith in Christ

2. How to Live a Life of Approval in the Eyes of Christ

1. Ephesians 4:1-3 - "I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace."

2. 1 Thessalonians 5:11 - "Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing."

Romans 16:11 Salute Herodion my kinsman. Greet them that be of the household of Narcissus, which are in the Lord.

This passage encourages believers to greet and recognize each other in the Lord, even if they have different backgrounds.

1. Recognizing Our Brothers and Sisters in Christ: The Power of Unity

2. Showing Love to All: Celebrating Our Diversity in the Lord

1. Galatians 3:28 - "There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus."

2. 1 John 4:7-8 - "Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God. He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is

love."

Romans 16:12 Salute Tryphena and Tryphosa, who labour in the Lord. Salute the beloved Persis, which laboured much in the Lord.

Paul salutes three women, Tryphena, Tryphosa and Persis, who labored much in the Lord.

1. Working as Unto the Lord: Celebrating the Dedication of Tryphena, Tryphosa and Persis

2. An Example of Service: Learning from the Faithful Labor of Tryphena, Tryphosa and Persis

1. Proverbs 31:17 - She girds herself with strength and makes her arms strong.

2. Colossians 3:23 - Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord.

Romans 16:13 Salute Rufus chosen in the Lord, and his mother and mine.

Paul greets Rufus, a fellow believer in the Lord, and his mother, who is also Paul's mother.

1. God's family extends beyond our own.

2. God's love for us transcends all differences.

1. 1 Corinthians 12:12-14 - For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ.

2. Ephesians 4:1-3 - I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love.

Romans 16:14 Salute Asyncritus, Phlegon, Hermas, Patrobas, Hermes, and the brethren which are with them.

This passage mentions the greetings of Paul to six individuals and the group of people

associated with them.

1. The Importance of Connecting with Others: A Study in Romans 16:14

2. How to Show Respect and Love to Those in Our Community: A Look at Romans 16:14

1. 1 John 4:7-12 - Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God.

2. Colossians 3:12-14 - Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience.

Romans 16:15 Salute Philologus, and Julia, Nereus, and his sister, and Olympas, and all the saints which are with them.

Paul greets the named individuals and all the believers with them.

1. The Power of Fellowship: the Strength of Community

2. The Blessing of Being Known by God

1. Acts 2:44-47 - The early church devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.

2. Psalm 139:1-4 - You have searched me, Lord, and you know me.

Romans 16:16 Salute one another with an holy kiss. The churches of Christ salute you.

Christians should greet each other with a holy kiss as a sign of unity and love.

1: We should demonstrate our love for one another by greeting each other with a holy kiss.

2: We should express our unity in the body of Christ through acts of love and kindness, such as a holy kiss.

1: 1 Peter 5:14 - Greet one another with a kiss of love.

2: John 13:34-35 - A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.

Romans 16:17 Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them.

Paul encourages the Church to identify and avoid those who promote false teachings.

1. The Danger of False Teachers

2. Remaining Faithful to the Truth

1. Titus 3:9-11 - But avoid foolish controversies, genealogies, dissensions, and quarrels about the law, for they are unprofitable and worthless. As for a person who stirs up division, after warning him once and then twice, have nothing more to do with him, knowing that such a person is warped and sinful; he is self-condemned.

2. 2 Timothy 4:2-4 - Preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching. For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions, and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths.

Romans 16:18 For they that are such serve not our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly; and by good words and fair speeches deceive the hearts of the simple.

Some people serve their own selfish desires instead of Jesus and deceive people through pleasant words.

1. Be wary of those who use flattery and empty promises to draw people away from Jesus. 2. We must put aside our own desires and focus on the teachings of Jesus.

1. Proverbs 26:24-25 - He who hates disguises it with his lips, But he lays up deceit in his heart. When he speaks kindly, do not believe him, For there are seven abominations in his heart. 2. Ephesians 5:15-17 - See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is.

Romans 16:19 For your obedience is come abroad unto all men. I am glad therefore on your behalf: but yet I would have you wise unto that which is good, and simple concerning evil.

Paul is pleased with the obedience of the Roman believers but encourages them to be wise in what is good and innocent in what is evil.

1. The Wisdom of Obedience

2. Walking in Innocence

1. Proverbs 3:13-15 (13) Happy is the man that findeth wisdom, and the man that getteth understanding. (14) For the merchandise of it is better than the merchandise of silver, and the gain thereof than fine gold. (15) She is more precious than rubies: and all the things thou canst desire are not to be compared unto her.

2. Philippians 4:4-7 (4) Rejoice in the Lord alway: and again I say, Rejoice. (5) Let your moderation be known unto all men. The Lord is at hand. (6) Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. (7) And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

Romans 16:20 And the God of peace shall bruise Satan under your feet shortly. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. Amen.

The God of peace will defeat Satan and bring peace to believers; the grace of Jesus Christ will be with them.

1: Rejoice in the knowledge that God will bring peace to believers and that Jesus' grace will be with them.

2: Be encouraged that the God of peace is on our side and that Jesus' grace is with us.

1: Isaiah 11:6-9 - The wolf shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the young goat, and the calf and the lion and the fattened calf together; and a little child shall lead them.

2: Philippians 4:7 - And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard

your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Romans 16:21 Timotheus my workfellow, and Lucius, and Jason, and Sosipater, my kinsmen, salute you.

Timotheus, Lucius, Jason, and Sosipater greet the audience.

1. God calls us to serve one another in love.

2. We are all part of one family in Christ.

1. Galatians 6:10 - So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith.

2. Ephesians 4:1-3 - I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

Romans 16:22 I Tertius, who wrote this epistle, salute you in the Lord.

This passage is a greeting from Tertius, the scribe who wrote the epistle to the Romans.

1. The Importance of Greetings: A Study of Romans 16:22

2. The Power of Community: A Look at Romans 16:22

1. Colossians 4:18 - "I, Paul, write this greeting with my own hand. Remember my chains."

2. Philemon 1:19 - "I, Paul, write this with my own hand—I will repay it—to remind you that you owe me your very self."

Romans 16:23 Gaius mine host, and of the whole church, saluteth you. Erastus the chamberlain of the city saluteth you, and Quartus a brother.

Passage Gaius, the host of the church, and Erastus, the chamberlain of the city, send greetings to the church, along with Quartus, a brother.

1. The Power of Christian Fellowship: How We Are Strengthened by Connections With Others

2. The Significance of Hospitality: The Role of Gaius in the Church

1. Hebrews 13:1-2 - "Let brotherly love continue. Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares."

2. Galatians 6:10 - "So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith."

Romans 16:24 The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen.

Paul gives a blessing of grace to all of the readers of his letter.

1. The Grace of God is Everlasting

2. Living in the Blessing of the Lord's Grace

1. Ephesians 2:8-9 - For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God—

2. John 1:17 - For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

Romans 16:25 Now to him that is of power to stablish you according to my gospel, and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery, which was kept secret since the world began,

God has the power to establish us according to the gospel, the preaching of Jesus, and according to the mystery that was kept secret since the world began.

1. Established by God: How to Seek His Strength and Protection

2. Revealing the Mystery: How Jesus Unlocks the True Meaning of our Lives

1. Ephesians 3:6-7 - That the Gentiles should be fellowheirs, and of the same body, and partakers of his promise in Christ by the gospel

2. Ephesians 1:9-10 - Making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure which he hath purposed in himself: That in the dispensation of the fulness of times he might gather together in one all things in Christ.

Romans 16:26 But now is made manifest, and by the scriptures of the prophets, according to the commandment of the everlasting God, made known to all nations for the obedience of faith:

The everlasting God has made His commandments known to all nations to encourage obedience of faith.

1: Obeying the Word of God - A Pathway to Faith

2: Growing in Faith - Responding to God's Commandments

1: Joshua 1:8 - "This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success."

2: Psalm 119:11 - "Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee."

Romans 16:27 To God only wise, be glory through Jesus Christ for ever. Amen.

This passage is an expression of reverence and appreciation for God as the only source of wisdom.

1. The Power of Worship: Appreciating God's Wisdom

2. Growing in Wisdom: Seeking Guidance from the Only Wise God

1. James 1:5 - "If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him."

2. Proverbs 2:6 - "For the Lord gives wisdom; from his mouth come knowledge and understanding."

1 Corinthians 1 is the first chapter of the First Epistle of Paul to the Corinthians. In this chapter, Paul addresses the divisions and conflicts within the Corinthian church and emphasizes the centrality of Christ's message.

1st Paragraph: Paul begins by expressing gratitude for God's grace given to the Corinthian believers through Jesus Christ. He acknowledges that they have been enriched in every way, including spiritual gifts, and are not lacking in any spiritual blessing (1 Corinthians 1:4-7). However, he immediately addresses their divisions and factions, noting that there are quarrels among them based on following different leaders such as Paul, Apollos, or Cephas (Peter) (1 Corinthians 1:10-12). Paul urges them to be united in mind and judgment and reminds them that it is Christ who should be their focus.

2nd Paragraph: Paul highlights the foolishness of human wisdom compared to God's wisdom. He points out that God chose what is considered foolish by worldly standards to shame those who think they are wise (1 Corinthians 1:18-20). The message of Christ crucified may seem like a stumbling block or foolishness to some, but it is actually God's power and wisdom for salvation (1 Corinthians 1:23-24). Paul emphasizes that it is not through human intelligence or eloquence but through faith in Christ's sacrifice that believers receive salvation.

3rd Paragraph: The chapter concludes with a reminder that not many wise or influential people were called by God. Instead, He chose those who are considered weak and lowly by society to confound the strong (1 Corinthians 26-29). This serves as a reminder that boasting should only be done in the Lord because it is He who provides righteousness, sanctification, and redemption (1 Corinthians 30-31). Ultimately, all glory belongs to God alone.

In summary, Chapter one of First Corinthians addresses the divisions and factions within the Corinthian church. Paul emphasizes the importance of unity in Christ and rejects human wisdom in favor of God's wisdom. He highlights the message of Christ crucified as the power and wisdom of God for salvation. Paul reminds believers that God chooses those who are considered weak to confound the strong, so all boasting should be directed toward the Lord alone. This chapter underscores themes of unity, humility, and reliance on God's wisdom rather than worldly standards.

1 Corinthians 1:1 Paul, called to be an apostle of Jesus Christ through the will of God, and Sosthenes our brother,

Passage Paul is an apostle of Jesus Christ, called to serve through the will of God, with

Sosthenes as his brother in faith.

1. The Power of Following God's Will

2. The Joy of Serving with Brothers and Sisters in the Faith

1. Romans 12:2 - Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.

2. Matthew 6:33 - But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

1 Corinthians 1:2 Unto the church of God which is at Corinth, to them that are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, with all that in every place call upon the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, both theirs and ours:

Paul is writing a letter to the church in Corinth, which consists of those who have been sanctified in Jesus Christ and are called to be saints, and those who in every place call upon the name of Jesus Christ.

1. The Power of Sanctification: How to be Set Apart by God

2. Learning to Call Upon the Name of Jesus Christ

1. Romans 8:29-30 - "For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters. And those he predestined, he also called; those he called, he also justified; those he justified, he also glorified."

2. John 10:30 - "I and the Father are one.”

1 Corinthians 1:3 Grace be unto you, and peace, from God our Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ.

Paul sends greetings of grace and peace from God and Jesus to the Corinthians.

1. God's Grace: A Gift of Peace

2. Drawing Close to God Through Jesus

1. Ephesians 2:8-9 - For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast.

2. John 14:27 - Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.

1 Corinthians 1:4 I thank my God always on your behalf, for the grace of God which is given you by Jesus Christ;

I thank God for His grace given to the people of Corinth through Jesus Christ.

1. The Grace of God: How to Receive and Share God's Gift.

2. Jesus Christ: The Source of Life and Joy.

1. Ephesians 2:8-9 - For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast.

2. Romans 5:1-2 - Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ: By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand.

1 Corinthians 1:5 That in every thing ye are enriched by him, in all utterance, and in all knowledge;

In Christ, believers are blessed with knowledge and the ability to communicate effectively.

1. The Power of the Word: How Christ Enriches Us With Knowledge and Utterance

2. The Blessing of Fellowship: How Christ Enriches Us Through Unity

1. Colossians 3:16 "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom"

2. Ephesians 4:15-16 "Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love."

1 Corinthians 1:6 Even as the testimony of Christ was confirmed in you:

The testimony of Christ was confirmed in the Corinthians.

1. The Power of Confirmation: How God's Testimony of Christ Can Strengthen Our Faith

2. How to Grow in Faith: The Confirmation of Christ's Testimony in the Corinthians

1. John 3:16-17 - "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him."

2. Romans 10:17 - "So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ."

1 Corinthians 1:7 So that ye come behind in no gift; waiting for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ:

Paul encourages the Corinthians to not be lacking in any spiritual gifts as they await the coming of Jesus Christ.

1. "Waiting in Anticipation: Being Prepared for the Coming of Our Lord Jesus Christ"

2. "Gifted for a Purpose: Utilizing Our Spiritual Gifts to Await the Coming of the Lord"

1. Romans 8:19 For the earnest expectation of the creature waiteth for the manifestation of the sons of God.

2. Colossians 3:1-4 If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth. For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God. When Christ,

who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory.

1 Corinthians 1:8 Who shall also confirm you unto the end, that ye may be blameless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The passage talks about being blameless in the day of the Lord Jesus Christ.

1: In order to be blameless in the day of the Lord Jesus Christ, we must remain faithful and devoted to Him.

2: We must strive to lead a life worthy of being blameless in the day of the Lord Jesus Christ.

1: Matthew 5:48 - "Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect."

2: Ephesians 5:27 - "That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish."

1 Corinthians 1:9 God is faithful, by whom ye were called unto the fellowship of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

Paul encourages the Corinthians to recognize God's faithfulness and to remain in fellowship with Jesus Christ.

1. "God's Faithfulness: Understanding and Appreciating God's Unconditional Love"

2. "Living in Fellowship with Jesus: Becoming More Like Him"

1. Romans 8:38-39 - For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

2. John 13:34-35 - A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.

1 Corinthians 1:10 Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ,

that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment.

Paul exhorts the Corinthians to be unified in their faith, speaking the same thing and having no divisions among them.

1. Unity in the Church: The Power of Fellowship

2. Following Paul's Advice: Keeping the Church United

1. Ephesians 4:1-6 - Unity in the Church

2. Philippians 2:2-4 - Humility and Unity in the Church

1 Corinthians 1:11 For it hath been declared unto me of you, my brethren, by them which are of the house of Chloe, that there are contentions among you.

Paul warns of a dispute among the Corinthian church.

1. The Dangers of Disunity: How Conflict Harms the Church

2. The Power of Unity: How the Church Benefits from Being United

1. Ephesians 4:1-3 - I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called, with all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love; Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

2. Romans 12:5 - So we, being many, are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another.

1 Corinthians 1:12 Now this I say, that every one of you saith, I am of Paul; and I of Apollos; and I of Cephas; and I of Christ.

Paul reminds the church in Corinth that they should not be divided and should acknowledge that they are all of Christ.

1. Unity in the Church: Remembering We are All of Christ

2. Overcoming Division: Being United in Christ

1. John 17:20-23 - Jesus praying to the Father that all believers may be one

2. Philippians 2:1-11 - Paul's exhortation to unity and humility in the body of Christ

1 Corinthians 1:13 Is Christ divided? was Paul crucified for you? or were ye baptized in the name of Paul?

Paul asks the Corinthians if they have been divided by him, as Christ is not divided. He also asks if he was crucified for them, or if they were baptized in his name.

1. Unity in Christ: The Danger of Division

2. The Power of Baptism: A Sign of Our Commitment to Christ

1. John 17:20-21 - Jesus prays for all believers to be one, just as He and the Father are one

2. Colossians 2:12 - Baptism is a sign of our union with Christ and His death on the cross.

1 Corinthians 1:14 I thank God that I baptized none of you, but Crispus and Gaius;

The passage states that Paul is thankful that he only baptized Crispus and Gaius.

1. The Power of Gratitude: Expressing Thankfulness for What God Does

2. The Significance of Baptism: Its Role in the Christian Life

1. Colossians 2:12, “Buried with Him in baptism, in which you were also raised with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead.”

2. Matthew 28:19, “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the

name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.”

1 Corinthians 1:15 Lest any should say that I had baptized in mine own name.

Paul defends his baptizing practices in order to prevent others from claiming he had baptized in his own name.

1. The Power of Defending Your Faith: A Study in 1 Corinthians 1:15

2. The Importance of Self-Defense in Christianity: Understanding Paul’s Actions in 1 Corinthians 1:15

1. Matthew 16:18 - "And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it."

2. 2 Timothy 1:7 - "For God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control."

1 Corinthians 1:16 And I baptized also the household of Stephanas: besides, I know not whether I baptized any other.

Paul baptized the household of Stephanas and was unsure if he baptized any other.

1. The importance of Christian baptism and its place in spreading the gospel.

2. The joy of sharing in the new life of baptism and the transformation it brings.

1. Romans 6:3-4 - Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.

2. Matthew 28:19-20 - Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.

1 Corinthians 1:17 For Christ sent me not to baptize, but to preach the gospel: not with wisdom of words, lest the cross of Christ should be made of none effect.

The apostle Paul was given the mission to preach the gospel, not to baptize, so that the power of the cross of Christ would not be diminished.

1. The Power of the Cross: What it Means for Us Today

2. The Mission of Preaching the Gospel: Why We Should Do It

1. Romans 1:16 - For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.

2. Matthew 28:19 - Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost.

1 Corinthians 1:18 For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God.

The preaching of the cross is a power from God that brings salvation to believers and foolishness to those who reject it.

1. The Power of the Cross: Why We Believe

2. Folly or Faith: Choosing to Receive the Cross

1. Hebrews 12:2, "looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God."

2. John 3:16, "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life."

1 Corinthians 1:19 For it is written, I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and will bring to nothing the understanding of the prudent.

In 1 Corinthians 1:19, Paul states that wisdom and understanding of the wise will be destroyed, while God's power will remain.

1. "The Power of God's Word" - Exploring how God uses His Word to bring down the wisdom of the wise and demonstrate His power.

2. "God's Sovereignty and Our Humility" - Examining how God's sovereignty overpowers human wisdom and understanding, and how we should respond with humility.

1. Job 12:13 - "With Him are wisdom and strength; He has counsel and understanding."

2. Proverbs 16:25 - "There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death."

1 Corinthians 1:20 Where is the wise? where is the scribe? where is the disputer of this world? hath not God made foolish the wisdom of this world?

The wisdom of the world is foolishness to God.

1: We should not rely on the wisdom of the world, but instead trust in the wisdom of God.

2: We should not be proud of our own wisdom, but instead humble ourselves in the sight of God.

1: Proverbs 3:5-6 - Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.

2: James 1:5 - If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him.

1 Corinthians 1:21 For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe.

The world was unable to recognize God through its own wisdom, so God chose to save those who believe through the foolishness of preaching.

1. The Power of Preaching to Save

2. The Folly of Human Understanding

1. Ephesians 3:9-10 - And to make all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God, who created all things by Jesus Christ:

2. Romans 10:14-15 - How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!

1 Corinthians 1:22 For the Jews require a sign, and the Greeks seek after wisdom:

Passage The Jews expect a sign as proof of God's power, while the Greeks seek wisdom to understand God's power.

1. The Sign of God's Power: Examining the Jews' Expectation of a Sign.

2. The Wisdom of God: Understanding the Greeks' Search for Insight.

1. Isaiah 11:2-3 - The Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord.

2. Psalm 19:7-9 - The law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple.

1 Corinthians 1:23 But we preach Christ crucified, unto the Jews a stumblingblock, and unto the Greeks foolishness;

Paul preached that Jesus' crucifixion was a stumbling block for Jews and foolishness for Greeks.

1. The Power of the Cross: How Jesus' Crucifixion Redeems Us

2. The Paradox of the Cross: How Jesus' Crucifixion Both Confounds and Liberates Us

1. Galatians 6:14 - But God forbid that I should boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.

2. Isaiah 53:5 - But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, And by His stripes we are healed.

1 Corinthians 1:24 But unto them which are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God, and the wisdom of God.

Christ is the power and wisdom of God for all who are called.

1: Trust in the Power of Christ

2: Embrace the Wisdom of Christ

1: Philippians 4:13 - I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me

2: Proverbs 3:19 - The Lord by wisdom hath founded the earth; by understanding hath he established the heavens.

1 Corinthians 1:25 Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men; and the weakness of God is stronger than men.

God's wisdom is greater than any human wisdom and His strength surpasses all human strength.

1. The Power of God's Foolishness

2. The Strength of God's Weakness

1. Isaiah 55:8-9 - “For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.”

2. Job 42:2 - “I know that You can do all things, and that no purpose of Yours can be thwarted.”

1 Corinthians 1:26 For ye see your calling, brethren, how that not many wise men after

the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called:

The Apostle Paul is teaching the Corinthians that God does not call the wise, mighty, or noble.

1. God Does Not Choose the Worldly - Exploring why God does not call the wise, mighty, or noble.

2. The Power of the Weak - Exploring the strength of those whom the world views as weak.

1. James 2:5 - “Listen, my beloved brothers, has not God chosen those who are poor in the world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom, which he has promised to those who love him?”

2. Isaiah 55:8-9 - “For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.”

1 Corinthians 1:27 But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty;

God chooses the least likely to defeat the powerful.

1. God has a plan for the weak and the foolish.

2. God works through unexpected individuals.

1. Isaiah 41:8-10 - “But you, Israel, my servant, Jacob, whom I have chosen, the offspring of Abraham, my friend; you whom I took from the ends of the earth, and called from its farthest corners, saying to you, ‘You are my servant, I have chosen you and not cast you off’; fear not, for I am with you, be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.”

2. Luke 1:46-49 - “And Mary said, ‘My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked on the humble estate of his servant. For behold, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for he who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is his name.’”

1 Corinthians 1:28 And base things of the world, and things which are despised, hath God chosen, yea, and things which are not, to bring to nought things that are:

God has chosen the humble and insignificant to bring down those who are powerful and esteemed.

1. God Chooses the Weak to Bring Down the Strong

2. The Power of Humility Over Pride

1. James 4:6-10 - God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.

2. Zechariah 4:6 - Not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit, says the Lord of hosts.

1 Corinthians 1:29 That no flesh should glory in his presence.

Passage:

Paul writes in 1 Corinthians 1:29 that no one should boast in the presence of God. He reminds us that we are justified by grace through faith and that it is a gift of God.

Paul teaches that no one should take pride in their own accomplishments before God, as being justified by grace and faith is a gift from God.

1. "The Gift of Grace: Justification by Faith"

2. "Pride and Humility in the Presence of God"

1. Ephesians 2:8-9 - "For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast."

2. James 4:6 - "But he gives more grace. Therefore it says, “God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble.”

1 Corinthians 1:30 But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom,

and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption:

We are in Christ Jesus, who is made by God to be our wisdom, righteousness, sanctification, and redemption.

1. Understanding the Power of Christ's Redemption

2. Knowing God's Wisdom in our Lives

1. Ephesians 1:7 - In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace

2. James 1:5 - If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him.

1 Corinthians 1:31 That, according as it is written, He that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord.

We should glorify God rather than ourselves.

1. Pride is a sin; humility is the way of the Lord.

2. The Lord is our source of glory and honor, not ourselves.

1. Proverbs 16:18: Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall.

2. Romans 12:3: For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned.

1 Corinthians 2 is the second chapter of the First Epistle of Paul to the Corinthians. In this chapter, Paul continues to address the Corinthian church, emphasizing the importance of relying on God's wisdom rather than human wisdom and understanding.

1st Paragraph: Paul begins by acknowledging that when he first came to Corinth, he did not rely on persuasive words or human wisdom in his preaching. Instead, he focused on proclaiming Christ crucified with a demonstration of the Spirit's power (1 Corinthians 2:1-5). He explains that God's wisdom is revealed through His Spirit, which goes beyond

human comprehension (1 Corinthians 2:6-10). The Holy Spirit enables believers to understand and discern spiritual truths because they have received the Spirit who is from God (1 Corinthians 2:12).

2nd Paragraph: Paul contrasts spiritual discernment with worldly wisdom. He explains that those who are spiritually mature can understand and judge all things because they have the mind of Christ (1 Corinthians 2:15-16). However, those who rely solely on human wisdom cannot grasp or accept spiritual truths because they are spiritually discerned (1 Corinthians 2:14). Paul emphasizes that true knowledge and understanding come from God's revelation through His Spirit.

3rd Paragraph: The chapter concludes with a reminder that when Paul preached among the Corinthians, he did not use lofty words or persuasive rhetoric but relied on demonstrating God's power so their faith would rest in Him alone (1 Corinthians 2:4-5). He encourages them to recognize that their faith does not rest on human wisdom but on God's power. By doing so, their hope will be grounded in God rather than in mere human eloquence or reasoning.

In summary, Chapter two of First Corinthians highlights the distinction between worldly wisdom and spiritual discernment. Paul emphasizes his reliance on proclaiming Christ crucified through demonstrations of God's power rather than using persuasive words or human wisdom. He explains that true understanding and discernment come from the Holy Spirit, who reveals God's wisdom to believers. Paul encourages the Corinthians to base their faith on God's power rather than on human wisdom, recognizing that spiritual truths are spiritually discerned. This chapter underscores the importance of relying on God's revelation and the work of His Spirit rather than depending solely on human intellect or persuasive rhetoric.

1 Corinthians 2:1 And I, brethren, when I came to you, came not with excellency of speech or of wisdom, declaring unto you the testimony of God.

Paul emphasizes the importance of not relying on impressive rhetoric when preaching the gospel.

1. A on Philippians 2:3-4 - Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves.

2. A on 1 Peter 3:15 - But in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect.

1. Matthew 10:19-20 - When they deliver you over, do not be anxious how you are to

speak or what you are to say, for what you are to say will be given to you in that hour. For it is not you who speak, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you.

2. Romans 12:2 - Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

1 Corinthians 2:2 For I determined not to know any thing among you, save Jesus Christ, and him crucified.

Paul determined to preach the message of Jesus Christ and His crucifixion to the Corinthians.

1. The Power of the Cross: Understanding the Significance of Jesus' Death

2. What Does It Mean to Follow Jesus?

1. Galatians 2:20 - I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.

2. Mark 8:34-35 - And when he had called the people unto him with his disciples also, he said unto them, Whosoever will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me. For whosoever will save his life shall lose it; but whosoever shall lose his life for my sake and the gospel's, the same shall save it.

1 Corinthians 2:3 And I was with you in weakness, and in fear, and in much trembling.

Paul speaks of his own ministry among the Corinthians, expressing his humility and his reliance on the power of God.

1. Humility in Ministry: The Example of Paul

2. Relying on God's Power in Weakness

1. Philippians 4:13 - I can do all things through him who strengthens me.

2. 1 Peter 5:5-7 - Clothe yourselves, all of you, with humility toward one another, for God

opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.

1 Corinthians 2:4 And my speech and my preaching was not with enticing words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power:

Paul preached with the power of the Holy Spirit, not relying on the persuasive words of humans.

1. The Power of the Spirit: Why We Should Rely on God, Not Man

2. The Proclamation of the Gospel: How We Can Spread the Word of God

1. Ephesians 5:18-20 - "And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit; Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord; Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ"

2. Acts 2:4 - "And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance"

1 Corinthians 2:5 That your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God.

The apostle Paul encourages Christians to rely on the power of God rather than the wisdom of humans.

1. The Strength of Faith: Learning to Rely on God's Power

2. The Wisdom of Men: How it Fails to Satisfy

1. Romans 8:38-39 - For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

2. Matthew 6:25-34 - Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes? Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than

they? Can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life?

1 Corinthians 2:6 Howbeit we speak wisdom among them that are perfect: yet not the wisdom of this world, nor of the princes of this world, that come to nought:

Paul is teaching the Corinthians that God's wisdom is not the same as the wisdom of the world and its rulers.

1. The Wisdom of God is Greater than the Wisdom of the World

2. Reject the Wisdom of Man and Embrace the Wisdom of God

1. James 3:17-18 But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be intreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy.

2. Proverbs 21:30 There is no wisdom nor understanding nor counsel against the LORD.

1 Corinthians 2:7 But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, even the hidden wisdom, which God ordained before the world unto our glory:

Paul speaks of a hidden wisdom that God ordained before the world for the glory of mankind.

1. Unlocking the Hidden Wisdom of God

2. Understanding the Mystery of God's Wisdom

1. Ephesians 3:8-10 - To me, who am less than the least of all the saints, is this grace given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ;

2. Proverbs 2:1-6 - If thou criest after knowledge, and liftest up thy voice for understanding;

1 Corinthians 2:8 Which none of the princes of this world knew: for had they known it, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.

This passage explains that the crucifixion of Jesus was not something that the world's leaders were aware of, as they would not have allowed it to happen if they had known.

1. God's Plans Are Greater Than Our Understanding - Romans 11:33-36

2. The Power of Jesus' Love - John 3:16-17

1. Isaiah 53:1-5

2. 1 Peter 2:21-25

1 Corinthians 2:9 But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him.

God has prepared amazing things for those who love Him that cannot even be imagined.

1. God's Unfathomable Love: Exploring the Depths of God's Gifts to Those Who Love Him

2. Beyond Imagination: God's Unseen Blessings for Those Who Follow Him

1. Romans 8:28-29: And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose. For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.

2. Psalm 84:11: For the Lord God is a sun and shield: the Lord will give grace and glory: no good thing will he withhold from them that walk uprightly.

1 Corinthians 2:10 But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God.

God has revealed spiritual truths to us through the Holy Spirit, who is able to search even the deepest parts of God's knowledge.

1. The Holy Spirit: Our Guide to Spiritual Truth

2. The Depths of God's Knowledge: What We Can Learn From the Spirit

1. John 16:13 - "However, when he, the Spirit of truth, has come, he will guide you into all truth"

2. Ephesians 3:14-19 - "For this reason I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, from whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man, that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height? o know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God."

1 Corinthians 2:11 For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God.

The passage states that only God's Spirit knows the things of God and no man can know the things of God.

1. We can never understand the depths of God's knowledge, but we can trust in God's Spirit to guide us.

2. Only God's Spirit can truly understand the things of God, and so we should put our trust in Him.

Cross-

1. Jeremiah 17:9-10 - The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it? I the LORD search the heart, I try the reins, even to give every man according to his ways, and according to the fruit of his doings.

2. Proverbs 3:5-6 - Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.

1 Corinthians 2:12 Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God.

Believers in Christ have received the Spirit of God, allowing them to understand the truths given to them by God.

1. The Power of Understanding: Appreciating the Gift of the Holy Spirit

2. Embracing God's Love: Experiencing the Benefits of the Spirit of God

1. John 14:26 - But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.

2. Romans 8:14 - For those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God.

1 Corinthians 2:13 Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual.

The words of the Holy Spirit are more powerful than man's wisdom.

1. The Power of the Holy Spirit

2. Comparing Spiritual Things to Spiritual

1. John 14:26 But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.

2. Acts 1:8 But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

1 Corinthians 2:14 But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.

The natural man is unable to understand the things of the Spirit of God, as they appear foolish to him and can only be understood spiritually.

1. "Living in the Spirit: Understanding the Things of God"

2. "The Natural Man and the Things of the Spirit"

1. Romans 8:14 - For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.

2. 1 John 4:1 - Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world.

1 Corinthians 2:15 But he that is spiritual judgeth all things, yet he himself is judged of no man.

Everyone should be judged by a spiritual person, as spiritual people cannot be judged by anyone.

1. We all need to be judged by a spiritual person, for only then can we gain true insight into ourselves.

2. We should strive to be spiritual so that we can judge others, and not be judged ourselves.

1. Proverbs 3:5-6 - Trust in the Lord with all your heart and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.

2. Romans 8:1 - There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

1 Corinthians 2:16 For who hath known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct him? But we have the mind of Christ.

We have the mind of Christ, but no one can know the mind of the Lord.

1. The Mind of Christ: Finding and Following God's Will in Our Lives

2. Knowing the Mind of the Lord: Submitting to God's Plan

1. Romans 12:2 - Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

2. Jeremiah 29:11 - For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope.

1 Corinthians 3 is the third chapter of the First Epistle of Paul to the Corinthians. In this chapter, Paul addresses the issue of division and immaturity within the Corinthian church and emphasizes the importance of spiritual growth and unity.

1st Paragraph: Paul begins by addressing the Corinthians as infants in Christ, unable to handle solid food and still needing milk. He expresses his disappointment that they are divided and behaving like mere worldly people (1 Corinthians 3:1-4). He points out that their divisions are evidence of their immaturity, as they identify themselves with different leaders such as Paul or Apollos instead of recognizing that all leaders are servants working for God's kingdom (1 Corinthians 3:5-9).

2nd Paragraph: Paul uses an analogy of a building to illustrate his point. He explains that he laid a foundation as a wise master builder, which is Jesus Christ. Others may build on this foundation using different materials—gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, or straw—but each person's work will be tested by fire (1 Corinthians 3:10-13). If one's work endures the test, they will receive a reward; if it is burned up, they will suffer loss but still be saved (1 Corinthians 3:14-15).

3rd Paragraph: Paul concludes by urging the Corinthians to avoid boasting about following specific leaders because all things belong to them—whether it is Paul or Apollos or Cephas—and they belong to Christ (1 Corinthians 3:21-23). He reminds them that God's temple is holy and that they are collectively His dwelling place through His Spirit (1 Corinthians 3:16-17). Therefore, they should not boast in human wisdom but recognize that everything comes from God.

In summary, Chapter three of First Corinthians addresses the issue of division and immaturity within the Corinthian church. Paul rebukes them for their divisions and identifies their immaturity as the cause. He emphasizes that all leaders are servants working for God's kingdom and that they should not boast about following specific leaders. Paul uses the analogy of a building to illustrate the importance of building on the foundation of Jesus Christ with quality materials, symbolizing spiritual growth and maturity. He concludes by reminding them that they collectively form God's temple through His Spirit and that everything comes from God, urging them to avoid boasting in human wisdom. This chapter highlights the need for unity, spiritual growth, and a focus on Christ as the foundation of faith.

1 Corinthians 3:1 And I, brethren, could not speak unto you as unto spiritual, but as unto carnal, even as unto babes in Christ.

Paul is addressing the congregation of the church in Corinth as carnal and babes in Christ, rather than as spiritual.

1. The Importance of Spiritual Growth in our Faith

2. How to Mature in our Walk with Christ

1. Colossians 2:6-7 - So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness.

2. Philippians 3:13-14 - Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.

1 Corinthians 3:2 I have fed you with milk, and not with meat: for hitherto ye were not able to bear it, neither yet now are ye able.

Paul encourages the Corinthians to accept the spiritual food he provides, even though they are not yet ready for the meat.

1. Spiritual Growth: Moving from Milk to Meat

2. Growing in the Faith: Preparing for a Deeper Understanding

1. Hebrews 5:12-14 - For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which be the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat.

14 For every one that useth milk is unskilful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe.

2. 1 Peter 2:2 - As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby.

1 Corinthians 3:3 For ye are yet carnal: for whereas there is among you envying, and strife, and divisions, are ye not carnal, and walk as men?

Paul reprimands the Corinthians for envying, quarreling, and creating divisions.

1. Let Us Be United: How to Overcome Envy, Strife, and Division.

2. The Power of Humility: Striving for Unity in the Church.

1. James 3:14-16 - But if you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your heart, do not be arrogant and so lie against the truth.

2. Philippians 2:3-4 - Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves.

1 Corinthians 3:4 For while one saith, I am of Paul; and another, I am of Apollos; are ye not carnal?

Paul is concerned that the Corinthians are arguing over who they follow among him and Apollos, instead of focusing on the teachings of Jesus.

1. Unity in Christ: Focusing on the Teachings of Jesus

2. Living in the Spirit: Overcoming Divisive Arguments

1. Philippians 2:2-4 - "Complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from rivalry or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves."

2. Galatians 5:13-14 - "For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another. For the whole law is fulfilled in one word: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”

1 Corinthians 3:5 Who then is Paul, and who is Apollos, but ministers by whom ye believed, even as the Lord gave to every man?

Paul and Apollos were merely ministers through whom the Corinthians believed in the Lord.

1. "Partners in Faith: The Ministry of Paul and Apollos"

2. "The Power of Ministry: Believing in the Lord"

1. Romans 10:17 - "So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God."

2. Ephesians 4:11-13 - "And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ."

1 Corinthians 3:6 I have planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase.

Paul and Apollos planted and watered the seed of the gospel, but God was the one who grew it.

1. "God's Sovereignty: Planting and Watering the Gospel"

2. "The Power of God: Growing the Gospel"

1. Isaiah 55:11 - So shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

2. Matthew 28:19-20 - Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.

1 Corinthians 3:7 So then neither is he that planteth any thing, neither he that watereth; but God that giveth the increase.

The passage emphasizes that it is God who grants growth, not the planter nor the waterer.

1. "The Power of God: Achieving Growth and Fulfillment"

2. "God's Faithfulness in Times of Difficulty"

1. Colossians 1:6-7 "Which is come unto you, as it is in all the world; and bringeth forth

fruit, as it doth also in you, since the day ye heard of it, and knew the grace of God in truth"

2. Isaiah 55:10-11 "For as the rain cometh down, and the snow from heaven, and returneth not thither, but watereth the earth, and maketh it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower, and bread to the eater: So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it."

1 Corinthians 3:8 Now he that planteth and he that watereth are one: and every man shall receive his own reward according to his own labour.

Paul encourages the Corinthians to be unified in their work for the Lord, as each will receive their own reward according to their labor.

1. The Joy of Working Together: Unity Through Serving the Lord

2. The Blessings of Diligence: Receiving Your Just Reward

1. Galatians 6:7-9 - Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap. 8 For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life. 9 And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up.

2. Hebrews 6:10 - For God is not unjust so as to overlook your work and the love that you have shown for his name in serving the saints, as you still do.

1 Corinthians 3:9 For we are labourers together with God: ye are God's husbandry, ye are God's building.

Paul encourages Christians to work together with God in order to build up the church.

1. Working Together With God: The Power of Unity

2. The Church: God's Field of Harvest

1. Ephesians 4:3-6, "Making every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all

and through all and in all."

2. Matthew 16:18, "And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it."

1 Corinthians 3:10 According to the grace of God which is given unto me, as a wise masterbuilder, I have laid the foundation, and another buildeth thereon. But let every man take heed how he buildeth thereupon.

Paul, by the grace of God, laid the foundation for the church, and now others are building upon it. Everyone should be mindful of how they are building upon this foundation.

1. Building on a Foundational Faith: The importance of being mindful of how we build upon God's foundation.

2. Strengthening the Church: Constructing a lasting church with a strong foundation in God.

1. Matthew 7:24-27: Everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock.

2. Ephesians 2:19-22: You are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God’s people and also members of his household, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone.

1 Corinthians 3:11 For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ.

Paul emphasizes that no other foundation can be laid besides the foundation that is Jesus Christ.

1. The Solid Rock: Building a Firm Foundation on Jesus Christ

2. Foundations of Faith: Trusting Jesus for Strength and Stability

1. Matthew 7:24-25 - Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock: And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock.

2. Psalm 18:2 - The LORD is my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer; my God, my strength, in whom I will trust; my buckler, and the horn of my salvation, and my high tower.

1 Corinthians 3:12 Now if any man build upon this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble;

Every person needs to build upon the foundation of Jesus Christ; their works can be judged by the Lord as either lasting or temporary.

1. "The Foundation of Jesus Christ: A Call to Build Upon"

2. "Works of Gold, Silver, and Precious Stones: Building for Eternity"

1. Isaiah 28:16, "Therefore thus says the Lord GOD, “Behold, I am the one who has laid as a foundation in Zion, a stone, a tested stone, a precious cornerstone of a sure foundation; whoever believes will not be in haste.”

2. 1 Peter 2:4-5, "As you come to him, a living stone rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious, you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ."

1 Corinthians 3:13 Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is.

Passage Everyone's work will be tested and revealed on the day of judgement.

1. The Fire of Judgement: How to Persevere in Doing What is Right.

2. The Refiner's Fire: How to Find Strength in Times of Testing.

1. Romans 12:2 - Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

2. James 1:2-4 - Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

1 Corinthians 3:14 If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward.

Paul encourages Christians to build their work on the foundation of Christ, in order to receive a reward.

1. The Foundation of Faith: Building on the Rock of Jesus Christ

2. The Sweet Reward of Serving the Lord

1. Matthew 7:24-27 - Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock:

2. 1 Peter 5:4 - And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away.

1 Corinthians 3:15 If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire.

The passage speaks of the fate of a man whose work is burned, but who will be saved in the end by fire.

1. "The Refiner's Fire: Learning from the Trials of Life"

2. "The Burning of Our Works: A Warning to Us All"

1. Romans 8:28 - "And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose."

2. 1 Peter 1:7 - "These have come so that your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may be proved genuine and may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed."

1 Corinthians 3:16 Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God

dwelleth in you?

Passage Believers are the temple of God and the Spirit of God dwells in them.

1. The Privilege of Being the Temples of God

2. Experiencing the Presence of the Spirit of God

1. Ephesians 2:19-22 - You are fellow citizens with the saints, and part of God's household.

2. 1 Peter 2:4-5 - As living stones, we are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God.

1 Corinthians 3:17 If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are.

The temple of God is a holy place and anyone who defiles it will be destroyed by God.

1. We must respect God's temple and treat it with reverence and holiness.

2. We must be careful to not defile God's temple or God will take action against us.

1. 1 Corinthians 6:19-20 - “Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your bodies.”

2. Hebrews 10:22 - “Let us draw near to God with a sincere heart and with the full assurance that faith brings, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water.”

1 Corinthians 3:18 Let no man deceive himself. If any man among you seemeth to be wise in this world, let him become a fool, that he may be wise.

Passage:

In 1 Corinthians 3:18, Paul warns us not to deceive ourselves by thinking that the world's wisdom can make us wise. He advises us to become fools so that we can be truly wise.

1. True Wisdom Comes From God, Not the World

2. Becoming a Fool to Gain True Wisdom

1. Proverbs 1:7, "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and instruction"

2. James 1:5, "If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him"

1 Corinthians 3:19 For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God. For it is written, He taketh the wise in their own craftiness.

The wisdom of this world is foolishness in the eyes of God.

1: The Wisdom of Man is Not Enough; Seek the Wisdom of God

2: The Foolishness of Man Can Fool the Wise; Depend on God's Wisdom

1: Proverbs 3:5-7 - Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.

2: Isaiah 55:8-9 - “For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways,” declares the LORD. “As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

1 Corinthians 3:20 And again, The Lord knoweth the thoughts of the wise, that they are vain.

Passage The Lord knows the thoughts of the wise are vanity.

1. "The Illusion of Wisdom: Relying on Our Own Understanding"

2. "The Folly of Vain Thoughts: Forging a Path Led by God"

1. Proverbs 3:5-6 - Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.

2. Psalm 94:11 - The Lord knoweth the thoughts of man, that they are vanity.

1 Corinthians 3:21 Therefore let no man glory in men. For all things are yours;

We should not take pride in the accomplishments of others, as all things are given to us by God.

1. We are all Equally Blessed by God

2. Do Not Boast in the Accomplishments of Others

1. Romans 12:3, "For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith."

2. James 4:6, "But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble."

1 Corinthians 3:22 Whether Paul, or Apollos, or Cephas, or the world, or life, or death, or things present, or things to come; all are yours;

Paul reminds the Corinthians that they have access to all things, including Paul, Apollos, Cephas, the world, life, death, things present, and things to come.

1. The Power of Perspective: Learning to See All Things as Yours

2. The Provision of God: Access to Everything We Need

1. Philippians 4:19 - And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus.

2. Psalm 34:10 - The young lions suffer want and hunger; but those who seek the Lord lack no good thing.

1 Corinthians 3:23 And ye are Christ's; and Christ is God's.

Believers are part of Christ's family and ultimately, part of God's family.

1. "The Family of God: Embracing Our Place in the Kingdom"

2. "The Inheritance of Believers: Our Identity in Christ"

1. Romans 8:14-17 - For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God.

2. Ephesians 2:19-22 - So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God.

1 Corinthians 4 is the fourth chapter of the First Epistle of Paul to the Corinthians. In this chapter, Paul addresses the issue of pride and judgmental attitudes within the Corinthian church, emphasizing humility and true spiritual authority.

1st Paragraph: Paul begins by describing himself and Apollos as servants of Christ entrusted with the mysteries of God. He emphasizes that faithfulness is required in those who have been given such responsibility (1 Corinthians 4:1-2). Paul acknowledges that he does not even judge himself because only God can accurately judge motives and intentions (1 Corinthians 4:3-5). He warns against passing judgment on others prematurely, urging them to wait for God's final judgment when everything will be brought into light.

2nd Paragraph: Paul uses irony to address their prideful attitudes. He points out that some in Corinth have become arrogant, thinking they are already kings and reigning without any need for apostles like him (1 Corinthians 4:6-8). However, he contrasts their self-perception with his own situation—suffering persecution and hardship for the sake of Christ (1 Corinthians 4:9-13). He urges them to imitate his example of humility rather than boasting or looking down on others.

3rd Paragraph: Paul concludes by reminding them that he intends to visit Corinth soon. When he comes, he will discern not only words but also power—indicating his authority as an apostle empowered by God's Spirit (1 Corinthians 4:18-21). He challenges those who are puffed up with pride to consider whether his coming will be accompanied by a rod of discipline or in love and a spirit of gentleness (1 Corinthians 4:21).

In summary, Chapter four of First Corinthians addresses issues related to pride, judgmental attitudes, and true spiritual authority within the Corinthian church. Paul emphasizes that leaders are merely servants entrusted with God's mysteries and should be faithful in their responsibilities. He warns against premature judgment, urging them to wait for God's final judgment. Paul addresses their prideful attitudes and contrasts it with his own humble example of suffering for Christ. He concludes by reminding them of his forthcoming visit and the discernment of his authority as an apostle, challenging them to consider their response—whether it will be met with discipline or love and gentleness. This chapter highlights the importance of humility, refraining from premature judgment, and recognizing true spiritual authority.

1 Corinthians 4:1 Let a man so account of us, as of the ministers of Christ, and stewards of the mysteries of God.

This passage emphasizes the responsibility of Christians to serve as ministers and stewards of God's mysteries.

1. The Responsibilities of Christians to Serve as Stewards of God's Mysteries

2. The Importance of Being an Accountable Minister of Christ

1. Romans 12:6-7 - Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, let us prophesy in proportion to our faith; or ministry, let us use it in our ministering; he who teaches, in teaching;

2. Matthew 25:14-30 - For the kingdom of heaven is as a man travelling into a far country, who called his own servants, and delivered unto them his goods. And unto one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one; to every man according to his several ability; and straightway took his journey.

1 Corinthians 4:2 Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful.

Stewardship is a great responsibility and requires faithfulness.

1. "Living Faithfully as a Steward"

2. "The Call to Faithful Stewardship"

1. Matthew 25:14-30 (Parable of the Talents)

2. Luke 16:10-12 (Parable of the Unrighteous Steward)

1 Corinthians 4:3 But with me it is a very small thing that I should be judged of you, or of man's judgment: yea, I judge not mine own self.

Paul does not care what people think of him, nor does he judge himself.

1. Living Without Fear of Judgment - Learning to trust God's opinion of us rather than the opinion of others.

2. Judging Not - Finding the courage to live out our faith without fear of judgement from people.

1. Romans 12:2 - Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

2. Matthew 7:1 - Judge not, that you be not judged.

1 Corinthians 4:4 For I know nothing by myself; yet am I not hereby justified: but he that judgeth me is the Lord.

The Lord is the ultimate judge of all people and their actions.

1. We have to be mindful of our actions, as the Lord is our ultimate judge.

2. We should accept the judgement of the Lord, as He is the ultimate judge.

1. Romans 14:12 So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God.

2. Proverbs 16:2 All the ways of a man are clean in his own eyes; but the Lord weigheth the spirits.

1 Corinthians 4:5 Therefore judge nothing before the time, until the Lord come, who both

will bring to light the hidden things of darkness, and will make manifest the counsels of the hearts: and then shall every man have praise of God.

The apostle Paul encourages us to be patient and wait for the Lord's judgement of our actions, as that is when each of us will receive praise from God.

1. Patience is a virtue: Learning to wait for the Lord's judgement.

2. The power of the Lord: Relying on God for judgement and praise.

1. James 5:7-8 Be patient therefore, brethren, unto the coming of the Lord. Behold, the husbandman waiteth for the precious fruit of the earth, and hath long patience for it, until he receive the early and latter rain. Be ye also patient; stablish your hearts: for the coming of the Lord draweth nigh.

2. Psalm 62:8 Trust in him at all times; ye people, pour out your heart before him: God is a refuge for us. Selah.

1 Corinthians 4:6 And these things, brethren, I have in a figure transferred to myself and to Apollos for your sakes; that ye might learn in us not to think of men above that which is written, that no one of you be puffed up for one against another.

Passage Paul is using himself and Apollos as examples to teach the Corinthians not to exalt one person above another and to not become conceited.

1. Pride will Destroy Us: Learning from the Example of Paul and Apollos

2. The Danger of Thinking Too Highly of Ourselves: Following Paul and Apollos' Example

1. Proverbs 16:18 - Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall.

2. James 4:6 - But he gives more grace. Therefore it says, “God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble.”

1 Corinthians 4:7 For who maketh thee to differ from another? and what hast thou that thou didst not receive? now if thou didst receive it, why dost thou glory, as if thou hadst not received it?

Paul questions why people boast about their achievements, since anything one has was not earned but given to them by God.

1. Pride Comes Before a Fall: Examining the Dangers of Boasting

2. Appreciating God's Gifts: Learning to Acknowledge the Blessings of God

1. James 4:13-17 - Humility in the Face of Pride

2. Romans 12:3-8 - Living in Faith and Humility

1 Corinthians 4:8 Now ye are full, now ye are rich, ye have reigned as kings without us: and I would to God ye did reign, that we also might reign with you.

The apostle Paul is expressing his desire that the Corinthians would reign in their spiritual lives, so that he and others may also have the opportunity to reign with them.

1. Reigning with God: Overcoming the Obstacles to Closeness with God

2. The Call of a King: Equipping Believers to Rule with God

1. Romans 5:17 – “For if, because of one man's trespass, death reigned through that one man, much more will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man Jesus Christ.”

2. Ephesians 2:6 – “And raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus.”

1 Corinthians 4:9 For I think that God hath set forth us the apostles last, as it were appointed to death: for we are made a spectacle unto the world, and to angels, and to men.

God has appointed the apostles last as if they are appointed to death, so that they can be a witness to the world, the angels, and to men.

1. We can use our suffering for the glory of God

2. Persevering in times of difficulty is a sign of faith

1. Romans 8:18 - For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us.

2. 1 Peter 4:12-14 - Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice insofar as you share Christ's sufferings, that you may also rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed. If you are insulted for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you.

1 Corinthians 4:10 We are fools for Christ's sake, but ye are wise in Christ; we are weak, but ye are strong; ye are honourable, but we are despised.

We are called to be humble and to focus on Christ, while recognizing that we are weak and despised, and that others are strong and honorable in Christ.

1. The Strength in Humility: Why We Must Focus on Christ

2. The Paradox of Weakness: How We Are Called To Be Fools for Christ

1. Philippians 2:3-4 - Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.

2. Matthew 11:29 - Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.

1 Corinthians 4:11 Even unto this present hour we both hunger, and thirst, and are naked, and are buffeted, and have no certain dwellingplace;

Paul and his companions were enduring suffering and had no basic necessities or security.

1. The Blessings of Suffering: Learning to Endure the Hardships of Life

2. Finding Comfort in Our Suffering: Relying on God in Troubled Times

1. Hebrews 12:7-11 - Enduring suffering as discipline from God

2. James 1:2-4 - Finding joy through perseverance in trials and tribulations

1 Corinthians 4:12 And labour, working with our own hands: being reviled, we bless; being persecuted, we suffer it:

Despite being reviled and persecuted, Paul encourages Christians to labor and work with their hands.

1. The Power of Perseverance: How to Overcome Adversity with Faith

2. Working with Our Hands: The Blessing of Hard Work and Diligence

1. James 1:2-4 - Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance.

2. Colossians 3:23-24 - Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving.

1 Corinthians 4:13 Being defamed, we intreat: we are made as the filth of the world, and are the offscouring of all things unto this day.

Despite facing slander and mistreatment, Paul and his companions continue to preach the gospel.

1. Don't Give Up: Overcoming Adversity in Preaching the Gospel

2. How To Persevere When The World Conforms Against You

1. Isaiah 54:17 - “No weapon that is formed against thee shall prosper; and every tongue that shall rise against thee in judgment thou shalt condemn. This is the heritage of the servants of the Lord, and their righteousness is of me, saith the Lord.”

2. Romans 8:37-39 - “Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us. For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, Nor height, nor depth,

nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

1 Corinthians 4:14 I write not these things to shame you, but as my beloved sons I warn you.

Paul is writing to the Corinthians not to shame them, but to warn them as beloved sons.

1. "Living in Love: Warning as a Father's Act of Love"

2. "Living in the Spirit: Warning and Discernment through the Gospel"

1. Ephesians 4:15-16 “Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.”

2. Proverbs 27:5-6 “Better is open rebuke than hidden love. Faithful are the wounds of a friend; profuse are the kisses of an enemy.”

1 Corinthians 4:15 For though ye have ten thousand instructors in Christ, yet have ye not many fathers: for in Christ Jesus I have begotten you through the gospel.

Paul reminds the Corinthians that he is their spiritual father, having begotten them through the gospel.

1. The Power of the Gospel to Transform Lives

2. The Call to Honor our Spiritual Fathers

1. Ephesians 5:1-2 - Be imitators of God, therefore, as dearly loved children and live a life of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

2. Romans 8:14-17 - For those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God. The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again; rather, the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship. And by him we cry, “Abba, Father.”

1 Corinthians 4:16 Wherefore I beseech you, be ye followers of me.

Paul encourages the Corinthians to be followers of him.

1. "Follow the Leader: A Lesson from Paul's Encouragement to the Corinthians"

2. "How to Follow Paul's Example of Faithfulness"

1. Matthew 4:19 - "And he said to them, “Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.”

2. Hebrews 13:7 - "Remember your leaders, those who spoke to you the word of God. Consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith."

1 Corinthians 4:17 For this cause have I sent unto you Timotheus, who is my beloved son, and faithful in the Lord, who shall bring you into remembrance of my ways which be in Christ, as I teach every where in every church.

Paul sent Timothy to the Corinthians to remind them to follow the ways of Christ as Paul had taught in all the churches.

1. Remembering Our Commitment to Following Jesus' Teachings

2. Living Our Lives in the Ways of Christ

1. Ephesians 4:1-2 - Therefore I, a prisoner for serving the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of your calling, for you have been called by God. Be humble and gentle. Be patient with each other, making allowance for each other’s faults because of your love.

2. Romans 12:2 - Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

1 Corinthians 4:18 Now some are puffed up, as though I would not come to you.

Some people are boasting as if the Apostle Paul wouldn't come to them.

1. Don't be proud and boastful of what you have, for God can take it all away in an instant.

2. God humbles the proud and exalts the humble, so let us be humble and not boastful.

1. Romans 12:16 - Be of the same mind one toward another. Mind not high things, but condescend to men of low estate.

2. James 4:6 - But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble.

1 Corinthians 4:19 But I will come to you shortly, if the Lord will, and will know, not the speech of them which are puffed up, but the power.

Paul expresses his desire to visit the Corinthians soon if the Lord permits, so that he can discern not their pompous words, but the power of God.

1. "The Power of God: Examining the Heart of Our Words and Actions"

2. "Dependence on the Lord: Seeking His Will for Our Lives"

1. Romans 12:1-2 - Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship.

2. Colossians 3:12-17 - Therefore, as God’s chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.

1 Corinthians 4:20 For the kingdom of God is not in word, but in power.

The kingdom of God is not based on words, but on power.

1. The True Power of the Kingdom of God

2. The Difference Between Words and Power in the Kingdom of God

1. Matthew 6:33 - But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.

2. Romans 14:17 - For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking but of righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.

1 Corinthians 4:21 What will ye? shall I come unto you with a rod, or in love, and in the spirit of meekness?

Paul warns the Corinthians that he will come to them either with a rod or with love and meekness.

1. The Importance of Love and Meekness in Discipline

2. The Necessity of Discipline in Faith

1. Galatians 6:1 "Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted."

2. Colossians 3:12-14 "Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering; Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye. And above all these things put on charity, which is the bond of perfectness."

1 Corinthians 5 is the fifth chapter of the First Epistle of Paul to the Corinthians. In this chapter, Paul addresses a specific case of sexual immorality within the Corinthian church and instructs them on how to handle such situations.

1st Paragraph: Paul begins by addressing a report he received about a case of sexual immorality among the Corinthians. He expresses his shock and rebukes them for their tolerance and arrogance in allowing such behavior to persist (1 Corinthians 5:1-2). He instructs them to remove the person involved from their midst, emphasizing that they should not associate with someone who claims to be a believer but continues in unrepentant sin (1 Corinthians 5:3-5). Paul reminds them that their boasting is not appropriate because even a little leaven can affect the entire batch of dough, symbolizing how sin can corrupt the whole community (1 Corinthians 5:6-8).

2nd Paragraph: Paul clarifies that his instruction does not mean they should avoid associating with all unbelievers who engage in immoral behavior. He explains that it is impossible to completely separate from people outside the church who are immersed in worldly sins (1 Corinthians 5:9-10). However, he emphasizes that they have authority over those within their own community and should hold each other accountable for righteous living (1 Corinthians 5:11-13).

3rd Paragraph: The chapter concludes with an additional admonition regarding lawsuits among believers. Paul urges them not to take legal disputes before unbelievers but rather settle matters within their own community with wise individuals as arbitrators if necessary (1 Corinthians 6:1-8). He reminds them that as believers, they have been washed, sanctified, and justified by Christ; therefore, they should live according to His standards rather than resorting to worldly means for conflict resolution.

In summary, Chapter five of First Corinthians addresses a specific case of sexual immorality within the Corinthian church. Paul rebukes them for their tolerance and instructs them to remove the unrepentant person from their midst. He emphasizes the importance of maintaining a community free from corrupting influences and warns against boasting or allowing sin to go unchecked. Paul clarifies that they are not to separate themselves entirely from unbelievers but rather exercise authority over those within their own community. The chapter concludes with an admonition regarding lawsuits, urging believers to settle disputes internally rather than resorting to worldly means. This chapter underscores the need for accountability, purity within the church, and a commitment to resolving conflicts in a Christ-like manner.

1 Corinthians 5:1 It is reported commonly that there is fornication among you, and such fornication as is not so much as named among the Gentiles, that one should have his father's wife.

There is a report of fornication among the church members in Corinth, involving even those activities which are considered immoral even by non-Christians.

1. Why We Must Live Holy Lives: Living Out the Faith in Our Everyday Lives

2. The Power of Community: How Our Actions Affect Others

1. Ephesians 5:3 - "But among you there must not be even a hint of sexual immorality, or of any kind of impurity, or of greed, because these are improper for God's holy people."

2. Romans 12:2 - "Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will."

1 Corinthians 5:2 And ye are puffed up, and have not rather mourned, that he that hath done this deed might be taken away from among you.

This passage is focusing on the sin of pride and urging the Corinthians to mourn the presence of sin amongst them, rather than be puffed up.

1. Pride goeth before destruction: How to combat pride in our lives.

2. Be humble: How to take on a humble heart and mind.

1. James 4:6-10: Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord.

2. Proverbs 16:18: Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall.

1 Corinthians 5:3 For I verily, as absent in body, but present in spirit, have judged already, as though I were present, concerning him that hath so done this deed,

Paul admonishes the Corinthians to take action against an immoral brother and to exercise church discipline.

1. Choosing Love: The Responsibility of Church Discipline

2. Addressing Sin: How to Take Action in the Church

1. Galatians 6:1-2 - “Brothers, if anyone is caught in any transgression, you who are spiritual should restore him in a spirit of gentleness. Keep watch on yourself, lest you too be tempted.”

2. 2 Thessalonians 3:14-15 - “If anyone does not obey what we say in this letter, take note of that person, and have nothing to do with him, that he may be ashamed. Do not regard him as an enemy, but warn him as a brother.”

1 Corinthians 5:4 In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, when ye are gathered together, and my spirit, with the power of our Lord Jesus Christ,

Passage The passage calls for the church to be gathered together in the name of the

Lord Jesus Christ, with His spirit and His power.

1. The Power of Togetherness: How the Church Is Strengthened by Unity

2. Submitting to the Power of the Lord: Growing in Faith Through Surrender

1. Acts 2:1-4 - The Holy Spirit Comes at Pentecost

2. Ephesians 3:14-21 - Paul's Prayer for the Church's Strengthening in Love

1 Corinthians 5:5 To deliver such an one unto Satan for the destruction of the flesh, that the spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus.

The passage explains that a person should be delivered to Satan for the destruction of the flesh, so that the spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus.

1. We must recognize our need for salvation and allow Jesus to save us.

2. We should submit to God's will and allow Him to work in our lives.

1. Romans 10:9-10 - "If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved."

2. Ephesians 2:8-10 - "For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them."

1 Corinthians 5:6 Your glorying is not good. Know ye not that a little leaven leaveneth the whole lump?

People should not be proud, because a small amount of something bad can affect the whole group.

1. "Beware of Pride"

2. "A Little Leaven Leaveneth the Whole Lump"

1. Proverbs 16:18 "Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall."

2. Galatians 5:9 "A little leaven leaveneth the whole lump."

1 Corinthians 5:7 Purge out therefore the old leaven, that ye may be a new lump, as ye are unleavened. For even Christ our passover is sacrificed for us:

The Corinthians are urged to remove the old leaven of sin from their lives and become a new, unleavened people, as Christ has been sacrificed for them.

1. The Power of Renewal: Becoming Unleavened in Christ

2. Purging the Old Leaven: A Walk of Holiness

1. Romans 6:1-14 - Dead to Sin, Alive in Christ

2. Galatians 5:16-26 - Living by the Spirit's Power

1 Corinthians 5:8 Therefore let us keep the feast, not with old leaven, neither with the leaven of malice and wickedness; but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.

The apostle Paul encourages the Corinthians to celebrate the feast with sincerity and truth, instead of sinfulness and wickedness.

1. "Living a Life of Honesty and Integrity"

2. "Free from Sin and Wickedness"

1. Ephesians 4:25 - "Therefore, having put away falsehood, let each one of you speak the truth with his neighbor, for we are members one of another."

2. Colossians 3:9-10 - "Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old self with its practices and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator."

1 Corinthians 5:9 I wrote unto you in an epistle not to company with fornicators:

Paul wrote an epistle to the Corinthians warning them against associating with people who practice sexual immorality.

1. Love Your Neighbor: Why We Should Not Associate With Sin

2. The Call to Holiness: Walking in Obedience to God

1. Galatians 5:19-21 - The works of the flesh contrasted with the fruit of the Spirit.

2. Romans 12:2 - Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind.

1 Corinthians 5:10 Yet not altogether with the fornicators of this world, or with the covetous, or extortioners, or with idolaters; for then must ye needs go out of the world.

Passage Christians should not associate with people who engage in immoral activities, but they must still live in the world.

1. The importance of living a holy life in the midst of a sinful world.

2. The importance of discerning between moral and immoral behavior.

1. Matthew 6:24 - No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other.

2. 1 Peter 2:11 - Beloved, I beg you as sojourners and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts which war against the soul.

1 Corinthians 5:11 But now I have written unto you not to keep company, if any man that is called a brother be a fornicator, or covetous, or an idolater, or a railer, or a drunkard, or an extortioner; with such an one no not to eat.

The passage is cautioning against having close fellowship with those who are unrepentant in their sin.

1. "Living a Life of Holiness"

2. "The Danger of Bad Company"

1. Ephesians 5:11 - "And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them."

2. 2 Corinthians 6:14-17 - "Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?"

1 Corinthians 5:12 For what have I to do to judge them also that are without? do not ye judge them that are within?

Passage The apostle Paul is asking the Corinthians why they are judging people outside the church, when they should be dealing with those sins that are within the church.

1. Don't Judge Others: Lessons from 1 Corinthians 5:12

2. Living a Life of Love and Forgiveness: The Message of 1 Corinthians 5:12

1. Luke 6:37 - "Judge not, and ye shall not be judged: condemn not, and ye shall not be condemned: forgive, and ye shall be forgiven."

2. Romans 14:13 - "Let us therefore follow after the things which make for peace, and things wherewith one may edify another."

1 Corinthians 5:13 But them that are without God judgeth. Therefore put away from among yourselves that wicked person.

We should put away wicked people from our lives, as God judges them.

1. God requires us to distance ourselves from wicked people, as He will judge them.

2. We must remove the wicked from our lives, as only God can judge them.

1. 1 Corinthians 5:13 - “But them that are without God judgeth. Therefore put away from among yourselves that wicked person.”

2. Psalm 101:3-4 - “I will set no worthless thing before my eyes; I hate the work of those who fall away; It shall not cling to me. A perverse heart shall depart from me; I will know no evil.”

1 Corinthians 6 is the sixth chapter of the First Epistle of Paul to the Corinthians. In this chapter, Paul addresses various issues related to lawsuits, sexual immorality, and the sanctity of believers' bodies.

1st Paragraph: Paul begins by admonishing the Corinthians for taking their disputes and grievances before secular courts instead of resolving them within the church community (1 Corinthians 6:1-6). He emphasizes that believers have been called to judge even angels and should be capable of handling smaller matters among themselves (1 Corinthians 6:2-3). Paul highlights that it is a sign of failure when they turn to worldly systems for judgment instead of seeking wise individuals within their own community.

2nd Paragraph: Paul shifts his focus to address sexual immorality within the Corinthian church. He condemns any form of sexual immorality, including prostitution, as incompatible with a believer's union with Christ (1 Corinthians 6:9-11). He reminds them that their bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit and should not be defiled through immoral acts (1 Corinthians 6:15-20). Paul urges them to flee from sexual immorality and honor God with their bodies.

3rd Paragraph: The chapter concludes by emphasizing that believers have been bought at a price—the sacrifice of Jesus Christ—and are therefore not their own but belong to God (1 Corinthians 6:19-20). Paul warns against engaging in sexual immorality because it is a sin against one's own body. He encourages them to glorify God in both their spirits and bodies.

In summary, Chapter six of First Corinthians addresses issues related to lawsuits, sexual immorality, and the sanctity of believers' bodies. Paul rebukes the Corinthian believers for turning to secular courts instead of resolving disputes internally. He condemns all forms of sexual immorality as incompatible with one's union with Christ and urges them to honor God with their bodies. Paul emphasizes that believers are temples of the Holy Spirit and have been bought at a price, therefore they should flee from immorality and glorify God in both spirit and body. This chapter underscores the importance of resolving conflicts within the church community, abstaining from sexual immorality, and recognizing the sanctity of one's body as a dwelling place of God's Spirit.

1 Corinthians 6:1 Dare any of you, having a matter against another, go to law before the

unjust, and not before the saints?

The passage is a question from Paul in 1 Corinthians 6:1 asking if any of the Corinthians would go to court instead of seeking help from the saints when having an issue with another.

1. "The Beauty of Christian Forgiveness: Resolving Conflict without Going to Court"

2. "Letting Jesus Be Our Judge: The Right Way to Resolve Conflict"

1. Matthew 18:15-17 (“If your brother or sister sins, go and point out their fault, just between the two of you. If they listen to you, you have won them over. But if they will not listen, take one or two others along, so that ‘every matter may be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses. If they still refuse to listen, tell it to the church; and if they refuse to listen even to the church, treat them as you would a pagan or a tax collector.”)

2. Romans 12:18 (“If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.”)

1 Corinthians 6:2 Do ye not know that the saints shall judge the world? and if the world shall be judged by you, are ye unworthy to judge the smallest matters?

The saints will judge the world, so Christians should be able to judge even the smallest matters.

1. The Importance of Discernment in the Christian Life

2. The Power of a Righteous Judgment

1. James 1:5 - If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him.

2. Proverbs 16:2 - All the ways of a man are clean in his own eyes; but the Lord weigheth the spirits.

1 Corinthians 6:3 Know ye not that we shall judge angels? how much more things that pertain to this life?

This passage is emphasizing the fact that believers are capable of judging matters of this life, and even more so matters pertaining to the spiritual realm.

1. Believers are entrusted with the power to discern matters of this world and even the spiritual realm.

2. We have the power to discern between good and evil, and to make the right decisions.

1. Proverbs 14:12: There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death.

2. Isaiah 11:2: And the Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon Him, The Spirit of wisdom and understanding, The Spirit of counsel and might, The Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord.

1 Corinthians 6:4 If then ye have judgments of things pertaining to this life, set them to judge who are least esteemed in the church.

The church is encouraged to entrust its secular matters, such as legal disputes, to its least esteemed members.

1. God can use the least of us to accomplish great things.

2. Trusting in God's wisdom in all matters.

1. James 1:5-6 - "If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him. But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering."

2. Proverbs 3:5-6 - "Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths."

1 Corinthians 6:5 I speak to your shame. Is it so, that there is not a wise man among you? no, not one that shall be able to judge between his brethren?

In 1 Corinthians 6:5, Paul questions the Corinthians for not having a wise man among them to make decisions within their community.

1. We must strive to be wise and seek wisdom even in our own communities.

2. We are responsible for making wise decisions for our brothers and sisters in Christ.

1. Proverbs 1:5, "Let the wise hear and increase in learning, and the one who understands obtain guidance."

2. Proverbs 3:13, "Blessed is the one who finds wisdom, and the one who gets understanding."

1 Corinthians 6:6 But brother goeth to law with brother, and that before the unbelievers.

Christians should not bring their disputes with other Christians to court, as it is not in line with their faith.

1. Christians must not take disputes with their fellow believers to court, but instead seek mediation and reconciliation.

2. We must be careful to handle disagreements with our brothers and sisters in Christ with respect and humility, rather than seeking to resolve them through the courts.

1. Matthew 5:25-26, “Come to terms quickly with your accuser while you are going with him to court, lest your accuser hand you over to the judge, and the judge to the guard, and you be put in prison. Truly, I say to you, you will never get out until you have paid the last penny.”

2. James 4:6, “But he gives more grace. Therefore it says, “God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble.”

1 Corinthians 6:7 Now therefore there is utterly a fault among you, because ye go to law one with another. Why do ye not rather take wrong? why do ye not rather suffer yourselves to be defrauded?

Christians in Corinth are going to court to settle disputes instead of settling them among themselves.

1. "Suffering Wrong: A Lesson from 1 Corinthians 6:7"

2. "The Folly of Litigation: A Teaching from 1 Corinthians 6:7"

1. Colossians 3:13 - "Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye."

2. Ephesians 4:2-3 - "With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love; 3 Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace."

1 Corinthians 6:8 Nay, ye do wrong, and defraud, and that your brethren.

Passage People are wronging and defrauding their brothers.

1. The Dangers of Wronging and Defrauding Others

2. The Importance of Honesty and Integrity

1. James 4:17 - Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin.

2. Matthew 7:12 - Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them: for this is the law and the prophets.

1 Corinthians 6:9 Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind,

The unrighteous will not be allowed to enter the kingdom of God. Those who practice fornication, idolatry, adultery, effeminacy, and homosexuality are not allowed.

1. We must strive to be righteous if we want to enter the Kingdom of God.

2. We must flee from sin and practice holiness if we want to be accepted by God.

1. 1 Corinthians 6:9

2. 1 Corinthians 6:18-20 - Flee from sexual immorality. All other sins a person commits are outside the body, but whoever sins sexually, sins against their own body. Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your bodies.

1 Corinthians 6:10 Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God.

The passage warns against five specific sinful behaviors, and states that those who practice them will not inherit the kingdom of God.

1: We must live lives of holiness and obedience to God in order to receive the promise of eternal life.

2: We must renounce and turn away from sinful behaviors like theft, covetousness, drunkenness, reviling, and extortion if we wish to inherit God's kingdom.

1: Galatians 5:19-21 - Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

2: Ephesians 5:3-5 - But sexual immorality and all impurity or covetousness must not even be named among you, as is proper among saints. Let there be no filthiness nor foolish talk nor crude joking, which are out of place, but instead let there be thanksgiving. For you may be sure of this, that everyone who is sexually immoral or impure, or who is covetous (that is, an idolater), has no inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God.

1 Corinthians 6:11 And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God.

Some people used to live in sin, but now they have been made clean, set apart, and justified through the power of the Lord Jesus and the Holy Spirit.

1. The Power of Christ to Transform Lives

2. Sanctification Through the Work of the Holy Spirit

1. Romans 5:1-5 - Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we boast in the hope of the glory of God.

3. Titus 3:4-7 - But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit.

1 Corinthians 6:12 All things are lawful unto me, but all things are not expedient: all things are lawful for me, but I will not be brought under the power of any.

Paul warns the Corinthians that although everything may be permissible, it is not necessarily beneficial.

1. Don't be swayed by the pull of the world but by the power of Christ.

2. Make sure your choices are beneficial to your faith and not detrimental.

1. 1 John 2:15-17 - Do not love the world or the things in the world.

2. Romans 12:1-2 - Do not be conformed to this world but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.

1 Corinthians 6:13 Meats for the belly, and the belly for meats: but God shall destroy both it and them. Now the body is not for fornication, but for the Lord; and the Lord for the body.

The body is not intended for fornication, but instead to honor God. God will eventually eliminate both the body and its desires.

1. What does it mean to honor God with our bodies?

2. How can we use our bodies to express love and respect for God?

1. Romans 12:1-2 - "Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will."

2. Matthew 5:27-28 - "You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall not commit adultery.’ But I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart."

1 Corinthians 6:14 And God hath both raised up the Lord, and will also raise up us by his own power.

Passage: In this passage, Paul reminds us of the power of God to raise us from the dead. He encourages us to use our bodies for His glory, not for sinful activities.

1. The Power of God to Overcome Death

2. Using Our Bodies for God's Glory

1. Romans 6:12-14 - Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body, that you should obey it in its lusts. And do not present your members as instruments of unrighteousness to sin, but present yourselves to God as being alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God.

14. 1 John 1:9 - If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

1 Corinthians 6:15 Know ye not that your bodies are the members of Christ? shall I then take the members of Christ, and make them the members of an harlot? God forbid.

Paul warns Christians that they should not join themselves to a prostitute because their bodies are the members of Christ.

1. Let us remember that our bodies are the members of Christ and should not be used for sinful purposes.

2. We should not take the members of Christ and make them members of an immoral lifestyle.

1. Romans 12:1-2 - Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.

2. 1 Corinthians 10:31 - So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God.

1 Corinthians 6:16 What? know ye not that he which is joined to an harlot is one body? for two, saith he, shall be one flesh.

Passage: The apostle Paul, writing to the Corinthians, gives a strong warning against sexual immorality. He states that believers should not be joined to those in the act of fornication. He goes on to explain that this act of joining creates a spiritual union, as two become one flesh.

1. The Consequences of Sexual Immorality 2. The Power of Union in Marriage

1. Ephesians 5:31-32 - "Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh." 2. Hebrews 13:4 - "Let marriage be held in honor among all, and let the marriage bed be undefiled, for God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterous."

1 Corinthians 6:17 But he that is joined unto the Lord is one spirit.

The passage emphasizes the importance of being united with the Lord in spirit.

1. "Living in Oneness with the Lord"

2. "The Power of Unity with the Lord"

1. Colossians 3:15 - "And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful."

2. Ephesians 4:3 - "Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace."

1 Corinthians 6:18 Flee fornication. Every sin that a man doeth is without the body; but he that committeth fornication sinneth against his own body.

The passage emphasizes the importance of avoiding fornication as it is a sin against one's own body.

1. "The Sin of Fornication: Why We Must Flee"

2. "Respect Your Body: Flee From Fornication"

1. 1 Thessalonians 4:3-5 - For this is the will of God, even your sanctification, that ye should abstain from fornication: That every one of you should know how to possess his vessel in sanctification and honour; Not in the lust of concupiscence, even as the Gentiles which know not God.

2. Matthew 5:27-28 - Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, Thou shalt not commit adultery: But I say unto you, That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart.

1 Corinthians 6:19 What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?

Our bodies belong to God, and we are not our own.

1. Our Bodies are Temples of the Lord - 1 Corinthians 6:19

2. God is the Owner of Our Bodies - 1 Corinthians 6:19

1. 1 Corinthians 3:16 - Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?

2. 1 Peter 2:5 - Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ.

1 Corinthians 6:20 For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.

The passage reminds us that we are bought with a price and must therefore glorify God in our bodies and spirits.

1: We Belong to God: A Call to Glorify the Lord

2: How Can We Glorify God with Our Bodies and Spirits?

1: Romans 12:1-2 - Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship.

2: Colossians 3:23-24 - Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving.

1 Corinthians 7 is the seventh chapter of the First Epistle of Paul to the Corinthians. In this chapter, Paul addresses various aspects of marriage, singleness, and relationships within the Christian community.

1st Paragraph: Paul begins by discussing the importance of sexual purity within marriage. He affirms that husbands and wives should fulfill their marital duties to each other and not deprive one another except for a mutually agreed-upon time for prayer and fasting (1 Corinthians 7:1-5). Paul recognizes that some believers may have the gift of singleness, enabling them to devote themselves fully to serving God without distractions (1 Corinthians 7:6-9). He advises those who are unmarried or widowed to consider remaining single if they can do so with self-control but acknowledges that marriage is a legitimate option for those who desire it (1 Corinthians 7:8-9).

2nd Paragraph: Paul addresses married couples in which one spouse is a believer while the other is not. He advises believers not to seek divorce but rather strive to maintain their marriages in hopes that their faith may influence their unbelieving spouse (1 Corinthians 7:10-16). However, if an unbelieving spouse chooses to leave, Paul states that the believer is not bound in such circumstances and can be at peace (1 Corinthians 7:15).

3rd Paragraph: The chapter concludes with practical advice on remaining faithful in one's current situation. Paul encourages believers to remain where they are when called into faith unless there are compelling reasons for change (1 Corinthians 7:17-24). He highlights that whether married or single, circumcised or uncircumcised, what matters most is keeping God's commandments and living according to His calling (1 Corinthians 7:19-24). Lastly, he addresses concerns about engagements and advises caution during uncertain times but ultimately leaves it up to individual discretion based on their circumstances (1 Corinthians 7:25-40).

In summary, Chapter seven of First Corinthians addresses various aspects of marriage, singleness, and relationships within the Christian community. Paul emphasizes the importance of sexual purity within marriage and recognizes the gift of singleness for those who can devote themselves fully to God. He advises believers in mixed-faith marriages to strive for reconciliation but acknowledges that peace can be found if an unbelieving spouse chooses to leave. Paul encourages believers to remain faithful in their current situations unless there are compelling reasons for change and emphasizes the importance of keeping God's commandments regardless of one's marital status or

background. This chapter provides practical guidance on navigating relationships and living out one's faith in different circumstances.

1 Corinthians 7:1 Now concerning the things whereof ye wrote unto me: It is good for a man not to touch a woman.

Paul addresses Corinthians' questions about marriage and encourages them to remain celibate if they can.

1. “The Power of Celibacy: Choosing Abstinence for God”

2. “Living in Faith and Abstinence: Understanding 1 Corinthians 7:1”

1. 1 Thessalonians 4:3-5 - “For this is the will of God, even your sanctification, that ye should abstain from fornication: That every one of you should know how to possess his vessel in sanctification and honour; Not in the lust of concupiscence, even as the Gentiles which know not God”

2. 1 Timothy 5:1-2 - “Rebuke not an elder, but intreat him as a father; and the younger men as brethren; The elder women as mothers; the younger as sisters, with all purity.”

1 Corinthians 7:2 Nevertheless, to avoid fornication, let every man have his own wife, and let every woman have her own husband.

Paul advises that to avoid sexual immorality, everyone should get married to someone of the opposite sex.

1. The Sanctity of Marriage: Embracing God's Design for Intimacy

2. The Power of Purity: Choosing God's Best in Relationships

1. Genesis 2:24 Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.

2. Hebrews 13:4 Let marriage be held in honor among all, and let the marriage bed be undefiled, for God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterous.

1 Corinthians 7:3 Let the husband render unto the wife due benevolence: and likewise also the wife unto the husband.

Husbands and wives should show each other kindness and respect.

1. Love, Respect, and Kindness: What the Bible Teaches Us About Marriage

2. God's Plan for Marriage: A Study in 1 Corinthians 7:3

1. Ephesians 5:33 - "However, each one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband."

2. Colossians 3:19 - "Husbands, love your wives and do not be harsh with them."

1 Corinthians 7:4 The wife hath not power of her own body, but the husband: and likewise also the husband hath not power of his own body, but the wife.

The passage emphasizes the importance of mutual respect between husband and wife in regards to their bodies.

1. The Sanctity of Marriage: Respect in the Bedroom

2. The Power of Mutual Respect: Biblical Foundations for a Happy Marriage

1. Ephesians 5:21-33 - Submission in Marriage

2. 1 Peter 3:7 - Husbands, Dwell with Your Wives in Understanding

1 Corinthians 7:5 Defraud ye not one the other, except it be with consent for a time, that ye may give yourselves to fasting and prayer; and come together again, that Satan tempt you not for your incontinency.

Christians should not withhold themselves from their spouses, unless it is mutually agreed upon for a limited amount of time in order to dedicate themselves to prayer and fasting.

1) The Power of Mutual Consent in Marriage

2) The Benefits of Prayer and Fasting in Marriage

1) Ephesians 5:22-33 - Wives, submit to your husbands as to the Lord

2) Galatians 5:16-25 - Walk by the Spirit and fulfill the law of love.

1 Corinthians 7:6 But I speak this by permission, and not of commandment.

Paul gives permission for Christians to marry, but this is not a commandment.

1. Marriage: A Blessing of God, Not a Commandment

2. Understanding Paul's Teaching on Marriage

1. Genesis 2:24 - Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh.

2. Ephesians 5:22-33 - Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord. Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it.

1 Corinthians 7:7 For I would that all men were even as I myself. But every man hath his proper gift of God, one after this manner, and another after that.

Paul expresses his desire for all men to be as he is, but acknowledges that each person has been given a different gift from God.

1. Our Gifts from God: Acknowledging and Embracing Our Unique Talents

2. The Power of Individuality: Celebrating Our Differences

1. Matthew 25:14-30 – Parable of the Talents

2. Ephesians 4:7-8 – Each Christian’s Role in the Body of Christ

1 Corinthians 7:8 I say therefore to the unmarried and widows, It is good for them if they abide even as I.

Passage Paul encourages unmarried and widowed people to remain single like he did.

1. Abide in the Lord and be Content: Understanding 1 Corinthians 7:8

2. The Power of Singleness: Embracing God's Good Plan for Singleness

1. Philippians 4:11-13 – “Not that I am speaking of being in need, for I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content. I know how to be brought low, and I know how to abound. In any and every circumstance, I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need.”

2. 1 Peter 5:6-7 – “Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you, casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you.”

1 Corinthians 7:9 But if they cannot contain, let them marry: for it is better to marry than to burn.

Paul encourages those who cannot contain their passions to marry, since it is better than burning with desire.

1. The Power of Self-Control: How to Resist Temptation.

2. Marriage: A Gift from God for Our Joy and Satisfaction.

1. Galatians 5:16-17 - "Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh. For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would."

2. 1 Thessalonians 4:3-5 - "For this is the will of God, even your sanctification, that ye should abstain from fornication: That every one of you should know how to possess his vessel in sanctification and honour; Not in the lust of concupiscence, even as the Gentiles which know not God."

1 Corinthians 7:10 And unto the married I command, yet not I, but the Lord, Let not the wife depart from her husband:

Paul commands married couples to remain together, citing the Lord as the source of his command.

1. "The Power of Marriage: Finding Strength in Unity"

2. "The Lord's Call for Holiness in Marriage"

1. Proverbs 18:22 - "He who finds a wife finds a good thing, and obtains favor from the Lord."

2. Ephesians 5:22-33 - "Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church, his body, and is himself its Savior. Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her..."

1 Corinthians 7:11 But and if she depart, let her remain unmarried, or be reconciled to her husband: and let not the husband put away his wife.

This passage discusses the importance of marriage and how it should be maintained, even in cases of discord.

1. The Strength of Marriage: Why We Need to Work Through Difficulties

2. The Sanctity of Marriage: Honoring God Through Commitment

1. Ephesians 5:21-33 - Submitting to One Another in the Fear of the Lord

2. Romans 12:9-21 - Living in Harmony with One Another and Loving One Another

1 Corinthians 7:12 But to the rest speak I, not the Lord: If any brother hath a wife that believeth not, and she be pleased to dwell with him, let him not put her away.

Paul advises married couples in which one spouse does not believe in the gospel, that

they should remain together if both parties agree.

1) The importance of commitment in marriage, even when faced with challenges.

2) The strength of a marriage when two people come together for the greater good.

1) Romans 12:18 - "If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone."

2) Ephesians 5:21 - "Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ."

1 Corinthians 7:13 And the woman which hath an husband that believeth not, and if he be pleased to dwell with her, let her not leave him.

A believing wife should not leave her unbelieving husband if he is willing to live with her.

1. Learning to Love Unbelievers - How to honor God in a marriage with an unbelieving partner.

2. Living with Hope in a Difficult Marriage - Finding strength and resilience in the face of a marriage with a partner who does not share your faith.

1. Ephesians 5:21-33 - Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ, and how husbands should love their wives.

2. Romans 12:9-13 - Love must be sincere, and loving one another in a practical way.

1 Corinthians 7:14 For the unbelieving husband is sanctified by the wife, and the unbelieving wife is sanctified by the husband: else were your children unclean; but now are they holy.

Believers and unbelievers can be married, and their children will be holy.

1. The Power of Sanctification: How Believers and Unbelievers Can Still Be Blessed

2. The Holiness of Children: How Your Children Can Receive God's Blessing

1. Matthew 19:3-9; The Pharisees ask Jesus about divorce

2. Ephesians 6:1-4; Parents and Children in the Household of God

1 Corinthians 7:15 But if the unbelieving depart, let him depart. A brother or a sister is not under bondage in such cases: but God hath called us to peace.

If one partner of a marriage is an unbeliever, and they decide to leave, the believer should not be bound by this and should be at peace.

1. "Peace in the Midst of Unbelief"

2. "God's Call to Peace"

1. Romans 12:18 - "If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men."

2. Ephesians 4:3 - "Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace."

1 Corinthians 7:16 For what knowest thou, O wife, whether thou shalt save thy husband? or how knowest thou, O man, whether thou shalt save thy wife?

Paul questions the ability of a husband and wife to save one another.

1. “The Power of Love: How Can We Save Each Other?”

2. “Marriage and Redemption: The Challenge of Salvation.”

1. Ephesians 5:33 - “Nevertheless let every one of you in particular so love his wife even as himself; and the wife see that she reverence her husband.”

2. Romans 8:38-39 - “For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

1 Corinthians 7:17 But as God hath distributed to every man, as the Lord hath called every one, so let him walk. And so ordain I in all churches.

This verse encourages Christians to accept their place in life as determined by God, and to live in accordance with the calling He has decreed for them.

1. "Accepting Your Place in Life: Finding Contentment in God's Will"

2. "Living in Accordance with God's Calling: A Challenge for All Believers"

1. Matthew 6:33 - "But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you."

2. Philippians 4:11-13 - "Not that I am speaking of being in need, for I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content. I know how to be brought low, and I know how to abound. In any and every circumstance, I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need. I can do all things through him who strengthens me."

1 Corinthians 7:18 Is any man called being circumcised? let him not become uncircumcised. Is any called in uncircumcision? let him not be circumcised.

Paul instructs that those who are called to be circumcised should not become uncircumcised and those called to be uncircumcised should not be circumcised.

1. The Power of Choice: Exploring Paul's Instruction to the Corinthians

2. The Beauty of Acceptance: Understanding Paul's View on Circumcision

1. Galatians 5:6 - "For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision, but faith which worketh by love."

2. Romans 2:25-29 - "For circumcision verily profiteth, if thou keep the law: but if thou be a breaker of the law, thy circumcision is made uncircumcision. Therefore if the uncircumcision keep the righteousness of the law, shall not his uncircumcision be counted for circumcision? And shall not uncircumcision which is by nature, if it fulfill the law, judge thee, who by the letter and circumcision dost transgress the law? For he is not a Jew, which is one outwardly; neither is that circumcision, which is outward in the flesh: But he is a Jew, which is one inwardly; and circumcision is that of the heart, in the spirit, and not in the letter; whose praise is not of men, but of God."

1 Corinthians 7:19 Circumcision is nothing, and uncircumcision is nothing, but the keeping of the commandments of God.

Paul reminds the Corinthians that circumcision is not important, but following the commandments of God is.

1. "Living a Life of Obedience: The Power of Keeping God's Commandments"

2. "The Profound Meaning of Circumcision and Uncircumcision"

1. Matthew 22:35-40 - Jesus teaches on the greatest commandments

2. Deuteronomy 6:1-5 - The Shema: The Core of Jewish Belief

1 Corinthians 7:20 Let every man abide in the same calling wherein he was called.

Every person should remain in the same role or job that they were called to when they first began.

1. Abide in the Calling: Finding Contentment in the Work You Were Given

2. The Importance of Staying True to Your Calling

1. Ecclesiastes 9:10 - Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with your might, for there is no work or thought or knowledge or wisdom in Sheol, to which you are going.

2. Philippians 3:14 - I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

1 Corinthians 7:21 Art thou called being a servant? care not for it: but if thou mayest be made free, use it rather.

Christians should take advantage of any opportunity to be free from servitude.

1. The Freedom of Christ: Understanding Our Place in God's Eternal Plan

2. The Power of Choice: Finding Our Own Path to Freedom

1. Galatians 5:1 - "For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery."

2. Isaiah 61:1 - "The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me to bring good news to the poor; he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound."

1 Corinthians 7:22 For he that is called in the Lord, being a servant, is the Lord's freeman: likewise also he that is called, being free, is Christ's servant.

The passage explains that those who are called into the Lord's service, whether servant or free, are ultimately in service to Christ.

1. The freedom of being a servant of Christ.

2. The importance of being called into the Lord’s service.

1. Galatians 5:1 - “For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.”

2. Romans 12:1 - “I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.”

1 Corinthians 7:23 Ye are bought with a price; be not ye the servants of men.

Passage Christians are not to be enslaved to any human master, as they have been bought by the price of Jesus' death.

1. We Are Not Slaves But Freed Men and Women in Christ

2. The High Cost of Our Redemption: How Much Jesus Paid For Us

1. Colossians 3:24-25 - And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto

men; Knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ.

2. Matthew 20:28 - Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many.

1 Corinthians 7:24 Brethren, let every man, wherein he is called, therein abide with God.

Believers should stay in the state or vocation in which they are called and serve God in it.

1. Abide in your calling and serve God.

2. Make the most of wherever God has placed you to serve Him.

1. Romans 12:1-2 - Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

2. Philippians 4:13 - I can do all this through him who gives me strength.

1 Corinthians 7:25 Now concerning virgins I have no commandment of the Lord: yet I give my judgment, as one that hath obtained mercy of the Lord to be faithful.

Paul encourages Christians to remain single until they are ready to marry, but acknowledges that it is a personal decision.

1. "The Gift of Singleness: Understanding the Blessings of Living a Life of Celibacy"

2. "Love and Marriage: Discerning the Lord's Will for Your Life"

1. Matthew 19:12 "For there are some eunuchs, which were so born from their mother's womb"

2. Ephesians 5:21-33 "Submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God".

1 Corinthians 7:26 I suppose therefore that this is good for the present distress, I say, that it is good for a man so to be.

The apostle Paul encourages Christians facing present distress to remain unmarried.

1. “The Blessing of Single Life”

2. “The Strength Found in Abiding with God”

1. Matthew 19:10-12 - Jesus’ teaching on the blessing of singleness

2. Isaiah 41:10 - God’s promise of strength to those who abide in Him

1 Corinthians 7:27 Art thou bound unto a wife? seek not to be loosed. Art thou loosed from a wife? seek not a wife.

Paul advises Christians to remain married if they are married, and to remain single if they are single.

1. The Gift of Marriage: God's Plan for a Fulfilled Life

2. Singleness: Finding Joy and Fulfillment in God Alone

1. Ephesians 5:22-33 - Marriage as a reflection of Christ and the Church

2. Matthew 19:3-12 - Jesus' teaching on marriage and divorce

1 Corinthians 7:28 But and if thou marry, thou hast not sinned; and if a virgin marry, she hath not sinned. Nevertheless such shall have trouble in the flesh: but I spare you.

It is not a sin to marry, however it can bring trouble.

1. Marriage is a Blessing Despite Potential Troubles

2. Seek God's Wisdom When Considering Marriage

1. Psalm 127:3 - Behold, children are a heritage from the Lord, the fruit of the womb a reward.

2. Ecclesiastes 4:9 - Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their toil.

1 Corinthians 7:29 But this I say, brethren, the time is short: it remaineth, that both they that have wives be as though they had none;

The time is short, so those with wives should act as if they don't.

1. "Living Life in the Moment: Making the Most of Our Time"

2. "Living Life with Purpose: Prioritizing What Matters Most"

1. Romans 13:11-14 - Make the most of the time, because the days are evil.

2. Ecclesiastes 3:1-8 - There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens.

1 Corinthians 7:30 And they that weep, as though they wept not; and they that rejoice, as though they rejoiced not; and they that buy, as though they possessed not;

The passage speaks of living in the world without being of the world.

1. Living in the World without Being of the World

2. Striving for Contentment and Joy in the Lord

1. 2 Corinthians 6:14-18

2. Philippians 4:11-13

1 Corinthians 7:31 And they that use this world, as not abusing it: for the fashion of this world passeth away.

The world is temporary and should not be abused.

1. Embracing the Present and Living for Eternity

2. The Transience of Life and the Need for Preparedness

1. James 4:14, “Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away.”

2. Matthew 6:19-20, “Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal.”

1 Corinthians 7:32 But I would have you without carefulness. He that is unmarried careth for the things that belong to the Lord, how he may please the Lord:

Paul encourages unmarried people to focus on pleasing the Lord without being weighed down by worldly cares.

1. “Living for the Lord: A Call to Unmarried Believers”

2. “The Blessing of Singleness: Focusing on the Lord’s Will”

1. 1 Peter 1:13 - “Wherefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and hope to the end for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.”

2. Matthew 6:33 - “But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.”

1 Corinthians 7:33 But he that is married careth for the things that are of the world, how he may please his wife.

Paul urges married people to consider the needs of their spouses in their decision-making.

1. The importance of considering our partner in decisions we make.

2. Living in harmony by considering our spouse's needs.

1. Ephesians 5:21-33: Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.

2. Colossians 3:18-19: Wives, submit to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord.

1 Corinthians 7:34 There is difference also between a wife and a virgin. The unmarried woman careth for the things of the Lord, that she may be holy both in body and in spirit: but she that is married careth for the things of the world, how she may please her husband.

The passage discusses the differences between married and unmarried women in relation to their devotion to the Lord.

1. "Living for the Lord: The Heart of a Single Woman"

2. "Finding Balance: The Heart of a Married Woman"

1. Proverbs 31:10-31

2. Matthew 6:33-34

1 Corinthians 7:35 And this I speak for your own profit; not that I may cast a snare upon you, but for that which is comely, and that ye may attend upon the Lord without distraction.

Paul encourages believers to serve the Lord without interruption or distraction.

1. The Power of Focused Worship: How to Serve God Without Distraction

2. The Joy of Serving God Without Distraction

1. Colossians 3:23-24 - Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from

the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving.

2. Psalm 46:10 - Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth.

1 Corinthians 7:36 But if any man think that he behaveth himself uncomely toward his virgin, if she pass the flower of her age, and need so require, let him do what he will, he sinneth not: let them marry.

Paul advises that if a man believes he is acting inappropriately towards his unmarried partner, he should marry her if she is of marriageable age and it will not be considered a sin.

1. The Meaning of Marriage - Understanding Paul's Advice to the Corinthians

2. Making Right Choices - Heeding Paul's Teaching on Marriage

1. Hebrews 13:4 - Marriage is honorable in all, and the bed undefiled: but whoremongers and adulterers God will judge.

2. Ephesians 5:21-33 - Submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ.

1 Corinthians 7:37 Nevertheless he that standeth stedfast in his heart, having no necessity, but hath power over his own will, and hath so decreed in his heart that he will keep his virgin, doeth well.

Paul encourages those who have chosen not to marry to remain steadfast in their decision, as it is a decision of their own will.

1. The Power of Self-Control: How Choosing to Remain Single is an Act of Strength.

2. The Beauty of Celibacy: Embracing Singleness and Recognizing Its Value.

1. 1 Corinthians 6:12-13 - "All things are lawful unto me, but all things are not expedient: all things are lawful for me, but I will not be brought under the power of any."

2. 1 Peter 5:8 - "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour."

1 Corinthians 7:38 So then he that giveth her in marriage doeth well; but he that giveth her not in marriage doeth better.

Paul encourages believers to consider the advantages and disadvantages of marriage before entering into it, and suggests that not marrying may be more beneficial.

1. "The Benefits of Abstaining from Marriage"

2. "Making the Right Choice: When Marriage is the Answer"

1. Matthew 19:12 - "For there are some eunuchs, which were so born from their mother’s womb: and there are some eunuchs, which were made eunuchs of men: and there be eunuchs, which have made themselves eunuchs for the kingdom of heaven’s sake. He that is able to receive it, let him receive it."

2. 1 Timothy 5:14 - "I will therefore that the younger women marry, bear children, guide the house, give none occasion to the adversary to speak reproachfully."

1 Corinthians 7:39 The wife is bound by the law as long as her husband liveth; but if her husband be dead, she is at liberty to be married to whom she will; only in the Lord.

A woman is bound to her husband as long as he is alive, but if he dies she is free to marry whom she wishes, as long as they are in the Lord.

1. The importance of commitment to God in marriage

2. The freedom that comes with trusting in God

1. Romans 8:38-39 - For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

2. Matthew 19:4-6 - He answered, “Have you not read that he who created them from the beginning made them male and female, and said, ‘Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh’? So they are no longer two but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate.”

1 Corinthians 7:40 But she is happier if she so abide, after my judgment: and I think also that I have the Spirit of God.

Paul encourages single Christian women to remain as they are, and believes he has the Spirit of God.

1. The Strength of the Single Christian Woman

2. God's Spirit of Encouragement

1. Romans 8:26-27 - Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.

2. 1 Peter 3:3-4 - Do not let your adornment be merely outward—arranging the hair, wearing gold, or putting on fine apparel— rather let it be the hidden person of the heart, with the incorruptible beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is very precious in the sight of God.

1 Corinthians 8 is the eighth chapter of the First Epistle of Paul to the Corinthians. In this chapter, Paul addresses the issue of eating food sacrificed to idols and provides guidance on how believers should approach this matter.

1st Paragraph: Paul begins by acknowledging that believers have knowledge that idols are not real gods and that there is only one true God (1 Corinthians 8:4-6). However, he cautions against letting knowledge alone lead to arrogance, as it can puff up a person with pride (1 Corinthians 8:1-2). He explains that while idols are nothing, some people who were formerly idol worshipers may still be influenced by their past associations and consider eating food sacrificed to idols as participation in idol worship (1 Corinthians 8:7-10). Paul urges those who possess knowledge to exercise love and consideration for these weaker believers by abstaining from such food if it causes them to stumble (1 Corinthians 8:9-13).

2nd Paragraph: Paul emphasizes that knowledge alone does not make one closer or more acceptable to God. He explains that true knowledge is accompanied by love, which builds up others spiritually (1 Corinthians 8:1-3). He warns against using one's freedom or knowledge as a stumbling block for others, especially those who are weaker in faith (1 Corinthians 8:9-12). Instead, believers should prioritize love over personal rights and preferences.

3rd Paragraph: The chapter concludes with an appeal for believers to imitate Christ's example of self-sacrificial love. Paul encourages them to consider how their actions impact others' spiritual well-being rather than focusing solely on their own desires or

freedoms (1 Corinthians 8:13). He urges them to willingly limit their freedom for the sake of preserving unity within the body of Christ.

In summary, Chapter eight of First Corinthians addresses the issue of eating food sacrificed to idols. Paul acknowledges that idols are not real gods, but he cautions against arrogance and emphasizes the importance of love and consideration for weaker believers. He urges those with knowledge to abstain from eating such food if it causes others to stumble. Paul highlights that true knowledge is accompanied by love and warns against using personal freedom as a stumbling block for others. He encourages believers to prioritize self-sacrificial love and consider the impact of their actions on the spiritual well-being of fellow believers. This chapter emphasizes the importance of love, unity, and considering others' needs in matters related to personal freedoms and practices.

1 Corinthians 8:1 Now as touching things offered unto idols, we know that we all have knowledge. Knowledge puffeth up, but charity edifieth.

Knowledge is a great thing, but it must be accompanied by charity or it can become prideful.

1. The Strength of Knowledge and Charity

2. The Power of Love over Pride

1. Romans 12:9-10 Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good. Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor.

2. Colossians 3:12-14 Put on then, as God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.

1 Corinthians 8:2 And if any man think that he knoweth any thing, he knoweth nothing yet as he ought to know.

Paul is warning the Corinthians to be humble, as they may think they know something but in reality they don't know as much as they should.

1. Humility: The Key to True Knowledge

2. Pride Hinders Understanding

1. Proverbs 11:2 - When pride comes, then comes disgrace, but with humility comes wisdom.

2. James 4:6 - But he gives more grace. Therefore it says, “God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble.”

1 Corinthians 8:3 But if any man love God, the same is known of him.

Believers who love God are known by Him.

1. "A Heart for God," focusing on the importance of loving God.

2. "Known by God," focusing on how God knows those who love Him.

1. Romans 8:27-29, which speaks of how the Holy Spirit intercedes for us and how God knows our hearts.

2. Psalm 139:1-4, which speaks of how God knows us intimately and is with us wherever we go.

1 Corinthians 8:4 As concerning therefore the eating of those things that are offered in sacrifice unto idols, we know that an idol is nothing in the world, and that there is none other God but one.

Paul teaches that idols are nothing and there is only one God.

1: We must recognize that there is only one God and that idols are nothing.

2: We should not put our hope and trust in false gods or idols, but rather focus on the one true God.

1: Deuteronomy 32:39 - “See now that I, even I, am he, and there is no god beside me; I kill and I make alive; I wound and I heal; and there is none that can deliver out of my hand.”

2: Isaiah 44:6-8 - “Thus says the Lord, the King of Israel and his Redeemer, the Lord of hosts: ‘I am the first and I am the last; besides me there is no god. Who is like me? Let him proclaim it. Let him declare and set it before me, since I appointed an ancient people. Let them declare what is to come, and what will happen. Fear not, nor be afraid; have I not told you from of old and declared it? And you are my witnesses! Is there a God besides me? There is no Rock; I know not any.’”

1 Corinthians 8:5 For though there be that are called gods, whether in heaven or in earth, (as there be gods many, and lords many,)

Passage Paul acknowledges that there are many gods and lords, both in heaven and on earth.

1. The Lord Is Above All: How to Live for the One True God

2. Understanding the Multiplicity of Gods: What the Bible Says About Other Gods

1. Psalm 97:9 – “For thou, Lord, art high above all the earth: thou art exalted far above all gods.”

2. Acts 14:11-15 – “And when the people saw what Paul had done, they lifted up their voices, saying in the speech of Lycaonia, The gods are come down to us in the likeness of men. And they called Barnabas, Jupiter; and Paul, Mercurius, because he was the chief speaker. Then the priest of Jupiter, which was before their city, brought oxen and garlands unto the gates, and would have done sacrifice with the people. Which when the apostles, Barnabas and Paul, heard of, they rent their clothes, and ran in among the people, crying out, And saying, Sirs, why do ye these things? We also are men of like passions with you, and preach unto you that ye should turn from these vanities unto the living God, which made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and all things that are therein.”

1 Corinthians 8:6 But to us there is but one God, the Father, of whom are all things, and we in him; and one Lord Jesus Christ, by whom are all things, and we by him.

There is only one God, the Father, who is the creator of all things, and one Lord Jesus Christ, who is the savior of all things.

1. "The Uniqueness of God and Jesus Christ"

2. "The Unifying Power of God and Jesus Christ"

1. Ephesians 4:4-6 - There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

2. Isaiah 45:22 - “Turn to me and be saved, all the ends of the earth! For I am God, and there is no other.

1 Corinthians 8:7 Howbeit there is not in every man that knowledge: for some with conscience of the idol unto this hour eat it as a thing offered unto an idol; and their conscience being weak is defiled.

Paul warns that not everyone has knowledge of the implications of eating food sacrificed to idols, and that those who do not understand may have defiled consciences.

1. "What Does it Mean to Have a Weak Conscience?"

2. "The Power of Knowledge: How Knowing the Implications of Eating Food Sacrificed to Idols Can Help Protect Your Conscience"

1. Romans 14:21-23

2. Titus 1:15-16

1 Corinthians 8:8 But meat commendeth us not to God: for neither, if we eat, are we the better; neither, if we eat not, are we the worse.

The passage emphasizes that what we eat does not make us better or worse in God's eyes.

1. We are not judged by what we eat, but by how we live our lives according to God's will.

2. Our physical actions are not more important than our spiritual actions in God's eyes.

1. John 6:63-65 - Jesus’ words about how our spiritual sustenance is much more important than physical sustenance.

2. Galatians 5:16-17 - Paul’s words about the importance of following the Spirit instead of our own desires.

1 Corinthians 8:9 But take heed lest by any means this liberty of yours become a stumblingblock to them that are weak.

Paul warns Christians to be aware that their freedom in certain matters may become a stumbling block to weaker believers.

1. Living Out Your Faith in a World That Doesn't Understand

2. The Power of Our Witness: How We Can Impact Others for Good

1. Ephesians 4:1-3 - To walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

2. Matthew 5:14-16 - You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.

1 Corinthians 8:10 For if any man see thee which hast knowledge sit at meat in the idol's temple, shall not the conscience of him which is weak be emboldened to eat those things which are offered to idols;

A man with knowledge of the idols' temple should be aware of how their actions may impact someone with a weaker conscience.

1. Living a life of love that considers the impact on others.

2. Being a positive influence despite our environment.

1. Ephesians 4:32 - Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.

2. Galatians 5:13-14 - You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh; rather, serve one another humbly in love. For the entire law is fulfilled in keeping this one command: “Love your neighbor as yourself.”

1 Corinthians 8:11 And through thy knowledge shall the weak brother perish, for whom Christ died?

Passage Paul questions whether knowledge can lead to a weaker brother's spiritual destruction, even though Christ died for them.

1. The Power of Knowledge: How Knowing Too Much Can Lead To Spiritual Destruction

2. The Cost of Redemption: The Price Jesus Paid to Save Us from Spiritual Destruction

1. Romans 8:37-39 - No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

2. John 3:16-17 - For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

1 Corinthians 8:12 But when ye sin so against the brethren, and wound their weak conscience, ye sin against Christ.

Paul warns the Corinthians that when they sin against their fellow believers, they are also sinning against Christ.

1. Our Actions Matter: The Consequences of Sinning Against Others

2. A Weak Conscience: How Our Actions Can Impact the Vulnerable

1. James 4:17 - So whoever knows the right thing to do and fails to do it, for him it is sin.

2. Matthew 18:6-7 - “If anyone causes one of these little ones—those who believe in me—to stumble, it would be better for them to have a large millstone hung around their neck and to be drowned in the depths of the sea.

1 Corinthians 8:13 Wherefore, if meat make my brother to offend, I will eat no flesh while the world standeth, lest I make my brother to offend.

Paul encourages Christians to be mindful of their actions and how it might affect their brothers and sisters in Christ, and to abstain from something if it could cause them to stumble.

1. Living a Life of Consideration: Practicing Love through Self-Sacrifice

2. The Power of Self-Denial: Restraining Self for the Benefit of Others

1. Ephesians 4:2-3 – “With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love; Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.”

2. Colossians 3:14-15 – “And above all these things put on charity, which is the bond of perfectness. And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful.”

1 Corinthians 9 is the ninth chapter of the First Epistle of Paul to the Corinthians. In this chapter, Paul defends his apostleship and discusses his rights as an apostle, highlighting his willingness to forgo personal privileges for the sake of the gospel.

1st Paragraph: Paul begins by asserting his apostolic authority and defending his right to receive support from the Corinthians (1 Corinthians 9:1-3). He presents arguments to support this claim, citing examples such as soldiers, farmers, and those who serve in the temple who are entitled to compensation for their work (1 Corinthians 9:4-14). However, he explains that he has not made use of this right among them in order not to hinder or burden them with financial obligations (1 Corinthians 9:12). Instead, he has chosen to rely on preaching the gospel as a voluntary service without seeking personal gain.

2nd Paragraph: Paul then describes how he adapts himself to various cultural contexts in order to reach different groups with the gospel message. He becomes "all things" to all people so that by all means possible, some might be saved (1 Corinthians 9:19-23). He emphasizes that although he is free and has rights as an apostle, he willingly surrenders those rights for the sake of others' salvation. His ultimate goal is winning people for Christ and sharing in their spiritual blessings.

3rd Paragraph: The chapter concludes with a call for self-discipline and perseverance in running the race of faith. Paul uses athletic imagery to illustrate how believers should train themselves spiritually and strive for an imperishable prize (1 Corinthians 9:24-27). He urges them not to run aimlessly or fight like someone beating at air but rather discipline their bodies and bring it under control so they can effectively serve God's purposes.

In summary, Chapter nine of First Corinthians focuses on Paul's defense of his apostleship and his willingness to forgo personal privileges for the sake of the gospel. He defends his right to receive support but explains that he has chosen not to exercise this right among the Corinthians in order not to burden them. Paul adapts himself to different cultural contexts in order to reach various groups with the gospel message, emphasizing his goal of winning people for Christ. He calls for self-discipline and perseverance, using athletic imagery to illustrate the need for spiritual training and bringing one's body under control. This chapter highlights Paul's sacrificial mindset, his dedication to spreading the gospel, and the importance of self-discipline in serving God's purposes.

1 Corinthians 9:1 Am I not an apostle? am I not free? have I not seen Jesus Christ our Lord? are not ye my work in the Lord?

Paul the apostle is asking the Corinthians whether he is an apostle, free, and if he has seen Jesus Christ, and if the Corinthians are his work in the Lord.

1. The Freedom of Being a Child of God

2. The Blessings of Serving the Lord

1. John 8:36 - So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.

2. Galatians 5:13 - You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh; rather, serve one another humbly in love.

1 Corinthians 9:2 If I be not an apostle unto others, yet doubtless I am to you: for the seal of mine apostleship are ye in the Lord.

Paul states that he is an apostle to the Corinthians, and that they are his proof of his apostleship.

1. God calls us to serve in many different ways; the Corinthians were proof of Paul's apostleship.

2. We are all ministers of the gospel and have a responsibility to be witnesses of God's grace.

1. Romans 1:16 - For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for

salvation to everyone who believes.

2. 1 Peter 2:9 - But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

1 Corinthians 9:3 Mine answer to them that do examine me is this,

The passage speaks of Paul's answer to those who questioned him about his right to be supported by the church.

1. The Importance of Supporting Preachers

2. What We Can Learn from Paul's Answer

1. Romans 15:27 - ?□hey were pleased to do it, and indeed they owe it to them. For if the Gentiles have come to share in their spiritual blessings, they ought also to be of service to them in material blessings.??

2. 2 Corinthians 11:7-9 - ?□r did I commit a sin in humbling myself so that you might be exalted, because I preached God?□ gospel to you free of charge? I robbed other churches by accepting support from them in order to serve you. And when I was with you and was in need, I did not burden anyone, for the brothers who came from Macedonia supplied my need. So I refrained and will refrain from burdening you in any way.??

1 Corinthians 9:4 Have we not power to eat and to drink?

The passage discusses the apostle Paul's use of his right to receive financial support from the church.

1. The Power of Our Rights - Exploring how we can use our rights to serve others.

2. Serving Out of Love - Understanding why we serve others even when we have the right to receive support.

1. Philippians 2:3-4 - ?□o nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.??

2. Matthew 6:2-4 - ?□o when you give to the needy, do not announce it with trumpets, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and on the streets, to be honored by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full. But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your giving may be in secret. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.??

1 Corinthians 9:5 Have we not power to lead about a sister, a wife, as well as other apostles, and as the brethren of the Lord, and Cephas?

Paul is questioning if he and other apostles are allowed to take a wife or sister with them on their travels, like the brother of Jesus and Peter.

1. ?□od's Power to Lead Our Journeys??

2. ?□he Support of Faithful Companions??

1. Genesis 2:18-24, God creates woman as a companion for man.

2. Proverbs 18:24, A man of many companions may come to ruin, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother.

1 Corinthians 9:6 Or I only and Barnabas, have not we power to forbear working?

The passage indicates that Paul and Barnabas had the right to not work and be supported by the church.

#1: We all have the right to be supported by our church family when we need it.

#2: God provides us with the resources to survive during times of need.

#1: Galatians 6:2 - Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.

#2: Philippians 4:19 - But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

1 Corinthians 9:7 Who goeth a warfare any time at his own charges? who planteth a

vineyard, and eateth not of the fruit thereof? or who feedeth a flock, and eateth not of the milk of the flock?

Paul asks rhetorical questions to emphasize the importance of being provided for financially when one is serving the Lord.

1. The Importance of Financial Support for Ministry

2. Serving God with Integrity: What Does it Look Like?

1. Deuteronomy 25:4 - ?□ou shall not muzzle an ox when it is treading out the grain.??

2. Luke 10:7 - ?□tay in that house, eating and drinking what they provide, for the laborer deserves his wages.??

1 Corinthians 9:8 Say I these things as a man? or saith not the law the same also?

Paul argues that the same law applies to him as it does to all other people.

1. We can learn from Paul's example and remember to follow the same laws that apply to everyone.

2. Even when we are in positions of authority, we must remember to abide by the same laws that everyone else does.

1. Matthew 22:16-21 - Jesus reminds his listeners that God's laws are to be obeyed by all.

2. James 2:10-11 - James reminds believers of the importance of treating everyone equally and not discriminating.

1 Corinthians 9:9 For it is written in the law of Moses, Thou shalt not muzzle the mouth of the ox that treadeth out the corn. Doth God take care for oxen?

Paul uses a quote from the Old Testament to argue that God cares for His creation, even the animals, and it is thus appropriate for those who preach the gospel to be supported financially.

1. God Cares: An Exploration of 1 Corinthians 9:9

2. The Law of Moses: Examining the Context of 1 Corinthians 9:9

1. Psalm 147:9 - "He giveth to the beast his food, and to the young ravens which cry."

2. Matthew 10:9-10 - "Provide neither gold, nor silver, nor brass in your purses, Nor scrip for your journey, neither two coats, neither shoes, nor yet staves: for the workman is worthy of his meat."

1 Corinthians 9:10 Or saith he it altogether for our sakes? For our sakes, no doubt, this is written: that he that ploweth should plow in hope; and that he that thresheth in hope should be partaker of his hope.

Paul explains that God has written things in the Bible for our sake, so that we can hope and be partakers of that hope.

1. The Hope of the Lord: How to Rely on God's Promises

2. Cultivating a Heart of Hope: Growing Faith in Difficult Times

1. Romans 8:24-25 - For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

2. Hebrews 11:1 - Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.

1 Corinthians 9:11 If we have sown unto you spiritual things, is it a great thing if we shall reap your carnal things?

Paul is asking if it is wrong for church leaders to receive financial support for the work they do for the church.

1. The Blessings of Giving and Receiving in the Church

2. The Importance of Stewardship in the Body of Christ

1. 2 Corinthians 9:7 - "Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver."

2. Matthew 10:8-10 - "Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out devils: freely ye have received, freely give. Provide neither gold, nor silver, nor brass in your purses...Nor scrip for your journey, neither two coats, neither shoes, nor yet staves: for the workman is worthy of his meat."

1 Corinthians 9:12 If others be partakers of this power over you, are not we rather? Nevertheless we have not used this power; but suffer all things, lest we should hinder the gospel of Christ.

Paul is reminding the Corinthians that he has not sought to use his authority over them but instead has chosen to suffer in order to ensure that the gospel of Christ is not hindered.

1. The Power of Self-Sacrifice: The Example of Paul

2. The Rewards of a Life of Self-Giving

1. Philippians 2:3-4 - "Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others."

2. Romans 12:10 - "Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor."

1 Corinthians 9:13 Do ye not know that they which minister about holy things live of the things of the temple? and they which wait at the altar are partakers with the altar?

Those who serve in the church are given provisions from the temple.

1. Understanding How God Rewards Those Who Serve in the Church

2. The Blessings of Serving in God's Kingdom

1. Malachi 3:10 - ?□ring the full tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my

house. And thereby put me to the test, says the Lord of hosts, if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you a blessing until there is no more need.??

2. Hebrews 13:17 - ?□bey your leaders and submit to them, for they are keeping watch over your souls, as those who will have to give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with groaning, for that would be of no advantage to you.??

1 Corinthians 9:14 Even so hath the Lord ordained that they which preach the gospel should live of the gospel.

The Lord has ordained that those who preach the gospel should be supported by it.

1. The Lord's Blessing for Gospel Preachers

2. The Responsibility of Gospel Preachers

1. Matthew 10:7-8 - And as you go, proclaim this message: ?□he kingdom of heaven has come near.??8 Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse those who have leprosy, drive out demons. Freely you have received; freely give.

2. 2 Corinthians 9:8 - And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.

1 Corinthians 9:15 But I have used none of these things: neither have I written these things, that it should be so done unto me: for it were better for me to die, than that any man should make my glorying void.

Paul claims that he did not use his rights as an apostle to receive financial benefits, as it would nullify his boasting in God.

1. Don't Let Your Boasting Be in Vain: A on 1 Corinthians 9:15

2. The Value of Self-Sacrifice: A on 1 Corinthians 9:15

1. Philippians 2:5-8 - "Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient

unto death, even the death of the cross."

2. 2 Corinthians 12:9 - "And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me."

1 Corinthians 9:16 For though I preach the gospel, I have nothing to glory of: for necessity is laid upon me; yea, woe is unto me, if I preach not the gospel!

Paul speaks of the necessity to preach the gospel and expresses his woe should he not do so.

1. "Living a Life of Necessity: Preaching the Gospel"

2. "Obedience to God: Preaching the Gospel"

1. Romans 1:14-16 - "For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek. For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith. For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness."

2. 1 John 4:19 - "We love him, because he first loved us."

1 Corinthians 9:17 For if I do this thing willingly, I have a reward: but if against my will, a dispensation of the gospel is committed unto me.

The passage speaks of Paul's willingness to preach the gospel, even when it is an obligation and not a choice.

1. The Power of Willingness: How to Make the Best of Obligations

2. A New Perspective on Obligations: Embracing Your Calling

1. Matthew 28:19-20 - "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you."

2. Romans 1:14-16 - "I am a debtor both to Greeks and to barbarians, both to wise and to unwise. So, as much as is in me, I am ready to preach the gospel to you who are in Rome also. For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes."

1 Corinthians 9:18 What is my reward then? Verily that, when I preach the gospel, I may make the gospel of Christ without charge, that I abuse not my power in the gospel.

Paul explains that when he preaches the gospel, he does not require a fee or payment in return.

1. The Power of the Gospel: What Love Does

2. Proclaiming the Gospel: A Free Gift for All

1. 1 Corinthians 13:4-7 - Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

2. John 3:16-17 - For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.

1 Corinthians 9:19 For though I be free from all men, yet have I made myself servant unto all, that I might gain the more.

Paul declared that, although he was free from all men, he had made himself a servant to all so that he could gain more.

1. The Power of Serving Others: Understanding Paul's Example in 1 Corinthians 9:19

2. Finding Freedom Through Service: What Paul's Words in 1 Corinthians 9:19 Can Teach Us

1. Philippians 2:3-4 - "Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others."

2. Matthew 20:25-28 - "Jesus called them together and said, 'You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be your slave??just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.'"

1 Corinthians 9:20 And unto the Jews I became as a Jew, that I might gain the Jews; to them that are under the law, as under the law, that I might gain them that are under the law;

Paul adapted his message to fit the audience in order to gain more followers.

1. Adapting Our Message to Fit Our Audience

2. Reaching Out to Different People with the Gospel

1. Romans 12:2 ?□o not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.??

2. Matthew 9:36-38 ?□hen he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, ?□he harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.?□□?

1 Corinthians 9:21 To them that are without law, as without law, (being not without law to God, but under the law to Christ,) that I might gain them that are without law.

Paul explains that he is willing to act as someone without the law to reach out to those who are without the law, but he is still under the law of Christ.

1. Learning to Reach Out: The Example of Paul in 1 Corinthians 9:21

2. Becoming Equipped to Reach Others: Living Under the Law of Christ in 1 Corinthians 9:21

1. Romans 10:14-15 - How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher?

15 And how shall they preach unless they are sent? As it is written: ?□ow beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel of peace, Who bring glad tidings of good things!??

2. Colossians 4:5-6 - Walk in wisdom toward those who are outside, redeeming the time. 6 Let your speech always be with grace, seasoned with salt, that you may know how you ought to answer each one.

1 Corinthians 9:22 To the weak became I as weak, that I might gain the weak: I am made all things to all men, that I might by all means save some.

Paul encourages believers to be all things to all people in order to save some.

1. The Power of Adaptability: How to Reach People of All Walks of Life

2. Wisdom and Compassion: Paul's Call to Love Everyone

1. Matthew 5:44-45 - "But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven."

2. Romans 12:2 - "Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect."

1 Corinthians 9:23 And this I do for the gospel's sake, that I might be partaker thereof with you.

Paul speaks about working for the sake of the Gospel so that he can have a part in it with the Corinthians.

1. The Power of a Shared Purpose: Working Together for the Gospel

2. Working for the Gospel: Paul's Example of Dedication

1. Philippians 2:5-7 "Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the form of a servant, being born in the

likeness of men."

2. Colossians 1:28-29 "Him we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone with all wisdom, that we may present everyone mature in Christ. For this I toil, struggling with all his energy that he powerfully works within me."

1 Corinthians 9:24 Know ye not that they which run in a race run all, but one receiveth the prize? So run, that ye may obtain.

The Bible encourages us to strive for excellence in all things, as only one can receive the prize.

1. "The Pursuit of Excellence: Strive for the Prize"

2. "The Christian Race: Run to Win"

1. Philippians 3:14 - I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.

2. Hebrews 12:1 - Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us.

1 Corinthians 9:25 And every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a corruptible crown; but we an incorruptible.

Paul encourages Christians to strive for mastery and to be temperate in all things, as they are striving for an incorruptible crown from God rather than a corruptible one from the world.

1. "Winning the Race: Striving For Mastery With Temperance"

2. "The Prize Of Purity: The Incorruptible Crown"

1. 1 Corinthians 10:31 - "Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God."

2. Matthew 5:8 - "Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God."

1 Corinthians 9:26 I therefore so run, not as uncertainly; so fight I, not as one that beateth the air:

Paul emphasizes the importance of not wasting energy on meaningless actions and instead striving for purposeful goals.

1. God Calls Us To Excellence - The Power of Intentional Living

2. Don?□ Be Afraid To Take Risks - The Courage To Pursue Your Call

1. Matthew 5:14-16 - You are the light of the world.

2. Ecclesiastes 9:10 - Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might.

1 Corinthians 9:27 But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway.

Paul urges himself to keep his body under control and in subjection so that he won't become a castaway after preaching the gospel to others.

1. The Discipline of Submission

2. The Power of Self-Control

1. Galatians 5:22-23 - But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.

2. Romans 12:1-2 - I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

1 Corinthians 10 is the tenth chapter of the First Epistle of Paul to the Corinthians. In this chapter, Paul addresses the Israelites' experiences in the wilderness and draws lessons from their history to provide guidance for the Corinthian believers.

1st Paragraph: Paul begins by reminding the Corinthians of their spiritual heritage and how their ancestors, despite being led by God's presence and experiencing miracles, fell into idolatry and immorality (1 Corinthians 10:1-7). He warns them against overconfidence, urging them to learn from these examples and avoid falling into similar sins (1 Corinthians 10:11-12). Paul emphasizes that God provides a way out when facing temptation so that believers can endure it (1 Corinthians 10:13).

2nd Paragraph: Paul discusses the issue of eating food sacrificed to idols. He acknowledges that idols have no real existence but cautions against participating in idolatrous practices because it can lead others astray or compromise one's own conscience (1 Corinthians 10:14-22). He advises believers to flee from idolatry and partake in communion as a means of fellowship with Christ rather than engaging in pagan rituals (1 Corinthians 10:16-17).

3rd Paragraph: The chapter concludes with practical instructions for interacting with non-believers. Paul encourages believers to freely eat whatever is sold in the marketplace without questioning its origins unless someone specifically points out its association with idol worship (1 Corinthians 10:25-26). However, if someone informs them that food has been offered to an idol, they should refrain from eating it for conscience sake and not for their own benefit but for others' spiritual welfare (1 Corinthians 10:27-30). He advises believers not to cause unnecessary offense or hinder others' faith but rather seek opportunities for evangelism while maintaining a posture of love towards all people.

In summary, Chapter ten of First Corinthians draws lessons from the Israelites' experiences in the wilderness to provide guidance for the Corinthian believers. Paul warns against overconfidence and urges them to learn from their ancestors' mistakes. He emphasizes God's faithfulness in providing a way out of temptation and encourages believers to flee from idolatry. Paul addresses the issue of eating food sacrificed to idols, advising caution for the sake of conscience and consideration for others' spiritual welfare. He instructs believers to freely partake in everyday life but be mindful of causing offense or compromising their own faith or that of others. This chapter underscores the importance of learning from history, avoiding idolatry, and exercising love and consideration in interactions with both believers and non-believers.

1 Corinthians 10:1 Moreover, brethren, I would not that ye should be ignorant, how that all our fathers were under the cloud, and all passed through the sea;

Paul reminds the Corinthians of how their forefathers experienced God's protection and guidance.

1. God's Faithfulness to His People - How the Israelites Experienced God's Protection and Guidance

2. The Power of a Reminder - Learning from Paul's Example of Encouraging Others

1. Exodus 13:21-22 - The Lord went before them by day in a pillar of cloud to lead the way, and by night in a pillar of fire to give them light, so as to go by day and night.

2. Deuteronomy 1:30-31 - The Lord your God, who goes before you, will himself fight for you, just as he did for you in Egypt before your eyes, and in the wilderness, where you have seen how the Lord your God carried you, as a man carries his son, all the way that you have traveled until you came to this place.

1 Corinthians 10:2 And were all baptized unto Moses in the cloud and in the sea;

The passage explains how the Israelites were baptized into Moses when they passed through the cloud and the sea.

1st : Living the life of faith - How to take the plunge with God

2nd : The power of obedience - Learning to trust God's plan

1st : Hebrews 11:1-2 - Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

2nd : Matthew 14:22-23 - Immediately Jesus made His disciples get into the boat and go before Him to the other side, while He sent the multitudes away. And when He had sent the multitudes away, He went up on the mountain by Himself to pray.

1 Corinthians 10:3 And did all eat the same spiritual meat;

The passage speaks of how all ate the same spiritual meat.

1. The importance of spiritual nourishment in our lives.

2. All of us have access to the same spiritual sustenance.

1. Hebrews 5:14 But solid food belongs to those who are of full age, that is, those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.

2. Psalm 34:8 Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good! Blessed is the man who takes

refuge in him!

1 Corinthians 10:4 And did all drink the same spiritual drink: for they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them: and that Rock was Christ.

The passage explains that the Israelites drank from a spiritual Rock which followed them, and that Rock was Christ.

1. God provides sustenance and guidance to His people.

2. Jesus is our spiritual Rock, providing us with strength and stability.

1. Psalm 18:2 - The LORD is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer; my God, my strength, in whom I will trust; my shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.

2. Isaiah 26:4 - Trust in the LORD forever, for in YAH, the LORD, is everlasting strength.

1 Corinthians 10:5 But with many of them God was not well pleased: for they were overthrown in the wilderness.

In 1 Corinthians 10:5 it is revealed that many of the Israelites displeased God and were not successful in the wilderness.

1. Overcoming Disappointment: Learning from the Israelites??Mistakes in the Wilderness

2. Growing in Faith: Understanding the Consequences of Disobeying God

1. Exodus 16:2-3 ?□nd the whole congregation of the children of Israel murmured against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness: And the children of Israel said unto them, Would to God we had died by the hand of the Lord in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the flesh pots, and when we did eat bread to the full; for ye have brought us forth into this wilderness, to kill this whole assembly with hunger.??

2. Deuteronomy 8:2-3 ?□nd thou shalt remember all the way which the Lord thy God led thee these forty years in the wilderness, to humble thee, and to prove thee, to know what was in thine heart, whether thou wouldest keep his commandments, or no. And he humbled thee, and suffered thee to hunger, and fed thee with manna, which thou knewest not, neither did thy fathers know; that he might make thee know that man doth not live by bread only, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of the Lord

doth man live.??

1 Corinthians 10:6 Now these things were our examples, to the intent we should not lust after evil things, as they also lusted.

Passage The events of the Old Testament should serve as examples to teach us not to lust after evil things, as the Israelites did in the past.

1. Learn from the mistakes of the Israelites: don't give in to the temptation of evil.

2. The Old Testament provides us with examples of what to avoid in life.

1. 2 Timothy 3:16??7 - All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness.

2. Romans 15:4 - For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope.

1 Corinthians 10:7 Neither be ye idolaters, as were some of them; as it is written, The people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to play.

Paul warns the Corinthians not to imitate the idolatry of Israel, citing a biblical example from the book of Exodus.

1. "Living a Life of Faith: Avoiding Idolatry"

2. "The Power of Example: How Our Actions Affect Others"

1. Exodus 32:6 - And they rose up early on the morrow, and offered burnt offerings, and brought peace offerings; and the people sat down to eat and to drink, and rose up to play.

2. Romans 12:2 - And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

1 Corinthians 10:8 Neither let us commit fornication, as some of them committed, and fell in one day three and twenty thousand.

Paul warns the Corinthians against fornication, citing the example of the Israelites who fell in one day due to their sin.

1. "Avoid Temptation: A Look at Sexual Immorality."

2. "The Consequences of Disobedience: The Israelites' Story."

1. Galatians 5:19-21 - "Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God."

2. Hebrews 13:4 - "Let marriage be held in honor among all, and let the marriage bed be undefiled, for God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterous."

1 Corinthians 10:9 Neither let us tempt Christ, as some of them also tempted, and were destroyed of serpents.

This passage from 1 Corinthians 10:9 warns us to not test God's patience by tempting Him as some of the Israelites did in the past, resulting in their destruction by serpents.

1. Tempting God: Understanding the Consequences

2. Recognizing When We Are Testing God's Patience

1. James 1:13-14 - Let no one say when he is tempted, ?□ am being tempted by God,??for God cannot be tempted with evil, and he himself tempts no one. But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire.

2. Hebrews 3:7-8 - Therefore, as the Holy Spirit says, ?□oday, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion, on the day of testing in the wilderness.

1 Corinthians 10:10 Neither murmur ye, as some of them also murmured, and were destroyed of the destroyer.

The passage warns against murmuring, as some of those who murmured in the past were destroyed by the destroyer.

1. "God is our Protector: Avoid Murmuring and Rely on His Strength"

2. "The Danger of Murmuring: Trust in God, Not in Ourselves"

1. Romans 8:31 - "What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?"

2. Psalm 46:1 - "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble."

1 Corinthians 10:11 Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come.

Passage Events that happened in the past are written down as examples for us to learn from in our own lives.

1. Learning from the past to live in the present.

2. Applying God's Word to our own lives.

1. Romans 15:4 ??For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope.

2. James 1:22 ??But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.

1 Corinthians 10:12 Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall.

We should be careful in our judgement of ourselves and take heed not to fall into sin.

1. Pride goeth before destruction.

2. Be on your guard against spiritual complacency.

1. Romans 12:3 For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly,

according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith.

2. Luke 21:34-36 And take heed to yourselves, lest at any time your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting, and drunkenness, and cares of this life, and so that day come upon you unawares. For as a snare shall it come on all them that dwell on the face of the whole earth. Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man.

1 Corinthians 10:13 There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.

No temptation is too great for us because God promises to give us a way to escape it, and to ensure that we are able to bear it.

1. God's faithfulness will always provide us with a way of escape.

2. No temptation is too great for us with God's help.

1. Philippians 4:13 - I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.

2. 1 John 4:4 - You are of God, little children, and have overcome them, because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.

1 Corinthians 10:14 Wherefore, my dearly beloved, flee from idolatry.

The passage is a warning to avoid idolatry.

1. The Power of Idolatry and How to Overcome It

2. The Dangers of Idolatry and the Rewards of Obedience

1. Exodus 20:3-5 - "You shall have no other gods before me. You shall not make for yourself an image in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below. You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God."

2. Colossians 3:5 - "Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry."

1 Corinthians 10:15 I speak as to wise men; judge ye what I say.

Passage: Paul exhorts the Corinthians to use their wisdom and discernment in evaluating his words and teachings.

1. Using Our Wisdom to Evaluate God's Word

2. Learning to Discern in Our Lives

1. Proverbs 2:6-9 - For the Lord gives wisdom; from his mouth come knowledge and understanding.

2. James 1:5 - If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him.

1 Corinthians 10:16 The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not the communion of the blood of Christ? The bread which we break, is it not the communion of the body of Christ?

Christians participate in communion, which symbolizes the body and blood of Christ.

1. The Meaning of Communion: Understanding the Significance of Christ's Body and Blood

2. Experiencing the Grace of Communion: How to Receive God's Gift of Redemption

1. 1 Corinthians 11:23-26 - For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you: that the Lord Jesus on the same night in which He was betrayed took bread;

24 and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, ?□ake, eat; this is My body which is broken for you; do this in remembrance of Me.??

25 In the same manner He also took the cup after supper, saying, ?□his cup is the new covenant in My blood. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.??

26 For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord? death till He comes.

2. Luke 22:19 - And He took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, ? his is My body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of Me.??

1 Corinthians 10:17 For we being many are one bread, and one body: for we are all partakers of that one bread.

Christians are all part of the same body, and all partake of the same bread, symbolizing unity.

1. "United in Christ", exploring the concept of unity in the body of Christ.

2. "Partakers of the Bread of Life", focusing on the importance of Jesus as the source of sustenance and life.

1. John 17:20-21 - Jesus praying for unity among believers.

2. Romans 12:5 - Each member of the body of Christ having its own part to play.

1 Corinthians 10:18 Behold Israel after the flesh: are not they which eat of the sacrifices partakers of the altar?

Paul is reminding the Corinthians that they are still partakers of the altar by eating the sacrifices.

1. "Partaking of the Altar: Why We Should Celebrate Sacrificial Feasts"

2. "The Spiritual Significance of Eating Sacrifices"

1. Hebrews 13:10-16 - The importance of maintaining sacrificial feasts

2. Deuteronomy 12:5-7 - Instructions for sacrificing and eating of the sacrifices

1 Corinthians 10:19 What say I then? that the idol is any thing, or that which is offered in

sacrifice to idols is any thing?

Paul questions whether idols and offerings to them have any value.

1. The Power of Idolatry in Our Lives

2. The Power of God Above All

1. Isaiah 44:9-20 - The sovereignty of the Lord as opposed to idols

2. Psalm 115:3-8 - The foolishness of idol worship compared to the glory of God

1 Corinthians 10:20 But I say, that the things which the Gentiles sacrifice, they sacrifice to devils, and not to God: and I would not that ye should have fellowship with devils.

The Gentiles are sacrificing to devils and not to God, and Paul warns the Corinthians not to have fellowship with them.

1. God calls us to separate ourselves from evil and walk in his ways.

2. We must not be deceived by the deception of the devil and stay true to the truth of God.

1. Ephesians 5:11 - And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them.

2. James 4:7 - Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

1 Corinthians 10:21 Ye cannot drink the cup of the Lord, and the cup of devils: ye cannot be partakers of the Lord's table, and of the table of devils.

The passage emphasizes that believers cannot partake in activities related to the Lord and activities related to the devil.

1. We must remain steadfast in our faith and not compromise our beliefs for worldly

pleasures.

2. We must always strive to honor the Lord and stay away from activities that are contrary to His teachings.

1. 1 John 2:15-17 - Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

2. Romans 12:2 - Be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

1 Corinthians 10:22 Do we provoke the Lord to jealousy? are we stronger than he?

Paul reminds the Corinthians that they do not have the power to challenge God, as He is infinitely greater than them.

1. The Futility of Challenging God - We can never win a battle against the Almighty.

2. Recognizing God's Supremacy - We must always remember who is in control.

1. Isaiah 40:12-17 - Who has measured the waters in the hollow of his hand, or with the breadth of his hand marked off the heavens? Who has held the dust of the earth in a basket, or weighed the mountains on the scales and the hills in a balance?

2. Psalm 115:3 - Our God is in heaven; he does whatever pleases him.

1 Corinthians 10:23 All things are lawful for me, but all things are not expedient: all things are lawful for me, but all things edify not.

Paul encourages Christians to use good judgment and think of others when making decisions.

1: It is important to be mindful of how our decisions affect others.

2: We should not be led by our own desires, but consider how our choices may edify others.

1: Philippians 2:3-4 - "Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves. Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others."

2: Romans 14:19 - "Let us therefore follow after the things which make for peace, and things wherewith one may edify another."

1 Corinthians 10:24 Let no man seek his own, but every man another's wealth.

Christians should focus on helping others instead of seeking their own wealth.

1. The Heart of Generosity: Living for Others

2. The Power of Selflessness: Giving to Others

1. Philippians 2:4 - Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.

2. Luke 6:38 - Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.

1 Corinthians 10:25 Whatsoever is sold in the shambles, that eat, asking no question for conscience sake:

Christians should not ask questions when buying food from the marketplace.

1. Putting God First: Living a Life of Faith and Obedience

2. The Power of Self-Control: Making Wise Choices

1. Romans 14:14-23 - Paul's discussion on the importance of personal conscience in matters of faith.

2. Ephesians 5:15-17 - Paul's admonition to be wise and redeem the time.

1 Corinthians 10:26 For the earth is the Lord's, and the fulness thereof.

The Lord is the owner of the entire earth and all that is in it.

1. God is sovereign over all the earth and everything in it.

2. We should be mindful of the Lord's ownership and recognize our dependence on Him.

1. Psalm 24:1 - The earth is the Lord's, and the fulness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein.

2. Psalm 115:16 - The heaven, even the heavens, are the Lord's: but the earth hath he given to the children of men.

1 Corinthians 10:27 If any of them that believe not bid you to a feast, and ye be disposed to go; whatsoever is set before you, eat, asking no question for conscience sake.

Believers should not ask questions about the food served to them at non-believers' feasts, and should instead accept whatever is given to them for conscience sake.

1. Christians should practice hospitality and accept invitations to feasts, no matter the circumstances.

2. It is important to exercise caution when dining with non-believers, but ultimately accept whatever is served out of respect for their hospitality.

1. Romans 14:2 - ?□ne person believes he may eat anything, while the weak person eats only vegetables.??

2. Matthew 22:39 - ?□ou shall love your neighbor as yourself.??

1 Corinthians 10:28 But if any man say unto you, This is offered in sacrifice unto idols, eat not for his sake that shewed it, and for conscience sake: for the earth is the Lord's, and the fulness thereof:

Passage Christians should not eat food offered in sacrifices to idols if they are aware of

it, as the Lord owns the earth and all that it contains.

1. How to have a Conscience of Christ: Loving God and Serving Others

2. Keeping God's Goodness at the Center: The Need to Respect God's Dominion

1. Ephesians 5:1-2 - Be imitators of God, therefore, as dearly loved children, and live a life of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

2. Romans 12:1 - Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God? mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God? his is your true and proper worship.

1 Corinthians 10:29 Conscience, I say, not thine own, but of the other: for why is my liberty judged of another man's conscience?

Paul writes that one should consider the conscience of others when making decisions because what one considers to be their own liberty may be judged by someone else.

1. "Liberty & Conscience: Respecting the Opinions of Others"

2. "Unity in Diversity: Celebrating Our Differences"

1. Galatians 5:13-14, "For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another. For the whole law is fulfilled in one word: ? ou shall love your neighbor as yourself.??

2. Romans 14:13-15, "Therefore let us not pass judgment on one another any longer, but rather decide never to put a stumbling block or hindrance in the way of a brother. I know and am persuaded in the Lord Jesus that nothing is unclean in itself, but it is unclean for anyone who thinks it unclean. For if your brother is grieved by what you eat, you are no longer walking in love. By what you eat, do not destroy the one for whom Christ died."

1 Corinthians 10:30 For if I by grace be a partaker, why am I evil spoken of for that for which I give thanks?

Paul questions why he is criticized for giving thanks for the grace he has received.

1. Accepting God's Grace: How to Receive and Give Thanks

2. The Power of Thanksgiving: Learning to Appreciate What We Have

Cross-

1. James 1:17 - "Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows."

2. Romans 8:28 - "And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose."

1 Corinthians 10:31 Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God.

Believers should make it their goal to bring glory to God in all that they do.

1. Let your actions be a reflection of God? glory

2. Glorifying God through our daily lives.

1. Colossians 3:17 - "And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him."

2. Romans 12:1-2 - "I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect."

1 Corinthians 10:32 Give none offence, neither to the Jews, nor to the Gentiles, nor to the church of God:

Paul encourages the Corinthians to act in a way that does not offend anyone, including the Jews, Gentiles, and the church of God.

1. "Love Thy Neighbor: Showing Respect and Consideration to All"

2. "Living with Respect: The Example of Paul to the Corinthians"

1. Romans 12:14-16 - "Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn. Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited."

2. Ephesians 4:25-32 - "Therefore each of you must put off falsehood and speak truthfully to your neighbor, for we are all members of one body. In your anger do not sin: Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, and do not give the devil a foothold. Anyone who has been stealing must steal no longer, but must work, doing something useful with their own hands, that they may have something to share with those in need. Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen. And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you."

1 Corinthians 10:33 Even as I please all men in all things, not seeking mine own profit, but the profit of many, that they may be saved.

Paul encourages all to seek the good of others instead of only themselves, so that many may be saved.

1. "The Profit of Many" - How being generous and selfless can benefit many.

2. "Seeking Salvation" - Understanding the importance of putting others first in order to save them.

1. Matthew 22:37-39 - Love your neighbor as yourself.

2. Philippians 2:3-4 - Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves.

1 Corinthians 11 is the eleventh chapter of the First Epistle of Paul to the Corinthians. In this chapter, Paul addresses various issues related to worship practices, particularly concerning head coverings and the Lord's Supper.

1st Paragraph: Paul begins by discussing gender roles and head coverings during worship. He asserts that men should pray or prophesy with their heads uncovered, as they are made in God's image and reflect His glory (1 Corinthians 11:3-7). On the other hand, women should have their heads covered as a sign of submission to authority (1 Corinthians 11:5-6). Paul appeals to nature and tradition to support his argument for gender distinctions in worship.

2nd Paragraph: Paul then addresses the issue of improper conduct during the Lord's Supper. He criticizes the Corinthian believers for turning it into a self-indulgent feast where some eat excessively while others go hungry (1 Corinthians 11:17-22). He reminds them of Jesus' institution of this sacrament on the night before His crucifixion and emphasizes its significance as a commemoration of His sacrifice (1 Corinthians 11:23-26). Paul warns against partaking in an unworthy manner, without discerning Christ's body, which can result in judgment from God (1 Corinthians 11:27-32).

3rd Paragraph: The chapter concludes with instructions on how to properly observe the Lord's Supper. Paul advises believers to examine themselves before partaking, confessing any sins and reconciling with others so that they may approach it in a worthy manner (1 Corinthians 11:28-29). He encourages them to wait for one another when gathering for this meal rather than engaging in selfish behavior that excludes or shames others (1 Corinthians 11:33-34). Paul emphasizes that these instructions are not meant to bring condemnation but rather correction so that their worship may be done in an orderly and reverent manner.

In summary, Chapter eleven of First Corinthians addresses issues related to worship practices. Paul discusses gender roles and the significance of head coverings during worship, highlighting the importance of submission and honoring God's design. He then turns his attention to the Lord's Supper, rebuking the Corinthians for their improper conduct and reminding them of its sacred nature as a remembrance of Christ's sacrifice. Paul warns against partaking in an unworthy manner and urges believers to examine themselves before participating. He emphasizes the need for unity, consideration for others, and a reverent approach to this sacrament. This chapter provides guidance on proper worship practices that reflect honor towards God and love towards one another within the Christian community.

1 Corinthians 11:1 Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ.

Paul encourages the Corinthians to imitate his example of following Christ.

1. "Imitating Christ: Following Paul's Example"

2. "The Example of Paul: Following Christ"

1. 1 Corinthians 11:1 - Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ.

2. Matthew 16:24 - Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.

1 Corinthians 11:2 Now I praise you, brethren, that ye remember me in all things, and keep the ordinances, as I delivered them to you.

Paul praises the Corinthian believers for holding on to the teachings he has given them.

1. The importance of remembering and obeying God’s Word.

2. The value of faithfully following teachings given to us.

1. Joshua 1:8 - "This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it."

2. Colossians 2:6-7 - "Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving."

1 Corinthians 11:3 But I would have you know, that the head of every man is Christ; and the head of the woman is the man; and the head of Christ is God.

This verse from 1 Corinthians 11:3 emphasizes the hierarchical relationship between men, women, and God.

1. How Our Relationship to Christ Affects Our Interactions with Others

2. The Significance of Submission in Christian Living

1. Ephesians 5:22-33 - Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord.

2. Colossians 3:18-19 - Wives, submit to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord.

1 Corinthians 11:4 Every man praying or prophesying, having his head covered, dishonoureth his head.

Men should not cover their heads when praying or prophesying, as it is seen as a sign of disrespect.

1. Learn to Honor God in All That You Do

2. Respect the Lord in Your Worship

1. 1 Peter 2:17 - Show proper respect to everyone, love the family of believers, fear God, honor the emperor.

2. Colossians 3:17 - And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

1 Corinthians 11:5 But every woman that prayeth or prophesieth with her head uncovered dishonoureth her head: for that is even all one as if she were shaven.

Women should cover their heads when praying or prophesying to maintain their honor.

1. Honor God By Honoring Yourself: A Study on 1 Corinthians 11:5

2. The Power of Modesty: How Women Can Represent God With Dignity

1. 1 Peter 3:3-4 - "Your beauty should not come from outward adornment, such as elaborate hairstyles and the wearing of gold jewelry or fine clothes. Rather, it should be that of your inner self, the unfading beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is of great worth in God's sight."

2. 1 Timothy 2:9-10 - “I also want the women to dress modestly, with decency and propriety, adorning themselves, not with elaborate hairstyles or gold or pearls or expensive clothes, but with good deeds, appropriate for women who profess to worship God.”

1 Corinthians 11:6 For if the woman be not covered, let her also be shorn: but if it be a shame for a woman to be shorn or shaven, let her be covered.

This passage encourages women to cover their heads in public, suggesting that it is shameful for them to be without a covering.

1. "The Beauty of Modesty: An Exploration of the Biblical Definition of Women's Dress"

2. "The Importance of the Veil: Understanding the Biblical Significance of Covering the Head"

1. 1 Timothy 2:9-10 - "In like manner also, that women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with shamefacedness and sobriety; not with braided hair, or gold, or pearls, or costly array; But (which becometh women professing godliness) with good works."

2. Proverbs 11:22 - "As a jewel of gold in a swine's snout, so is a fair woman which is without discretion."

1 Corinthians 11:7 For a man indeed ought not to cover his head, forasmuch as he is the image and glory of God: but the woman is the glory of the man.

Men should not cover their heads, as they are made in the image of God, while women are the glory of men.

1. God's Creation: The Image of God in Men and Women 2. The Glory of Men and Women

1. Genesis 1:26-27 (And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.) 2. Ephesians 5:21-33 (Submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God. Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body. Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in every thing.)

1 Corinthians 11:8 For the man is not of the woman; but the woman of the man.

Woman is created from man and is therefore under man's authority.

1. Man is God's highest authority in the family unit.

2. Women should honor and respect the authority of men.

1. Ephesians 5:22-33 - The relationship between husband and wife.

2. Genesis 2:18-25 - God creates woman from man.

1 Corinthians 11:9 Neither was the man created for the woman; but the woman for the man.

Men and women were created for different purposes, with the woman being created for the man.

1. God has a plan for each of us - 1 Corinthians 11:9

2. Women were created for a special purpose - 1 Corinthians 11:9

1. Genesis 2:18-25 - God creates man and woman for a purpose.

2. Ephesians 5:21-33 - Mutual respect in marriage.

1 Corinthians 11:10 For this cause ought the woman to have power on her head because of the angels.

Women should have authority over their own heads because of the angels.

1. The Power of Authority: A Study on 1 Corinthians 11:10

2. The Hidden Meaning of 1 Corinthians 11:10

1. Ephesians 5:22-24 - Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church, his body, and is himself its Savior. Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit in everything to their husbands.

2. Genesis 3:16 - To the woman he said, “I will surely multiply your pain in childbearing; in pain you shall bring forth children. Your desire shall be for your husband, and he shall rule over you.”

1 Corinthians 11:11 Nevertheless neither is the man without the woman, neither the woman without the man, in the Lord.

Man and woman are both important in the eyes of the Lord.

1. The Equality of Man and Woman in the Eyes of the Lord

2. The Value of Man and Woman in the Lord

1. Genesis 1:27 - So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.

2. Galatians 3:28 - There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus.

1 Corinthians 11:12 For as the woman is of the man, even so is the man also by the woman; but all things of God.

The Bible teaches that men and women are equal in the eyes of God.

1. The Equality of Men and Women - Exploring 1 Corinthians 11:12

2. Discovering God's Plan for Men and Women - An In-depth Look at 1 Corinthians 11:12

1. Galatians 3:28 - There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus.

2. Ephesians 5:21 - Submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God.

1 Corinthians 11:13 Judge in yourselves: is it comely that a woman pray unto God uncovered?

Passage Paul questions whether it is appropriate for a woman to pray without covering her head.

1. Living In Obedience To God's Word - Exploring the implications of 1 Corinthians 11:13 for modern life.

2. Respectful Adornment - How to honor God when praying and attending worship services.

1. 1 Timothy 2:9-10 - "In like manner also, that women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with shamefacedness and sobriety; not with broided hair, or gold, or pearls, or costly array; But (which becometh women professing godliness) with good works."

2. 1 Peter 3:3-4 - "Whose adorning let it not be that outward adorning of plaiting the hair, and of wearing of gold, or of putting on of apparel; But let it be the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, even the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price."

1 Corinthians 11:14 Doth not even nature itself teach you, that, if a man have long hair, it is a shame unto him?

Paul reminds the Corinthians that nature itself teaches them that it is shameful for a man to have long hair.

1. The Power of Nature: How Nature Can Teach Us Biblical Truths

2. God's Design: How We Should Adhere to God's Design for Gender Roles

1. 1 Corinthians 11:14

2. Genesis 1:27 - So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.

1 Corinthians 11:15 But if a woman have long hair, it is a glory to her: for her hair is given her for a covering.

Paul instructs that a woman's long hair is a glory, and that it is given to her as a covering.

1. "The Beauty and Purpose of a Woman's Hair"

2. "God-Given Coverings: Utilizing Hair as a Sign of Respect"

1. 1 Peter 3:3-4 - "Let not yours be the external adorning with braiding of hair, decoration of gold, and wearing of robes, but let it be the hidden person of the heart with the imperishable beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which in God's sight is very precious."

2. Isaiah 61:10 - "I will greatly rejoice in the Lord; my soul shall exult in my God, for He has clothed me with the garments of salvation; He has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself like a priest with a beautiful headdress, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels."

1 Corinthians 11:16 But if any man seem to be contentious, we have no such custom, neither the churches of God.

The custom of the churches of God is not to be contentious.

1. "Unity in the Church"

2. "The Power of Agreement"

1. Colossians 3:14-15 - And above all these things put on charity, which is the bond of perfectness. And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful.

2. Ephesians 4:1-3 - I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called, With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love; Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

1 Corinthians 11:17 Now in this that I declare unto you I praise you not, that ye come together not for the better, but for the worse.

The Apostle Paul admonishes the Corinthians for not gathering together for the better, but for the worse.

1. The Power of Community: Understanding the Impact of Coming Together in Unity.

2. Lack of Unity: The Downside to Not Gathering Together in Fellowship.

1. Hebrews 10:25 – “Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.”

2. Acts 2:42-47 – “And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers….And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.”

1 Corinthians 11:18 For first of all, when ye come together in the church, I hear that there be divisions among you; and I partly believe it.

In the church, there are divisions among the members, which Paul believes to be true.

1. Unity in the Church: The Importance of Coming Together

2. Overcoming Division: Finding Strength in Unity

1. Ephesians 4:3 - Making every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.

2. Romans 12:16 - Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited.

1 Corinthians 11:19 For there must be also heresies among you, that they which are approved may be made manifest among you.

In order to test the faith of believers, Paul encourages the presence of heresies among the Corinthians.

1. The importance of testing faith through heresies.

2. How to stay strong in the face of heresies.

1. James 1:12 - "Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love him."

2. 1 Peter 1:7 - "so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold

that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ."

1 Corinthians 11:20 When ye come together therefore into one place, this is not to eat the Lord's supper.

When Christians come together, they should not be partaking in the Lord's Supper.

1. "Living Out the Lord's Supper: Practicing Self-Control in Our Gatherings"

2. "The Importance of the Lord's Supper: Remembering Christ's Sacrifice"

1. Matthew 26:26-29 - Jesus institutes the Lord's Supper

2. 1 Peter 1:18-19 - Recognizing the cost of our redemption through the Lord's Supper

1 Corinthians 11:21 For in eating every one taketh before other his own supper: and one is hungry, and another is drunken.

In eating, everyone takes their own supper before others, and some are left hungry while others are left over-filled.

1: We must remember to share our meals with others, and be conscious of those who may not have enough.

2: We should be thankful for the food we have and not be wasteful, as there are people who do not have enough.

1: Galatians 6:10 - So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith.

2: Proverbs 22:9 - Whoever has a bountiful eye will be blessed, for he shares his bread with the poor.

1 Corinthians 11:22 What? have ye not houses to eat and to drink in? or despise ye the church of God, and shame them that have not? What shall I say to you? shall I praise you in this? I praise you not.

Paul rebukes the Corinthians for disregarding the church of God and shaming those who have little.

1. The Church of God is Sacred and Must be Respected

2. Don't Shame Those Who Have Little

1. Ephesians 4:1-3 - I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

2. Galatians 6:10 - So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith.

1 Corinthians 11:23 For I have received of the Lord that which also I delivered unto you, That the Lord Jesus the same night in which he was betrayed took bread:

Passage The Lord Jesus, on the night He was betrayed, took bread.

1. The Bread of Betrayal: A Reflection on Jesus' Last Supper

2. Persevering Through Betrayal: Lessons from Jesus' Last Supper

1. John 13:21-30 - Jesus Washes Feet and Foretells Betrayal

2. Psalm 41:9 - Betrayal of a Close Friend

1 Corinthians 11:24 And when he had given thanks, he brake it, and said, Take, eat: this is my body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of me.

Jesus broke bread and instructed his followers to eat it in remembrance of him and his sacrifice.

1: We must remember Jesus and his sacrifice for us.

2: Jesus gave us a way to remember him, which is to eat the bread in remembrance of him.

1: Luke 22:19 - And he took bread, and gave thanks, and brake it, and gave unto them, saying, This is my body which is given for you: this do in remembrance of me.

2: 1 Peter 2:24 - Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed.

1 Corinthians 11:25 After the same manner also he took the cup, when he had supped, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood: this do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of me.

This passage describes Jesus taking the cup during the Last Supper and declaring it a symbol of the new covenant made in his blood.

1. The Meaning of the Cup: Exploring the New Covenant in Jesus's Blood

2. Remembering Jesus: Reflecting on the Last Supper and its Significance

1. Luke 22:19-20 - And he took bread, and gave thanks, and brake it, and gave unto them, saying, This is my body which is given for you: this do in remembrance of me. Likewise also the cup after supper, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood, which is shed for you.

2. 2 Corinthians 3:6 - Who also hath made us able ministers of the new testament; not of the letter, but of the spirit: for the letter killeth, but the spirit giveth life.

1 Corinthians 11:26 For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death till he come.

Christians commemorate the Lord's death through observance of the Lord's Supper.

1. The Meaning of the Lord's Supper: What Does it Represent?

2. Participating in the Lord's Supper: A Time of Reflection and Remembrance.

1. Luke 22:19-20 - And he took bread, and gave thanks, and brake it, and gave unto them, saying, This is my body which is given for you: this do in remembrance of me.

2. 1 Peter 1:18-19 - Knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers, but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.

1 Corinthians 11:27 Wherefore whosoever shall eat this bread, and drink this cup of the Lord, unworthily, shall be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord.

Eating and drinking the bread and cup of the Lord unworthily makes one guilty of the body and blood of the Lord.

1. The Eucharist: The Power of Partaking Worthily

2. The Blessing and Curse of the Lord’s Table

1. Matthew 26:26-28: And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to the disciples and said, “Take, eat; this is My body.”

2. Hebrews 10:28-29: Anyone who has rejected Moses’ law dies without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses. How much more severely do you think someone deserves to be punished who has trampled the Son of God underfoot, who has treated as an unholy thing the blood of the covenant that sanctified them?

1 Corinthians 11:28 But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of that bread, and drink of that cup.

Christians should examine themselves before partaking in communion.

1. Living in Holiness: Examine Yourselves Before Partaking in Communion

2. The Heart of Communion: Taking Time to Self-Reflect

1. 2 Corinthians 13:5 - Examine yourselves to see whether you are in the faith; test yourselves. Do you not realize that Christ Jesus is in you—unless, of course, you fail the test?

2. Psalm 51:10 - Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me.

1 Corinthians 11:29 For he that eateth and drinketh unworthily, eateth and drinketh damnation to himself, not discerning the Lord's body.

The Lord's Supper should be taken worthily, with a discerning heart in order to avoid self-damnation.

1. The Power of Discernment in the Lord's Supper

2. The Consequences of Unworthy Participation in the Lord's Supper

1. 1 Corinthians 11:29

2. Hebrews 5:14 - But solid food belongs to those who are of full age, that is, those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.

1 Corinthians 11:30 For this cause many are weak and sickly among you, and many sleep.

Many in the Corinthian church were weak and sickly and some had died due to their disregard of the Lord's Supper.

1. The Lord's Supper: A Sacrament of Care

2. Honoring the Lord's Supper: Covenantal Commitment

1. Matthew 26:26-29 - Jesus' Institution of the Lord's Supper

2. Hebrews 10:24-25 - Stirring One Another to Love and Good Deeds

1 Corinthians 11:31 For if we would judge ourselves, we should not be judged.

We should judge ourselves in order to avoid being judged by others.

1. Self-reflection: The Key to Avoiding Judgement

2. Taking Responsibility for Our Actions

1. Proverbs 28:13 - "Whoever conceals his transgressions will not prosper, but he who confesses and forsakes them will obtain mercy."

2. Romans 2:1-3 - "Therefore you have no excuse, O man, every one of you who judges. For in passing judgment on another you condemn yourself, because you, the judge, practice the very same things. We know that the judgment of God rightly falls on those who practice such things. Do you suppose, O man—you who judge those who practice such things and yet do them yourself—that you will escape the judgment of God?"

1 Corinthians 11:32 But when we are judged, we are chastened of the Lord, that we should not be condemned with the world.

We are judged by God so that we are not condemned with the rest of the world.

1. In His Mercy, God Judges Us to Save Us

2. The Call to be Separate from the World

1. Galatians 6:1-2 - Brothers, if anyone is caught in any transgression, you who are spiritual should restore him in a spirit of gentleness. Keep watch on yourself, lest you too be tempted.

2. James 4:7-8 - Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded.

1 Corinthians 11:33 Wherefore, my brethren, when ye come together to eat, tarry one for another.

Christians should wait for each other when gathering for a meal.

1. "Patience at the Table: Practicing Unity in the Body of Christ"

2. "Breaking Bread Together: Being Considerate of Our Fellow Brothers and Sisters"

1. Romans 15:5-7 - "May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ."

2. Ephesians 4:2-3 - "with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace."

1 Corinthians 11:34 And if any man hunger, let him eat at home; that ye come not together unto condemnation. And the rest will I set in order when I come.

Paul instructs the Corinthians to not come together for meals if anyone is hungry, and he will set the rest in order when he arrives.

1. The Importance of Fellowship in the Church

2. The Blessing of Self-Sacrifice in Community

1. Acts 2:42-47 - The early church devoted themselves to fellowship, breaking of bread, and prayer.

2. Philippians 2:1-4 - Paul encourages the Philippians to be unified in humility and self-sacrifice.

1 Corinthians 12 is the twelfth chapter of the First Epistle of Paul to the Corinthians. In this chapter, Paul discusses spiritual gifts and their role within the body of Christ.

1st Paragraph: Paul begins by addressing the diversity of spiritual gifts given by the Holy Spirit. He emphasizes that these gifts are manifestations of God's Spirit and are given for the common good (1 Corinthians 12:4-7). He lists various gifts such as wisdom, knowledge, faith, healing, miracles, prophecy, discernment, tongues, and interpretation of tongues (1 Corinthians 12:8-10). Paul highlights that although there are different gifts and ministries within the body of Christ, they all come from the same Spirit and serve to build up and unify believers (1 Corinthians 12:11-13).

2nd Paragraph: Paul then explains how these diverse spiritual gifts function within the body. He uses an analogy comparing believers to different parts of a physical body with distinct functions but interconnectedness (1 Corinthians 12:14-20). He emphasizes that every member has a unique role to play in contributing to the overall health and functioning of the body (1 Corinthians 12:21-26). No gift or individual should be considered superior or inferior because each member is essential for mutual support and

growth.

3rd Paragraph: The chapter concludes with an emphasis on love as surpassing all spiritual gifts. Paul introduces Chapter 13 by stating that even if one possesses extraordinary spiritual abilities but lacks love, it amounts to nothing (1 Corinthians 13:1-3). He describes love's characteristics—patience, kindness, humility—and its enduring nature compared to temporary manifestations such as prophecies or tongues (1 Corinthians 13:4-8). Love is presented as foundational for using spiritual gifts in a manner that edifies others rather than promoting self-interest.

In summary, Chapter twelve of First Corinthians focuses on spiritual gifts and their role within the body of Christ. Paul emphasizes the diversity of gifts given by the Holy Spirit for the common good. He illustrates how these gifts function within the body, using an analogy of different parts working together for unity and growth. Paul stresses that every believer has a unique role to play and that no gift or individual is superior or inferior. The chapter concludes with a profound emphasis on love as surpassing all spiritual gifts, highlighting its essential role in using these gifts for the benefit of others. This chapter provides guidance on embracing diversity, recognizing one's unique contribution, and exercising spiritual gifts in love within the context of Christian community.

1 Corinthians 12:1 Now concerning spiritual gifts, brethren, I would not have you ignorant.

Paul cautions the Corinthians against being ignorant concerning spiritual gifts.

1. Acknowledge Your Spiritual Gifts: Embrace the Blessings of the Lord

2. Spiritual Gifts From God: Walk in the Power of the Spirit

1. Romans 12:6-8 - Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, let us prophesy in proportion to our faith; or ministry, let us use it in our ministering; he who teaches, in teaching; he who exhorts, in exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness.

2. Ephesians 4:7-8 - But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ's gift. Therefore He says: “When He ascended on high, He led captivity captive, And gave gifts to men.”

1 Corinthians 12:2 Ye know that ye were Gentiles, carried away unto these dumb idols, even as ye were led.

Gentiles were taken away from their former beliefs and led astray to serve false idols.

1. How To Know When We Are Led Astray

2. The Dangers of Idolatry

1. Ephesians 4:17-19 - So I tell you this, and insist on it in the Lord, that you must no longer live as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their thinking. They are darkened in their understanding and separated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them due to the hardening of their hearts. Having lost all sensitivity, they have given themselves over to sensuality so as to indulge in every kind of impurity, and they are full of greed.

2. 1 John 5:21 - Dear children, keep yourselves from idols.

1 Corinthians 12:3 Wherefore I give you to understand, that no man speaking by the Spirit of God calleth Jesus accursed: and that no man can say that Jesus is the Lord, but by the Holy Ghost.

Passage: Paul reminds the Corinthians that no one can call Jesus Lord or declare him to be accursed without being guided by the Holy Spirit.

1. The Power of the Holy Spirit in Our Lives

2. Living Out Our Beliefs in Jesus Christ

1. Acts 2:4 - And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

2. John 16:8-11 - And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: Of sin, because they believe not on me; Of righteousness, because I go to my Father, and ye see me no more; Of judgment, because the prince of this world is judged.

1 Corinthians 12:4 Now there are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit.

The Spirit of God distributes different gifts to all of His people.

1. Celebrating the Diversity of the Gifts God Gives

2. Unlocking the Power of the Holy Spirit in Your Life

1. Ephesians 4:7-8 - But grace was given to each one of us according to the measure of Christ's gift. Therefore it says, “When he ascended on high he led a host of captives, and he gave gifts to men.”

2. Romans 12:6-8 - Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; if service, in our serving; the one who teaches, in his teaching; the one who exhorts, in his exhortation; the one who contributes, in generosity; the one who leads, with zeal; the one who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness.

1 Corinthians 12:5 And there are differences of administrations, but the same Lord.

The passage from 1 Corinthians 12:5 emphasizes the unity of the Lord even though there are different administrations.

1. We are all connected to the Lord, no matter what our differences may be.

2. Despite our differences, we are all united in our faith of the Lord.

1. Colossians 3:11 - "Here there is not Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free; but Christ is all, and in all."

2. Galatians 3:28 - "There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus."

1 Corinthians 12:6 And there are diversities of operations, but it is the same God which worketh all in all.

The Bible teaches that although there are many different roles and responsibilities, it is God who works through and in each of them.

1. Unity in Diversity: How God Works through Our Differences

2. The Same God at Work: Understanding the Role of the Divine in Our Lives

1. Ephesians 4:1-6 - Unity in the Body of Christ

2. Colossians 1:17 - All Things Hold Together in Christ

1 Corinthians 12:7 But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal.

The manifestation of the Spirit is given to all people for their benefit.

1. The Power of the Holy Spirit: How it Benefits Us

2. Embracing the Gifts of the Holy Spirit

1. Acts 2:4 - And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

2. Romans 12:6-8 - Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, whether prophecy, let us prophesy according to the proportion of faith; Or ministry, let us wait on our ministering: or he that teacheth, on teaching; Or he that exhorteth, on exhortation: he that giveth, let him do it with simplicity; he that ruleth, with diligence; he that sheweth mercy, with cheerfulness.

1 Corinthians 12:8 For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom; to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit;

Passage: In 1 Corinthians 12, Paul is teaching about the gifts of the Spirit. He explains that the Spirit bestows different gifts on different people, such as a word of wisdom or a word of knowledge.

Paul teaches that the Spirit gives different gifts to each person, such as words of wisdom and knowledge.

1. The Gifts of the Spirit: Understanding the Various Ways God Bestows His Blessings

2. Tapping Into the Gifts of the Spirit: Making the Most of What God Has Given Us

1. Ephesians 4:7-16 - Unity of the Body of Christ

2. Romans 12:3-8 - Gifts of the Spirit and the Use of Each Gift in the Body of Christ

1 Corinthians 12:9 To another faith by the same Spirit; to another the gifts of healing by the same Spirit;

The Holy Spirit gives different spiritual gifts to believers.

1. The Uniqueness of Spiritual Gifts

2. Spiritual Gifts: A Blessing From the Holy Spirit

1. Romans 12:4-8

2. Ephesians 4:7-12

1 Corinthians 12:10 To another the working of miracles; to another prophecy; to another discerning of spirits; to another divers kinds of tongues; to another the interpretation of tongues:

The passage speaks about the spiritual gifts given to the church by the Holy Spirit, which includes the working of miracles, prophecy, discerning of spirits, speaking in different kinds of tongues, and interpreting tongues.

1. The Importance of Spiritual Gifts in the Church

2. Experiencing the Holy Spirit's Work in the Church

1. Romans 12:6-8 - Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, whether prophecy, let us prophesy according to the proportion of faith;

2. Ephesians 4:7-13 - But unto every one of us is given grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ.

1 Corinthians 12:11 But all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as he will.

The Holy Spirit works to bestow divine gifts to believers according to His own will.

1. Celebrating the Holy Spirit's Power in Our Lives

2. Understanding the Will of the Holy Spirit

1. Romans 12:3-8

2. Ephesians 4:7-13

1 Corinthians 12:12 For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also is Christ.

The body of Christ is unified and each of its members are connected and important.

1: God calls us to be part of His body, and as members of His body, we must work together to demonstrate the love of Christ to the world.

2: We are all members of the same body of Christ, and each of us has different gifts and abilities. We must use our gifts to build up the church and serve one another.

1: Ephesians 4:16 - From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love.

2: Colossians 3:14-15 - And above all these things put on charity, which is the bond of perfectness. And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful.

1 Corinthians 12:13 For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit.

Passage All believers, regardless of race, social status, or background, are unified in Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit.

1. The Power of the Holy Spirit: Unifying the Church

2. One in Christ: Embracing Our Diversity

1. Galatians 3:28 - "There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus."

2. Ephesians 2:14-15 - "For he is our peace, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition between us; Having abolished in his flesh the enmity, even the law of commandments contained in ordinances; for to make in himself of twain one new man, so making peace."

1 Corinthians 12:14 For the body is not one member, but many.

The body of Christ is composed of many members, each with their own unique gifts and functions.

1. The Importance of Unity in the Body of Christ

2. Embracing Our Individuality in the Church

1. Romans 12:4-5 - For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another.

2. Ephesians 4:11-16 - And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes.

1 Corinthians 12:15 If the foot shall say, Because I am not the hand, I am not of the body; is it therefore not of the body?

The foot should not feel inferior to the hand because, even though they are different, they are both part of the same body.

1. Everyone is important and has something unique to contribute.

2. We are all connected and part of the same larger body.

1. Ephesians 4:16 - "From whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love."

2. Romans 12:5 - "so we, being many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another."

1 Corinthians 12:16 And if the ear shall say, Because I am not the eye, I am not of the body; is it therefore not of the body?

In 1 Corinthians 12:16, Paul questions whether something is part of the body if it does not have the same physical attributes as other members of the body.

1. No matter how different we may look, we are all still part of the same body.

2. We should not judge someone based on their physical differences, instead we should accept them for who they are.

1. Romans 12:4-5 - For as we have many members in one body, and all members have not the same office: So we, being many, are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another.

2. Galatians 3:26-28 - For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus.

1 Corinthians 12:17 If the whole body were an eye, where were the hearing? If the whole were hearing, where were the smelling?

The passage emphasizes the importance of each part of the body and how they rely on each other.

1. We are all connected as one body in Christ.

2. We all have different gifts and talents that we can use to serve God.

1. Romans 12:4-5 - For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another.

2. Ephesians 4:16 - From whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.

1 Corinthians 12:18 But now hath God set the members every one of them in the body, as it hath pleased him.

God has appointed each member of the church a place in the body according to his will.

1. God's Will for His Church: Understanding Our Place in the Body

2. Serving in Unity: How the Church Benefits from Each Member's Contributions

1. Ephesians 4:11-16 - Gifts of grace to build up the body and equip its members for ministry

2. Romans 12:3-8 - Each member having different gifts to contribute to the church body

1 Corinthians 12:19 And if they were all one member, where were the body?

Passage:

Paul is arguing in 1 Corinthians 12:19 that it would be impossible for the church to be one body if all the members were the same. He is pointing out how the body of the church is strengthened when it is made up of different members with different gifts and abilities.

Paul is arguing that the body of the church is strengthened when it is made up of different members with different gifts and abilities.

1. The Strength of Diversity: How Different Members of the Church Enhance the Body

2. The Power of Unity: How Coming Together in the Church Brings Strength

1. Ephesians 4:11-16 - And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ

2. Romans 12:4-8 - For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another.

1 Corinthians 12:20 But now are they many members, yet but one body.

The passage explains that although there are many parts, they all make up one body.

1. Unity in Diversity: How Our Differences Unite Us

2. The Power of Community: How Working Together Brings Success

1. Ephesians 4:3-6 - Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.

2. Acts 2:42-47 - And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

1 Corinthians 12:21 And the eye cannot say unto the hand, I have no need of thee: nor again the head to the feet, I have no need of you.

The body of Christ is interconnected, and each part is necessary for the body to work properly.

1. Embracing our Interconnectedness in the Body of Christ

2. The Importance of Every Member in the Church

1. Ephesians 4:16 - "From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of

every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love.”

2. Romans 12:3-5 - “For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith. For as we have many members in one body, and all members have not the same office: So we, being many, are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another.”

1 Corinthians 12:22 Nay, much more those members of the body, which seem to be more feeble, are necessary:

The members of the body that appear to be weaker are just as important as those that appear to be more powerful.

1. The Importance of the Weak: How God Uses Us All for His Glory

2. Unity in Diversity: God's Plan for His Church

1. Isaiah 40:28-31 - God is the strength of the weak

2. Ephesians 4:11-13 - The gifts He gives to build up the body of Christ

1 Corinthians 12:23 And those members of the body, which we think to be less honourable, upon these we bestow more abundant honour; and our uncomely parts have more abundant comeliness.

We should honor and show respect to those parts of the body that are oftentimes overlooked or considered to be less important.

1. "The Uncomely Parts" - A reflecting on 1 Corinthians 12:23 discussing the importance of honoring even the overlooked parts of the body.

2. "A Beautiful Body" - A exploring how every part of the body is important and should be given honor and respect.

1. Ephesians 4:16 - From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love.

2. Romans 12:4-5 - For as we have many members in one body, and all members have not the same office: So we, being many, are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another.

1 Corinthians 12:24 For our comely parts have no need: but God hath tempered the body together, having given more abundant honour to that part which lacked:

God has created all members of the body with purpose and given more honor to those that lacked.

1.God's Design for Unity - How God brings our differences together for His glory

2.The Honor of Diversity - How God celebrates our uniqueness

1.Ephesians 4:1-7 - Unity in the Body of Christ

2.Romans 12:3-8 - The Importance of Humility and Service in the Body of Christ

1 Corinthians 12:25 That there should be no schism in the body; but that the members should have the same care one for another.

The members of the body of Christ should care for each other and work together without division.

1: Unity in the Body of Christ

2: Working Together in Harmony

1: Philippians 2:2-4 - Fulfil ye my joy, that ye be likeminded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind. Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves.

2: Romans 12:10 - Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another.

1 Corinthians 12:26 And whether one member suffer, all the members suffer with it; or

one member be honoured, all the members rejoice with it.

In 1 Corinthians 12:26, Paul emphasizes the solidarity of the church, highlighting how members of the church suffer or rejoice together.

1. "Solidarity in Suffering: How the Church Can Support One Another Through Hard Times"

2. "United in Joy: Celebrating the Success of Our Fellow Believers"

1. Romans 12:15 - "Rejoice with them that do rejoice, and weep with them that weep."

2. Acts 2:44-45 - "And all that believed were together, and had all things common; And sold their possessions and goods, and parted them to all men, as every man had need."

1 Corinthians 12:27 Now ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular.

All believers are part of the body of Christ and have individual roles to play.

1. We are All Part of the Body of Christ: A call to unity and purpose in Christ.

2. Members of a Particular Body: Discovering and embracing our individual gifts in the Church.

1. Ephesians 4:1-6 - Unity and purpose in the body of Christ.

2. Romans 12:3-8 - Discovering and using the gifts God has given us.

1 Corinthians 12:28 And God hath set some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, governments, diversities of tongues.

God has appointed various roles in the church including apostles, prophets, teachers, miracles, healings, helps, governments, and tongues.

1. The Various Gifts of Service in the Church

2. Unity Through Diversity in the Church

1. Ephesians 4:11-12 - And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ.

2. Romans 12:4-5 - For as we have many members in one body, and all members have not the same office: So we, being many, are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another.

1 Corinthians 12:29 Are all apostles? are all prophets? are all teachers? are all workers of miracles?

Passage Paul is challenging the Corinthians by asking if everyone in the church has the same gifts and abilities.

1. The Power of Different Gifts - Exploring the importance of varied gifts and abilities in the church.

2. Unity in Diversity - Exploring the need for unity amongst those with different gifts and abilities.

1. Ephesians 4:11-13 - Exploring the need for the church to be unified in its purpose and gifts.

2. Romans 12:3-8 - Exploring the various gifts and abilities given to each person in the church.

1 Corinthians 12:30 Have all the gifts of healing? do all speak with tongues? do all interpret?

The passage explores the diversity of spiritual gifts in the church.

1. Embracing Our Spiritual Gifts as a Church

2. Finding Our Place in the Body of Christ

1. Romans 12:4-8

2. 1 Peter 4:10-11

1 Corinthians 12:31 But covet earnestly the best gifts: and yet shew I unto you a more excellent way.

The passage stresses the importance of desiring the best gifts, but encourages readers to focus on a more excellent way.

1. The More Excellent Way: Pursuing Holiness Over Gifts

2. Coveting the Best Gifts: Seeking God's Will for Our Lives

1. 1 John 2:15-17 - Do not love the world or the things in the world.

2. Romans 12:1-2 - Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.

1 Corinthians 13 is the thirteenth chapter of the First Epistle of Paul to the Corinthians, often referred to as the "Love Chapter." In this chapter, Paul eloquently describes the supremacy and nature of love.

1st Paragraph: Paul begins by emphasizing that love surpasses all other spiritual gifts and actions. He describes various impressive abilities such as speaking in tongues, prophecy, faith, and acts of charity but states that without love, they are meaningless (1 Corinthians 13:1-3). Love is presented as an essential foundation for all Christian actions.

2nd Paragraph: Paul then proceeds to describe the characteristics and qualities of genuine love. He provides a vivid portrayal of what love looks like in action. Love is patient and kind; it does not envy or boast. It is not arrogant or rude but instead seeks to honor others (1 Corinthians 13:4-5). Love is selfless, bearing no ill will or resentment towards others. It rejoices in truth and protects, trusts, hopes, and perseveres through challenges (1 Corinthians 13:6-7).

3rd Paragraph: The chapter concludes with a reflection on the eternal nature of love compared to other temporary gifts. Paul emphasizes that prophecies will cease, tongues will be stilled, knowledge will pass away (1 Corinthians 13:8). These temporary manifestations are imperfect and incomplete compared to the perfect nature of love. He affirms that faith, hope, and love remain but declares that among them all, love is

supreme (1 Corinthians 13:13). Love endures beyond this earthly life into eternity.

In summary, Chapter thirteen of First Corinthians beautifully captures the essence and significance of genuine love. Paul highlights its surpassing value over other spiritual gifts and actions. He describes its characteristics—patience, kindness—and contrasts them with negative traits such as envy or arrogance. Love is presented as selfless and enduring, rejoicing in truth and persevering through challenges. Paul concludes by emphasizing the eternal nature of love compared to temporary gifts, affirming its supreme importance among faith, hope, and love. This chapter serves as a profound reminder of the transformative power and central role of love in the life of a believer.

1 Corinthians 13:1 Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity, I am become as sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal.

This passage emphasizes the importance of charity above all else, even if one has other abilities.

1. "The Power of Love: Understanding the Importance of Charity"

2. "The Supremacy of Love: Using 1 Corinthians 13:1 as a Guide"

1. 1 John 4:7-8 "Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love."

2. Romans 12:9-10 "Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good. Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor."

1 Corinthians 13:2 And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge; and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, and have not charity, I am nothing.

Without love, all other abilities are useless.

1. The Power of Love: Understanding What Makes Us Truly Human

2. The Necessity of Love: How to Cultivate Compassion in Our Lives

1. 1 John 4:7-12

2. Galatians 5:22-26

1 Corinthians 13:3 And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, and have not charity, it profiteth me nothing.

No matter how much one gives or does for others, without love it is meaningless.

1. The Power of Love: How to Show Love and Why it Matters

2. No Good Deed Goes Unrewarded: The Importance of Kindness and Generosity

1. 1 John 4:7-12 - Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God.

2. Matthew 22:35-40 - And one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. “Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?” And he said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.

1 Corinthians 13:4 Charity suffereth long, and is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up,

Love is patient and kind; it does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud.

1. Love is Patient, Love is Kind - 1 Corinthians 13:4

2. The Power of Love - 1 Corinthians 13:4

1. Galatians 5:22-23 - "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law."

2. 1 John 4:7-11 - "Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another."

1 Corinthians 13:5 Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil;

This passage speaks of the qualities of love, such as being selfless and not easily angered.

1. "Love Is Selfless: Lessons from 1 Corinthians 13:5"

2. "The Power of Patience: Understanding 1 Corinthians 13:5"

1. Romans 12:9-10 - "Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves."

2. Colossians 3:12-13 - "Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you."

1 Corinthians 13:6 Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth;

Love does not rejoice in wrongdoing but takes joy in the truth.

1. Love and Joy: Finding Happiness in Truth

2. Choosing Righteousness: Finding Joy in a Life of Integrity

1. Proverbs 12:20, "Deceit is in the heart of them that imagine evil: but to the counsellors of peace is joy."

2. Psalm 1:1-3, "Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. But his delight is in the law of the Lord; and in his law doth he meditate day and night. And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper."

1 Corinthians 13:7 Beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things.

Passage Love is patient and enduring, believing and hoping in all things.

1. Love Bears All Things: Understanding Patience and Endurance in our Relationships

2. Believe, Hope, and Endure: How to Make Faith and Love Last

1. Romans 5:3-5 - "Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not put us to shame."

2. Colossians 3:12-14 - "Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony."

1 Corinthians 13:8 Charity never faileth: but whether there be prophecies, they shall fail; whether there be tongues, they shall cease; whether there be knowledge, it shall vanish away.

Love is eternal while temporal gifts like prophecy, speaking in tongues, and knowledge will pass away.

1: Love is greater than any temporal gift.

2: Love will never fail us.

1: 1 John 4:8 - He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love.

2: 1 John 4:16 - And we have known and believed the love that God hath to us. God is love; and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him.

1 Corinthians 13:9 For we know in part, and we prophesy in part.

We only know and understand things partially, and our prophecies only come in part.

1. Love is Patient and Kind: A Study in Patience and Kindness from 1 Corinthians 13

2. Seeing Through a Glass Darkly: Understanding Our Limitations in a Fallen World

1. James 1:2-4 - 2 Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, 3 because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. 4 Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.

2. Romans 12:3 - For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned.

1 Corinthians 13:10 But when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away.

This verse from 1 Corinthians is referring to the fact that when the perfect comes, the partial will be done away with.

1. “A Better Way: Perfection”

2. “The Call to Perfection”

1. Romans 8:28, “And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.”

2. Isaiah 64:8, “But now, O Lord, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand.”

1 Corinthians 13:11 When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child: but when I became a man, I put away childish things.

When we grow older, we must put away childish things and think as an adult.

1. Growing Up: Moving Beyond Childish Ideas

2. Maturing in Faith: Leaving Behind Childhood Habits

1. Proverbs 22:6 “Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.”

2. Galatians 4:1-2 “Now I say, That the heir, as long as he is a child, differeth nothing from a servant, though he be lord of all; But is under tutors and governors until the time appointed of the father.”

1 Corinthians 13:12 For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known.

We can only perceive a limited understanding of God's truth and love for us, but one day we will see clearly and have a complete knowledge of Him.

1. Knowing God's Love in our Limited Understanding

2. Experiencing God's Perfection When We See Him Face to Face

1. Psalm 119:18 - Open thou mine eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of thy law.

2. John 17:3 - And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent.

1 Corinthians 13:13 And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity.

Paul states that faith, hope, and charity are the three most important elements of life, and that charity is the greatest.

1. "The Greatest of These: Understanding the Meaning and Importance of Charity"

2. "The Power of Faith, Hope, and Charity: The Three Pillars of a Meaningful Life"

1. Romans 12:9-13 - "Let love be without dissimulation. Abhor that which is evil; cleave to that which is good. Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another; Not slothful in business; fervent in spirit; serving the Lord; Rejoicing in hope; patient in tribulation; continuing instant in prayer."

2. James 2:14-17 - "What doth it profit, my brethren, though a man say he hath faith, and have not works? can faith save him? If a brother or sister be naked, and destitute of daily food, And one of you say unto them, Depart in peace, be ye warmed and filled; notwithstanding ye give them not those things which are needful to the body; what doth it profit? Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone."

1 Corinthians 14 is the fourteenth chapter of the First Epistle of Paul to the Corinthians. In this chapter, Paul addresses the proper use and order of spiritual gifts, particularly focusing on the gift of tongues and prophecy within the context of corporate worship.

1st Paragraph: Paul emphasizes the superiority of prophecy over speaking in tongues for edifying the church. He encourages believers to eagerly desire spiritual gifts, especially prophesying, as it benefits everyone (1 Corinthians 14:1-5). He explains that while speaking in tongues may be a personal expression between an individual and God, prophecy serves to build up and encourage the entire congregation. Paul urges believers to seek understanding and clarity in their speech so that others may be edified.

2nd Paragraph: Paul provides guidelines for orderly worship when multiple individuals have spiritual gifts to share. He advises that if someone speaks in tongues during a gathering, there should be an interpreter present; otherwise, they should remain silent (1 Corinthians 14:27-28). He stresses that everything should be done decently and in order to avoid confusion or chaos during worship services (1 Corinthians 14:33).

3rd Paragraph: The chapter concludes with instructions on how women should participate in public worship gatherings. Paul states that women should keep silent during teaching or prophesying but can pray or prophesy with their heads covered as a sign of submission (1 Corinthians 14:34-35). It is important to note that these instructions have been subject to various interpretations and cultural contexts throughout history.

In summary, Chapter fourteen of First Corinthians focuses on guidelines for using spiritual gifts within corporate worship settings. Paul highlights the importance of prioritizing gifts like prophecy over speaking in tongues for building up the church community. He emphasizes clarity and understanding in communication for effective edification. Additionally, he provides guidance on maintaining order during gatherings where multiple individuals have spiritual contributions by emphasizing interpretation when speaking in tongues is present. Lastly, Paul addresses the role of women in public worship, advising them to maintain a posture of submission and participate in appropriate ways according to the cultural context. This chapter offers practical instructions for maintaining order, edification, and unity within the worship gatherings of the Corinthian church.

1 Corinthians 14:1 Follow after charity, and desire spiritual gifts, but rather that ye may prophesy.

Paul urges the Corinthians to prioritize love and spiritual gifts, particularly the gift of prophecy.

1. The Power of Love: Cultivating a Spirit of Charity in the Church

2. The Greatness of Prophecy: Understanding the Gift of Prophecy in the Church

1. 1 John 4:7-12 - Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God.

2. Acts 2:17-21 - And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams.

1 Corinthians 14:2 For he that speaketh in an unknown tongue speaketh not unto men, but unto God: for no man understandeth him; howbeit in the spirit he speaketh mysteries.

Passage Speaking in tongues is a form of prayer in which the speaker communicates directly with God, speaking mysteries that are incomprehensible to others.

1. God's mysteries: The power of speaking in tongues

2. The power of prayer: Communicating with God through tongues

1. Acts 2:4 - And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

2. 1 John 4:7 - Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God.

1 Corinthians 14:3 But he that prophesieth speaketh unto men to edification, and exhortation, and comfort.

The passage speaks of the power of prophecy to edify, exhort, and comfort.

1. The Power of Prophetic Words to Give Hope and Comfort

2. The Life-Giving Impact of Prophetic Speech

1. Isaiah 61:1-2 - The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; he hath sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound.

2. James 3:2-4 - For in many things we offend all. If any man offend not in word, the same is a perfect man, and able also to bridle the whole body. Behold, we put bits in the horses' mouths, that they may obey us; and we turn about their whole body. Behold also the ships, which though they be so great, and are driven of fierce winds, yet are they turned about with a very small helm, whithersoever the governor listeth.

1 Corinthians 14:4 He that speaketh in an unknown tongue edifieth himself; but he that prophesieth edifieth the church.

Speaking in tongues can be beneficial to the speaker, but prophesying is more beneficial to the church.

1. Speak Life: The Power of Prophesying in the Church

2. Using the Gift of Tongues for Self-Edification

1. Acts 2:1-4 - When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

2. Romans 8:26-27 - Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. Now He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He makes intercession for the saints according to the will of God.

1 Corinthians 14:5 I would that ye all spake with tongues, but rather that ye prophesied: for greater is he that prophesieth than he that speaketh with tongues, except he interpret, that the church may receive edifying.

Paul encourages the church to focus on prophecy over speaking in tongues, as it is more beneficial to the edification of the church.

1. The Power of Prophecy: How Understanding its Role in the Church Can Strengthen Your Faith

2. Speaking in Tongues: Benefits and Limitations in the Church

1. Acts 2:2-4 - The Coming of the Holy Spirit and Speaking in Tongues

2. 1 Thessalonians 5:19-21 - Encouragement to Speak and Prophesy in the Church

1 Corinthians 14:6 Now, brethren, if I come unto you speaking with tongues, what shall I profit you, except I shall speak to you either by revelation, or by knowledge, or by prophesying, or by doctrine?

Paul is asking the Corinthians what benefit they would receive from him speaking in tongues if he were to come to them, unless he spoke to them through revelation, knowledge, prophesying, or doctrine.

1. The Power of Speaking God's Word: How to Make the Most of Our Speech

2. The Benefits of Speaking in Tongues and Prophesying

1. Isaiah 55:11 - "So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it."

2. James 3:2-12 - "For in many things we offend all. If any man offend not in word, the same is a perfect man, and able also to bridle the whole body."

1 Corinthians 14:7 And even things without life giving sound, whether pipe or harp, except they give a distinction in the sounds, how shall it be known what is piped or harped?

Paul questions how people can differentiate between the sounds of a pipe or harp if there is no distinction in the sounds.

1. The Power of Discernment: How to Recognize the Difference between Right and Wrong

2. The Gifts of Music: How to Appreciate and Connect to God through Sound

1. Romans 12:2 - Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.

2. Psalm 19:1 - The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands.

1 Corinthians 14:8 For if the trumpet give an uncertain sound, who shall prepare himself to the battle?

Paul encourages the Corinthians to use their spiritual gifts in a way that is effective and helpful to the church.

1. The Power of a Unified Voice: Unlocking the Potential of the Church

2. The Sound of the Trumpet: Using Spiritual Gifts to Lead the Church

1. Ephesians 4:11-16 - The importance of the Church's unity in Christ.

2. Romans 12:4-8 - The importance of using spiritual gifts in the Church for the benefit of others.

1 Corinthians 14:9 So likewise ye, except ye utter by the tongue words easy to be understood, how shall it be known what is spoken? for ye shall speak into the air.

Paul urges believers in the church of Corinth to speak clearly so that others can understand them.

1. The Power of Communication in the Church

2. Understanding and Being Understood in the Church

1. Ephesians 4:29 - Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear.

2. 2 Timothy 2:15 - Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth.

1 Corinthians 14:10 There are, it may be, so many kinds of voices in the world, and none of them is without signification.

There are many different kinds of voices in the world, and each of them has a meaning.

1. Everyone has a voice that matters - 1 Corinthians 14:10

2. The power of speaking up - 1 Corinthians 14:10

1. Romans 10:8-15 - The power of confessing with your mouth and believing in your heart

2. Psalm 19:1-4 - The power of God's Word and the beauty of His creation

1 Corinthians 14:11 Therefore if I know not the meaning of the voice, I shall be unto him that speaketh a barbarian, and he that speaketh shall be a barbarian unto me.

A person who does not understand the language someone else is speaking will be unable to understand them, and vice versa.

1. The Power of Language: Understanding and Appreciating Differences

2. Building Bridges of Mutual Understanding with Compassion

1. James 1:19 - Know this, my beloved brothers: let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger.

2. Colossians 3:12-15 - Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.

1 Corinthians 14:12 Even so ye, forasmuch as ye are zealous of spiritual gifts, seek that ye may excel to the edifying of the church.

Paul encourages the Corinthians to seek spiritual gifts to edify the church.

1. "When Spiritual Gifts are Exercised for the Good of the Church"

2. "The Zeal of the Spiritual Gifts"

1. Romans 12:6-8; "Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; if service, in our serving; the one who teaches, in his teaching; the one who exhorts, in his exhortation; the one who contributes, in generosity; the one who leads, with zeal; the one who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness."

2. Ephesians 4:11-12; "And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ"

1 Corinthians 14:13 Wherefore let him that speaketh in an unknown tongue pray that he may interpret.

Paul instructs believers to pray for the ability to interpret unknown languages.

1. Pray for the ability to understand God's will.

2. Ask God to give you the ability to interpret unknown languages.

1. James 1:5 - If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him.

2. Ephesians 3:16-19 - That he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man; That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love, May be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height; And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God.

1 Corinthians 14:14 For if I pray in an unknown tongue, my spirit prayeth, but my understanding is unfruitful.

Paul states that praying in an unknown tongue is beneficial to the spirit, but does not produce any tangible results.

1. Relying on the Spirit: The Power of Prayer in the Unknown

2. Focusing on the Intangible: Reaping the Benefits of Spiritual Prayer

1. Romans 8:26-27 ??The Spirit intercedes on our behalf

2. 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 ??Pray without ceasing and give thanks always

1 Corinthians 14:15 What is it then? I will pray with the spirit, and I will pray with the understanding also: I will sing with the spirit, and I will sing with the understanding also.

Paul encourages Christians to pray and sing with both spirit and understanding.

1. Understanding the Power of Prayer and Song

2. Praying and Singing with Spiritual Discernment

1. Philippians 4:6-7 - ?□e anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.??

2. Colossians 3:16 - ?□et the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.??

1 Corinthians 14:16 Else when thou shalt bless with the spirit, how shall he that occupieth the room of the unlearned say Amen at thy giving of thanks, seeing he understandeth not what thou sayest?

Christians should be careful when speaking in tongues, as those who do not understand the language cannot respond appropriately.

1. The Power of Prayer: Understanding the Benefits of Speaking in Tongues

2. Cultivating a Spiritual Community: The Importance of Inclusion and Understanding

1. Romans 8:26-27, ?Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God.??

2. 1 Corinthians 12:7-11, ?But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal. For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom; to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit; To another faith by the same Spirit; to another the gifts of healing by the same Spirit; To another the working of miracles; to another prophecy; to another discerning of spirits; to another divers kinds of tongues; to another the interpretation of tongues: But all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as he will.??

1 Corinthians 14:17 For thou verily givest thanks well, but the other is not edified.

Paul encourages Christians to offer thanks to God, but also to make sure that others are edified.

1. The importance of giving thanks and edifying others

2. How to ensure that our expressions of gratitude build up others

1. Ephesians 4:29 - "Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers."

2. Colossians 3:16 - "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord."

1 Corinthians 14:18 I thank my God, I speak with tongues more than ye all:

Passage The speaker is thankful to God for the ability to speak in tongues more than everyone else.

1. The Power of Gratitude: Learning to Appreciate What We Have

2. The Gift of the Holy Spirit: Embracing God's Divine Language

1. Ephesians 4:29-30 - "Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear. And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption."

2. Acts 2:4 - "And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance."

1 Corinthians 14:19 Yet in the church I had rather speak five words with my understanding, that by my voice I might teach others also, than ten thousand words in an unknown tongue.

Paul prefers to speak few words with understanding in the church to teach others, rather than many words in a strange language.

1. The Power of Understanding: Using our gifts of understanding in the church

2. The Value of Teaching: Embracing the responsibility to teach others in the church

1. James 3:17 - But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be entreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy.

2. Proverbs 16:24 - Pleasant words are as an honeycomb, sweet to the soul, and health to the bones.

1 Corinthians 14:20 Brethren, be not children in understanding: howbeit in malice be ye children, but in understanding be men.

Believers should have a mature understanding of the faith, but still retain a childlike purity of heart.

1. The Balance of Wisdom and Innocence

2. Growing in Faith and Humility

1. Matthew 18:3-4 - "And said, Verily I say unto you, Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven. Whosoever therefore shall humble himself as this little child, the same is greatest in the kingdom of heaven."

2. Ephesians 4:13-14 - "Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ: That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive."

1 Corinthians 14:21 In the law it is written, With men of other tongues and other lips will I speak unto this people; and yet for all that will they not hear me, saith the LORD.

Paul quotes a scripture from the law that tells of God speaking to the people in many different languages, yet they still will not listen to Him.

1. The Power of Unbelief: Understanding what it means to not heed God's call.

2. The Importance of Language: Examining the importance of communication and bridging gaps between people.

1. James 1:22-25 - Examining the importance of being doers of the Word and not just hearers.

2. Matthew 7:24-27 - Exploring the importance of building a solid foundation for faith and hearing God's Word.

1 Corinthians 14:22 Wherefore tongues are for a sign, not to them that believe, but to them that believe not: but prophesying serveth not for them that believe not, but for them which believe.

The gift of speaking in tongues is a sign for unbelievers, while prophesying is for believers.

1. The Power of Unbelief: Understanding the Significance of Speaking in Tongues

2. The Purpose of Prophecy: Encouraging Believers in Faith

1. Mark 16:17, And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues;

2. Romans 10:14-15, How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!

1 Corinthians 14:23 If therefore the whole church be come together into one place, and all speak with tongues, and there come in those that are unlearned, or unbelievers, will they not say that ye are mad?

The church should be mindful of outsiders when speaking in tongues, otherwise they may think the church is mad.

1. Speak in tongues with love and understanding.

2. Love and acceptance are the foundation of speaking in tongues.

1. Colossians 3:12-14 - Therefore, as God?□ chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.

2. 1 Peter 4:8-10 - Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins.

1 Corinthians 14:24 But if all prophesy, and there come in one that believeth not, or one unlearned, he is convinced of all, he is judged of all:

When all people in the church prophesy, even those who are unbelievers or uneducated understand and are convicted of the truth.

1. The Power of Prophesying: How Even the Unbeliever and Untrained Can Understand

2. The Conviction of the Spirit: How Faithful Prophesying Leads to Conviction

1. Romans 10:17 ??So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

2. Matthew 7:24 ??Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock.

1 Corinthians 14:25 And thus are the secrets of his heart made manifest; and so falling down on his face he will worship God, and report that God is in you of a truth.

This passage explains how secrets of the heart are revealed when a person falls down and worships God, and acknowledges that God is truly present.

1. The Power of Worship: How Falling Down Before God Reveals the Secrets of the Heart

2. God's Presence: Recognizing God's Presence Within Us

1. Psalm 95:6 - "Oh come, let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before the Lord our Maker."

2. Matthew 28:20 - "And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.??

1 Corinthians 14:26 How is it then, brethren? when ye come together, every one of you hath a psalm, hath a doctrine, hath a tongue, hath a revelation, hath an interpretation. Let all things be done unto edifying.

When believers come together, each should bring a Psalm, a teaching, a message in a foreign language, a revelation, or an interpretation to build each other up.

1. The Power of Unity in the Church

2. Participating in Worship

1. Acts 2:42-47 - The early church's devotion to fellowship, breaking of bread, and prayer.

2. Ephesians 4:15-16 - Growing up in the unity of the faith and knowledge of Jesus Christ.

1 Corinthians 14:27 If any man speak in an unknown tongue, let it be by two, or at the most by three, and that by course; and let one interpret.

Paul instructs Christians to speak in tongues only in pairs or at most in threes, and to have an interpreter present.

1. The Power of Speaking in Tongues: How to Properly Utilize the Gift

2. The Necessity of Interpretation: Understanding the Importance of an Interpreter

1. 1 Corinthians 14:5-6, 27 - ?□ would that ye all spake with tongues but rather that ye prophesied: for greater is he that prophesieth than he that speaketh with tongues, except he interpret, that the church may receive edifying. If any man speak in an unknown tongue, let it be by two, or at the most by three, and that by course; and let one interpret.??

2. Romans 8:26-27 - ?□ikewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God.??

1 Corinthians 14:28 But if there be no interpreter, let him keep silence in the church; and let him speak to himself, and to God.

It is important for everyone to be silent in church, and if no interpreter is present, one should speak to themselves and to God.

1. The Power of Silence - Exploring the importance of listening to God and others in church.

2. Interpreting the Church - Understanding the necessity of an interpreter in church services.

1. Romans 8:26-27 - Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words.

2. James 1:19-20 - Know this, my beloved brothers: let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger; for the anger of man does not produce the righteousness of God.

1 Corinthians 14:29 Let the prophets speak two or three, and let the other judge.

The Apostle Paul calls for prophets to speak two or three at a time, and for others to judge.

1. The Power of Discernment: How to Decide What to Believe

2. The Gift of Prophecy: Speaking Truth in Love and Humility

1. Hebrews 4:12 - For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

2. 1 John 4:1 - Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world.

1 Corinthians 14:30 If any thing be revealed to another that sitteth by, let the first hold his peace.

Paul instructs the Corinthians to be courteous and not interrupt others while they are prophesying.

1. Learning the Art of Listening: A Study on 1 Corinthians 14:30

2. The Power of Silence: How to Show Respect by Keeping Quiet

1. James 1:19 - Know this, my beloved brothers: let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger.

2. Proverbs 17:28 - Even a fool who keeps silent is considered wise; when he closes his lips, he is deemed intelligent.

1 Corinthians 14:31 For ye may all prophesy one by one, that all may learn, and all may be comforted.

All believers can prophesy one by one so that the entire group can learn and be comforted.

1. The Power of Prophesying Together - How to use prophesying to strengthen your faith and build community.

2. Comfort and Learning Through Prophesying - How to use prophesying to find comfort and learn from each other.

1. Acts 2:17 "And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy."

2. Ephesians 4:11 "And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers;"

1 Corinthians 14:32 And the spirits of the prophets are subject to the prophets.

The spirits of prophets are subject to the control of the prophets.

1. The Power of Prophecy: Understanding and Utilizing the Gift of Prophecy

2. Hear the Word of the Lord: The Responsibility of Listening to Prophecy

1. Jeremiah 23:21-22 - "I did not send these prophets, yet they have run with their message; I did not speak to them, yet they have prophesied. But if they had stood in my council, they would have proclaimed my words to my people and would have turned them from their evil ways and from their evil deeds.

2. James 1:5-6 - If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you. But when you ask, you must believe and not doubt, because the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind.

1 Corinthians 14:33 For God is not the author of confusion, but of peace, as in all churches of the saints.

God is not the cause of chaos and disorder, but instead desires peace and unity among his people.

1. ?□od Calls Us to Unity and Peace??

2. ?God's Will for His Church??

1. Psalm 133:1 - ?Behold, how good and pleasant it is when brothers dwell in unity.??

2. Romans 12:16 - ?Live in harmony with one another. Do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly. Never be wise in your own sight.??

1 Corinthians 14:34 Let your women keep silence in the churches: for it is not permitted unto them to speak; but they are commanded to be under obedience, as also saith the law.

Women in the church are instructed to remain silent, as commanded by the law.

1. Women's Place in the Church: Obedience to God's Word

2. The Power of Silence: Listening, Learning, and Growing in Faith

1. Proverbs 31:10-31 - An example of a Godly woman

2. 1 Peter 3:1-6 - The value of a quiet and gentle spirit

1 Corinthians 14:35 And if they will learn any thing, let them ask their husbands at home: for it is a shame for women to speak in the church.

Women should not speak in church and should ask their husbands any questions they have about the .

1. The Importance of Husbands as Spiritual Leaders

2. The Role of Women in the Church

1. Ephesians 5:22-33 - submission of wives to their husbands

2. 1 Timothy 2:11-14 - women's roles in the Church

1 Corinthians 14:36 What? came the word of God out from you? or came it unto you only?

Passage Paul is questioning the Corinthians, asking them if the word of God only came to them and not from them.

1. God calls us to be a light to the world, sharing the good news of the gospel with those around us.

2. We must be careful to not just hear the Word of God, but to actually put it into action in our lives.

1. Matthew 5:14-16 - "You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven."

2. James 1:22 - "Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says."

1 Corinthians 14:37 If any man think himself to be a prophet, or spiritual, let him acknowledge that the things that I write unto you are the commandments of the Lord.

Paul encourages those who consider themselves spiritual to accept the teachings he has provided in his letters as the commandments of the Lord.

1. "The Power of Paul's Letters: Understanding the Lord's Commandments"

2. "Live a Spiritual Life: Embracing Paul's Teachings as God's Will"

1. Psalm 119:11 - "Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee."

2. Proverbs 3:5-6 - "Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths."

1 Corinthians 14:38 But if any man be ignorant, let him be ignorant.

Paul encourages the Corinthians to be open to the gifts of the Spirit, but if someone is

unwilling to accept them, they should not be forced.

1. Welcoming the Gifts of the Spirit: Paul's Encouragement for the Corinthians

2. Ignorance and Openness: Understanding Paul's Message in 1 Corinthians 14:38

1. Romans 12:6-8 - Having different gifts according to the grace given to us.

2. 1 Peter 4:10 - Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms.

1 Corinthians 14:39 Wherefore, brethren, covet to prophesy, and forbid not to speak with tongues.

Paul encourages Christians to prophecy and not to forbid speaking in tongues.

1. Speak out in faith: How embracing our spiritual gifts can bring us closer to God.

2. The power of prophecy: Discovering and using our spiritual gifts to further God's kingdom.

1. Romans 12:6-8 - Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them.

2. Acts 2:1-4 - The coming of the Holy Spirit and the disciples speaking in tongues.

1 Corinthians 14:40 Let all things be done decently and in order.

Paul urges the Corinthians to conduct themselves in an orderly and respectful manner.

1. Establishing Orderliness and Respect in Our Lives

2. Living a Decent Life According to Paul's Instructions

1. Ephesians 5:15-17 - Be very careful, then, how you live? ot as unwise but as wise,

making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is.

2. Titus 2:11-12 - For the grace of God has appeared that offers salvation to all people. It teaches us to say ?□o??to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age.

1 Corinthians 15 is the fifteenth chapter of the First Epistle of Paul to the Corinthians. In this chapter, Paul addresses the topic of resurrection, emphasizing its significance within Christian faith and correcting some misunderstandings among the Corinthian believers.

1st Paragraph: Paul begins by reaffirming the gospel message as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins, was buried, and was raised on the third day according to Scripture (1 Corinthians 15:3-4). He provides a list of eyewitnesses who have seen Jesus after His resurrection, including Peter, James, and more than five hundred others (1 Corinthians 15:5-8). Paul emphasizes that if Christ has not been raised from the dead, then their faith is in vain and they are still in their sins (1 Corinthians 15:17). He presents Jesus as the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep, assuring believers that just as Christ was resurrected, they too will be raised to eternal life.

2nd Paragraph: Paul addresses some misconceptions about resurrection among the Corinthian believers. He responds to those who deny or question bodily resurrection by explaining that just as there are different kinds of flesh—human, animal—there are also different kinds of bodies—earthly bodies and heavenly bodies (1 Corinthians 15:35-40). He uses analogies from nature to illustrate how a seed must die before it can bring forth new life. Similarly, our perishable bodies will be transformed into imperishable ones at the time of resurrection (1 Corinthians 15:42-44).

3rd Paragraph: The chapter concludes with a triumphant declaration about victory over death through Jesus Christ. Paul proclaims that death has been swallowed up in victory and mocks its power by quoting from Isaiah (1 Corinthians 15:54-55). He encourages believers to stand firm in their faith because their labor in serving God is not in vain (1 Corinthians 15:58). Paul's message is one of hope and assurance, affirming the reality of resurrection and the eternal significance of Christ's victory over death.

In summary, Chapter fifteen of First Corinthians centers on the topic of resurrection. Paul emphasizes the importance of Christ's resurrection as the foundation of Christian faith. He addresses misconceptions about bodily resurrection and assures believers that just as Christ was raised from the dead, they too will experience resurrection to eternal life. Paul uses analogies to explain the transformation from perishable to imperishable bodies at the time of resurrection. He concludes with a triumphant declaration about victory over death through Jesus Christ, encouraging believers to stand firm in their faith and assuring them that their labor in serving God is not in vain. This chapter highlights the central role of resurrection in Christian theology and provides hope for believers regarding their future glorification.

1 Corinthians 15:1 Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand;

Paul reminds the Corinthians of the gospel he had preached to them, which they had accepted and stood upon.

1. The Power Of The Gospel: Why We Stand Upon Its Truth

2. The Gospel Of Christ: Our Foundation For Life

1. 1 Corinthians 15:3-4 - For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures:

2. Romans 10:9 - That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.

1 Corinthians 15:2 By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain.

Paul encourages the Corinthians to remember his teachings, as it is the way by which they are saved.

1. The Power of Remembering: How to Keep Faith Alive

2. The Blessing of Salvation: Receive and Remember God's Gift

1. Isaiah 40:31 - But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.

2. Hebrews 11:1 - Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

1 Corinthians 15:3 For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures;

The Apostle Paul taught that Jesus died for our sins according to scripture.

1. The Significance of Jesus' Death: Understanding the Power of the Cross

2. The Power of the Gospel: How Jesus' Death Changed Everything

1. Romans 5:8 - But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

2. Isaiah 53:5-6 - But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed.

1 Corinthians 15:4 And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures:

The Apostle Paul reminded the Corinthian church that Jesus was buried and He rose from the dead on the third day, as the scripture had prophesied.

1. “Living a Life of Resurrection: The Example of Jesus”

2. “The Power of Scripture: The Significance of Jesus’ Resurrection”

1. Romans 6:4-5 - Therefore we were buried with Him by baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.

5 For if we have been united together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be in the likeness of His resurrection.

2. John 11:25-26 - Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die. Do you believe this?”

1 Corinthians 15:5 And that he was seen of Cephas, then of the twelve:

Passage: Paul states that Jesus was seen by Cephas and the twelve after his resurrection.

1. The Reality of the Resurrection: Cephas and the Twelve Witnessed It

2. The Power of Christ: His Resurrection Proclaimed by His Followers

1. Acts 1:3 He presented himself alive to them after his suffering by many proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God.

2. John 20:26 Eight days later, his disciples were inside again, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.”

1 Corinthians 15:6 After that, he was seen of above five hundred brethren at once; of whom the greater part remain unto this present, but some are fallen asleep.

Paul recounts his encounter with the resurrected Jesus and the subsequent encounter of over 500 people with the risen Lord.

1: Our Hope in Christ's Resurrection

2: The Power of Community in Witnessing the Risen Lord

1: Romans 6:4-5, "Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life."

2: Acts 1:3, "To whom also he shewed himself alive after his passion by many infallible proofs, being seen of them forty days, and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God."

1 Corinthians 15:7 After that, he was seen of James; then of all the apostles.

Passage Jesus appeared to James and then to all the apostles.

1. Believing the Unbelievable: Jesus' Resurrection

2. The Presence of Jesus: Experiencing Him in Our Lives

1. Romans 10:9-10 - “If you declare with your mouth, ‘Jesus is Lord,’ and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved.”

2. John 20:19-21 - On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jewish leaders, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you!” After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord. Again Jesus said, “Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you.”

1 Corinthians 15:8 And last of all he was seen of me also, as of one born out of due time.

The Apostle Paul recounts an experience of seeing Jesus Christ resurrected from the dead, even though he was born at an unexpected time.

1: We must remain faithful to our beliefs in Jesus Christ, even when it seems unexpected or out of the ordinary.

2: The resurrection of Jesus Christ is a powerful reminder that God is always with us and can work in powerful ways in our lives.

1: Hebrews 11:1 - Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.

2: Romans 10:9 - If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

1 Corinthians 15:9 For I am the least of the apostles, that am not meet to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God.

Paul the Apostle humbly proclaims himself to be the least of the apostles, due to his past of persecuting the church of God.

1. Embrace Humility: We can learn from Paul's example of self-awareness and humility when we reflect on our own lives and how far we have come.

2. The Power of Forgiveness: No matter how far we have strayed, God's grace and

forgiveness can always bring us back to Him.

1. Luke 1:37 - "For nothing will be impossible with God."

2. 1 John 2:1-2 - "My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world."

1 Corinthians 15:10 But by the grace of God I am what I am: and his grace which was bestowed upon me was not in vain; but I laboured more abundantly than they all: yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me.

Paul is thankful for the grace of God that was bestowed upon him, allowing him to labor more abundantly than all.

1. Relying on God's Grace in Our Labors

2. The Abundance of God's Grace

1. Philippians 4:13 - I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me

2. Ephesians 2:8-9 - For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast.

1 Corinthians 15:11 Therefore whether it were I or they, so we preach, and so ye believed.

Paul and the other apostles preached the same message, and the Corinthians believed it.

1. The Power of the Same Message: How Preaching the Same Message Unites Us

2. The Strength of Believing: How Faith Is Strengthened By Unity

1. Romans 10:17 - So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.

2. Philippians 1:27-28 - Only let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving side by side for the faith of the gospel.

1 Corinthians 15:12 Now if Christ be preached that he rose from the dead, how say some among you that there is no resurrection of the dead?

Some of the Corinthians were denying the resurrection of the dead, and Paul was questioning why, considering that Christ had been preached as having been raised from the dead.

1. It is foolish to deny the resurrection of the dead when Christ Himself was raised from the dead.

2. We must remember and never forget that Jesus was raised from the dead, becoming the firstfruits of those who will be resurrected.

1. Romans 8:11 - "If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you."

2. John 11:25-26 - "Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die."

1 Corinthians 15:13 But if there be no resurrection of the dead, then is Christ not risen:

Paul affirms the resurrection of Christ, and warns that without it, there is no Christian faith.

1. The Unshakeable Hope of the Resurrection

2. The Power of the Risen Christ

1. Romans 10:9 - That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.

2. Matthew 28:6 - He is not here: for he is risen, as he said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay.

1 Corinthians 15:14 And if Christ be not risen, then is our preaching vain, and your faith is also vain.

The Apostle Paul states that if Christ has not risen, then preaching is meaningless and faith is also without value.

1. The Power of the Resurrection: How Christ's Rising Brings Meaning and Value to Our Lives

2. Preaching and Faith: Embrace the Power of the Risen Christ

1. Romans 10:9-10 - “If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is by believing in your heart that you are made right with God, and it is by confessing with your mouth that you are saved.”

2. 1 Peter 1:3-5 - “All praise to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. It is by his great mercy that we have been born again, because God raised Jesus Christ from the dead. Now we live with great expectation, and we have a priceless inheritance—an inheritance that is kept in heaven for you, pure and undefiled, beyond the reach of change and decay. And through your faith, God is protecting you by his power until you receive this salvation, which is ready to be revealed on the last day for all to see.”

1 Corinthians 15:15 Yea, and we are found false witnesses of God; because we have testified of God that he raised up Christ: whom he raised not up, if so be that the dead rise not.

This passage speaks of people testifying falsely by saying that God raised Jesus from the dead, when in fact this is not true if the dead cannot rise.

1. The Power of False Witness and the Consequences of Believing It

2. The Importance of Discernment and Examining the Evidence

1. Romans 10:17 - So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

2. Matthew 7:15-20 - “Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep’s clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves. You will recognize them by their fruits. Are grapes

gathered from thornbushes, or figs from thistles? So, every healthy tree bears good fruit, but the diseased tree bears bad fruit. A healthy tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a diseased tree bear good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. Thus you will recognize them by their fruits."

1 Corinthians 15:16 For if the dead rise not, then is not Christ raised:

Paul argues that if the dead are not raised, then Christ cannot have been raised either.

1. The Power of the Resurrection: Understanding the Implications of Christ's Resurrection

2. The Evidence of the Resurrection: Proving the Authenticity of Christ's Resurrection

1. Isaiah 53:10-12 - Yet it was the Lord's will to crush him and cause him to suffer, and though the Lord makes his life an offering for sin, he will see his offspring and prolong his days, and the will of the Lord will prosper in his hand.

11 After he has suffered, he will see the light of life and be satisfied; by his knowledge my righteous servant will justify many, and he will bear their iniquities.

2. Romans 8:11 - And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies because of his Spirit who lives in you.

1 Corinthians 15:17 And if Christ be not raised, your faith is vain; ye are yet in your sins.

If Jesus Christ was not raised from the dead, then our faith is meaningless and we are still in our sins.

1. "The Power of the Resurrection"

2. "The Promise of Salvation"

1. Romans 10:9 - That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.

2. Psalm 103:12 - As far as the east is from the west, so far hath he removed our transgressions from us.

1 Corinthians 15:18 Then they also which are fallen asleep in Christ are perished.

Passage Those who have died in Christ have perished.

1. We must not forget those who have gone before us in Christ and the impact they had on our lives.

2. Our hope for eternal life lies in Jesus, and we must cling to Him as our source of comfort and joy.

1. Philippians 3:20 - But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ.

2. Romans 14:8 - For if we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord. So then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's.

1 Corinthians 15:19 If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable.

Paul emphasizes that without hope in Christ, life is full of misery.

1. "Staying Hopeful in Christ: Rejecting a Life of Misery"

2. "The Promise of Hope in Christ: Rejecting a Life of Misery"

1. Romans 8:25 - "But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience."

2. Isaiah 40:31 - "But they who wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint."

1 Corinthians 15:20 But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept.

Christ's Resurrection: Christ has risen from the dead and become the firstfruits of those who have died.

1. The Hope of Resurrection: God has given us hope of eternal life through Christ's resurrection.

2. The Power of Christ: Jesus has defeated death and given us the power to overcome any obstacle.

1. John 11:25-26 - Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die.

2. Romans 6:9-10 - We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. For the death he died he died to sin, once for all, but the life he lives he lives to God.

1 Corinthians 15:21 For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead.

Death was caused by man, but so too was the resurrection of the dead.

1. The power of humanity to bring about resurrection.

2. The beauty of redemption in death.

1. John 11:25-26 - Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die.

2. Romans 5:18 - Therefore, as one trespass led to condemnation for all men, so one act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all men.

1 Corinthians 15:22 For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.

All people will die but in Christ they will be made alive.

1. "Life in Christ: The Hope of Eternal Life"

2. "The Power of Salvation: Overcoming Death Through Christ"

1. Romans 6:23, "For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."

2. John 11:25-26, "Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?”"

1 Corinthians 15:23 But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ's at his coming.

Paul speaks of the order of resurrection, in which Christ is the firstfruits and those who belong to Him will follow at His coming.

1. The Order of Resurrection: How Christ's Victory Guarantees Our Own

2. The Hope of the Resurrection: How Christ's Return Gives Us Strength

1. Romans 8:23-25 - And not only they, but ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body.

2. Philippians 3:20-21 - For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself.

1 Corinthians 15:24 Then cometh the end, when he shall have delivered up the kingdom to God, even the Father; when he shall have put down all rule and all authority and power.

The end of the world will come when Jesus hands the kingdom over to God the Father and destroys all rule, authority, and power.

1. The End Is Coming: Are You Ready?

2. The Final Authority: The Sovereignty of God

1. Romans 14:11-12 (For it is written, As I live, saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God. So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God.)

2. Ephesians 1:20-21 (Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places, Far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come.)

1 Corinthians 15:25 For he must reign, till he hath put all enemies under his feet.

Paul states that Jesus must reign until he has defeated all of his enemies.

1. Jesus Reigns: The Power of His Victory

2. The Reign of Christ: Trusting in His Authority

1. Philippians 2:9-11 - Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

2. Ephesians 1:20-22 - which he exerted in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every title that can be given, not only in the present age but also in the one to come. And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church.

1 Corinthians 15:26 The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death.

Death is the final enemy that will be defeated.

1. Without Fear - An Exploration of Victory over Death

2. The Power of Resurrection - Surpassing Death's Final Grasp

1. 1 Corinthians 15:54-57 - "Death has been swallowed up in victory. Where, O death, is

your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?"

2. John 11:25-26 - "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live"

1 Corinthians 15:27 For he hath put all things under his feet. But when he saith all things are put under him, it is manifest that he is excepted, which did put all things under him.

Jesus has been given authority over all things, but His authority is not absolute since He Himself is subject to God.

1. God's Sovereignty: Understanding Who Is In Charge

2. Jesus: The Greatest Example Of Submission To God

1. Romans 14:7-8 - For none of us liveth to himself, and no man dieth to himself. For whether we live, we live unto the Lord; and whether we die, we die unto the Lord: whether we live therefore, or die, we are the Lord's.

2. Philippians 2:5-11 - Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.

1 Corinthians 15:28 And when all things shall be subdued unto him, then shall the Son also himself be subject unto him that put all things under him, that God may be all in all.

The passage explains that God will ultimately be all in all when all things are subdued to Him and the Son is subject to Him.

1. God is the Supreme Ruler of All

2. The Power of God's Sovereignty

1. Hebrews 13:20-21 - Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, equip you with everything good that you may do his will, working in you that which is pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.

2. Romans 11:33-36 - Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways! “For who has known the mind of the Lord, or who has been his counselor?” “Or who has given a gift to him that he might be repaid?” For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be glory forever. Amen.

1 Corinthians 15:29 Else what shall they do which are baptized for the dead, if the dead rise not at all? why are they then baptized for the dead?

Passage Paul raises the question of why people are baptized if there is no resurrection.

1. The Power of Faith: What is the Purpose of Baptism?

2. The Resurrection of Jesus: Proclaiming Our Hope.

1. Romans 6:3-4 - “Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.”

2. Colossians 2:12 - “Having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through faith in the powerful working of God, who raised him from the dead.”

1 Corinthians 15:30 And why stand we in jeopardy every hour?

Paul questions why Christians are constantly in danger of persecution and suffering.

1. "The Peril of Persecution: Standing Strong Despite the Risk"

2. "The Grace of God in the Face of Danger"

1. Hebrews 11:32-40 – The faith of the Old Testament saints in the face of danger.

2. Romans 8:31-39 – The assurance of God's love in the midst of danger.

1 Corinthians 15:31 I protest by your rejoicing which I have in Christ Jesus our LORD, I die daily.

The apostle Paul expresses his willingness to die daily for the cause of Christ.

1. The Cost of Following Jesus: Willing to Die Daily

2. Living a Life of Sacrifice: Paul's Example

1. Philippians 3:10 - “That I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death.”

2. Hebrews 13:13 - “Let us go to him outside the camp and bear the reproach he endured.”

1 Corinthians 15:32 If after the manner of men I have fought with beasts at Ephesus, what advantageth it me, if the dead rise not? let us eat and drink; for to morrow we die.

Passage Paul questions the point of struggling and fighting if the dead do not rise again. He suggests that people should enjoy life while they have it.

1. The Meaning of Life: Living for Eternity

2. Embracing the Moment: Enjoy Life While You Can

1. Ecclesiastes 9:7-9 - Go, eat your bread with joy, and drink your wine with a merry heart, for God has already accepted your works. Let your garments be always white, and let your head lack no oil. Live joyfully with the wife whom you love all the days of your life.

2. James 4:13-14 - Come now, you who say, “Today or tomorrow we will go into such and such a town and spend a year there and trade and make a profit”— yet you do not know what tomorrow will bring. What is your life? For you are a mist that appears for a little time and then vanishes.

1 Corinthians 15:33 Be not deceived: evil communications corrupt good manners.

The passage warns against being deceived by bad influences, which can lead to corrupt

behavior.

1. “The Danger of Bad Influences”

2. “The Power of Making Good Choices”

1. Proverbs 13:20 - He that walketh with wise men shall be wise: but a companion of fools shall be destroyed.

2. James 1:16 - Do not be deceived, my beloved brothers.

1 Corinthians 15:34 Awake to righteousness, and sin not; for some have not the knowledge of God: I speak this to your shame.

Paul encourages the Corinthians to wake up to righteousness and not to sin, as some among them lack knowledge of God.

1. "Understanding God's Grace: How to Live Righteously"

2. "The Need for Knowledge: Don't Let Shame Control You"

1. Romans 6: 14-17 - For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace.

2. Proverbs 2:6-8 - For the Lord giveth wisdom: out of his mouth cometh knowledge and understanding.

1 Corinthians 15:35 But some man will say, How are the dead raised up? and with what body do they come?

Paul poses a question about the resurrection of the dead and how they will be resurrected.

1. "Resurrection: The Hope of Eternal Life"

2. "The Body of the Resurrected: What Will It Look Like?"

1. Job 19:25-27 - For I know that my Redeemer lives, and at the last he will stand upon the earth. And after my skin has been thus destroyed, yet in my flesh I shall see God, whom I shall see for myself, and my eyes shall behold, and not another. My heart faints within me!

2. 1 Peter 1:3-5 - Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

1 Corinthians 15:36 Thou fool, that which thou sowest is not quickened, except it die:

Passage Death is necessary for something to be brought to life.

1. The Power of Death: How Death Brings Life

2. The Necessity of Sacrifice: What We Must Give Up to Gain

1. John 12:24 - Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone: but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit.

2. Romans 6:4-5 - Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection.

1 Corinthians 15:37 And that which thou sowest, thou sowest not that body that shall be, but bare grain, it may chance of wheat, or of some other grain:

Planting a seed does not result in an immediate harvest, but it will eventually grow into whatever it was planted as.

1. The Miracle of Growth: Understanding How God's Creation Works

2. Planting the Seeds of Faith: Reaping the Benefits of God's Love

1. Galatians 6:7-8 - Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap. 8 For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life.

2. James 1:17-18 - Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. 18 Of his own will he brought us forth by the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures.

1 Corinthians 15:38 But God giveth it a body as it hath pleased him, and to every seed his own body.

God gives each seed a unique body to fulfill its purpose, as He has commanded.

1. The Power of God's Design: Understanding Our Purpose Through His Creation

2. The Beauty of God's Creation: Appreciating the Diversity of His Creations

1. Psalm 139:14 - I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made: marvellous are thy works; and that my soul knoweth right well.

2. Genesis 1:11-13 - Then God said, “Let the earth sprout vegetation, plants yielding seed, and fruit trees on the earth bearing fruit after their kind with seed in them”; and it was so. The earth brought forth vegetation, plants yielding seed after their kind, and trees bearing fruit with seed in them, after their kind; and God saw that it was good. There was evening and there was morning, a third day.

1 Corinthians 15:39 All flesh is not the same flesh: but there is one kind of flesh of men, another flesh of beasts, another of fishes, and another of birds.

Paul emphasizes the diversity of creation, noting that there is a variety of flesh among men, beasts, fishes, and birds.

1. God's Marvelous Diversity: Understanding the Variety of Creation

2. The Uniqueness of Each Life: Celebrating the Distinctiveness of Man, Beast, Fish, and Bird

1. Genesis 1:21-25 - God creates the birds, fish, and animals

2. Psalm 104:24-30 - Praising God for the animals He has made

1 Corinthians 15:40 There are also celestial bodies, and bodies terrestrial: but the glory of the celestial is one, and the glory of the terrestrial is another.

Paul explains that there is a difference in the glory of celestial and terrestrial bodies.

1. The Glory of Heaven: What it Means and How to Seek It

2. Finding Meaning in the Differences of This World

1. Matthew 6:19-21 – “Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

2. James 4:13-15 – “Now listen, you who say, ‘Today or tomorrow we will go to this or that city, spend a year there, carry on business and make money.’ Why, you do not even know what will happen tomorrow. What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes. Instead, you ought to say, ‘If it is the Lord’s will, we will live and do this or that.’”

1 Corinthians 15:41 There is one glory of the sun, and another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars: for one star differeth from another star in glory.

The glory of the sun, moon, and stars is unique and varied.

1. Appreciating the Beauty of Creation

2. Celebrating Our Differences

1. Psalm 19:1-2 - The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands. Day after day they pour forth speech; night after night they reveal knowledge.

2. James 1:17 - Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows.

1 Corinthians 15:42 So also is the resurrection of the dead. It is sown in corruption; it is raised in incorruption:

Passage The resurrection of the dead is like a seed being sown in corruption and then being raised in incorruption.

1. Our Resurrection: A Hope of Incorruption

2. The Power of the Resurrection: Life from Death

1. 1 Peter 1:3-5 - Praising God for the hope of the resurrection

2. John 11:25-26 - Jesus proclaiming the power of resurrection over death

1 Corinthians 15:43 It is sown in dishonour; it is raised in glory: it is sown in weakness; it is raised in power:

The passage explains that what is sown in dishonour and weakness can be raised in glory and power.

1. The Power of Redemption: How God Can Transform Our Weaknesses into Strengths

2. God's Unfailing Love: How His Mercy Transforms Our Lives

1. Philippians 4:13 - "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."

2. Isaiah 40:31 - "But those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint."

1 Corinthians 15:44 It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body. There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body.

The passage speaks of the transformation of the human body from a natural to a spiritual one.

1. Our bodies are a temple of the Spirit and can be transformed through faith in Christ.

2. The power of the resurrection brings new life to the believer.

1. Romans 8:11 - And if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.

2. 2 Corinthians 5:17 - Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.

1 Corinthians 15:45 And so it is written, The first man Adam was made a living soul; the last Adam was made a quickening spirit.

The Bible states that the first man, Adam, was created a living soul, and the last Adam was created a quickening spirit.

1. The Difference between Adam and Jesus: How the First and Last Adam Represent Sin and Salvation

2. Becoming Quickened by the Spirit: Experiencing the Life-Giving Power of Jesus

1. Romans 5:12-19 - The consequences of Adam’s sin and the gift of justification through Jesus

2. Ephesians 2:1-10 - The power of God’s grace in bringing dead sinners to life in Christ

1 Corinthians 15:46 Howbeit that was not first which is spiritual, but that which is natural; and afterward that which is spiritual.

The natural comes first, followed by the spiritual.

1. The Priority of the Natural: Understanding Our Place in Creation

2. The Interplay of the Natural and Spiritual: Discovering Our Path to Holiness

1. Matthew 6:33 - But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

2. Psalm 19:1-2 - The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands. Day after day they pour forth speech; night after night they reveal knowledge.

1 Corinthians 15:47 The first man is of the earth, earthy: the second man is the Lord from heaven.

This verse speaks of two men: the first man is from the earth and the second man is the Lord from heaven.

1. The Difference Between an Earthly and Heavenly Mindset

2. Living as a Citizen of Heaven

1. Philippians 3:20-21 - "But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself."

2. Romans 12:2 - "Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect."

1 Corinthians 15:48 As is the earthy, such are they also that are earthy: and as is the heavenly, such are they also that are heavenly.

The earthly and heavenly are different and the qualities of each are reflected in those who inhabit them.

1: We must reject earthly values and strive to embody heavenly ones.

2: In order to become more like God, we must rise above our earthly desires.

1: Matthew 6:33 - But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.

2: Romans 12:2 - And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the

renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

1 Corinthians 15:49 And as we have borne the image of the earthy, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly.

Passage We will bear the image of the heavenly, just as we have borne the image of the earthly.

1. "The Image of Heaven: Becoming More Like Christ"

2. "Living in Light of the Heavenly Image"

1. Ephesians 4:17-24 - Put off the old man and put on the new man

2. Romans 8:28-29 - God works all things together for the good of those who love Him and are called according to His purpose

1 Corinthians 15:50 Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption.

The kingdom of God cannot be inherited by flesh and blood, nor can corruption inherit incorruption.

1. We must rely on faith, not physical things, to inherit the kingdom of God

2. The corrupt will not be allowed to enter the kingdom of God

1. Romans 8:17 - And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together.

2. Luke 18:29-30 - And he said unto them, Verily I say unto you, There is no man that hath left house, or parents, or brethren, or wife, or children, for the kingdom of God's sake, Who shall not receive manifold more in this present time, and in the world to come life everlasting.

1 Corinthians 15:51 Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed,

Passage Not all people will die, but everyone will experience a transformation.

1. Understanding the Mystery of Transformation

2. Embracing the Promise of Change

1. Romans 8:28-29 And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.

2. Isaiah 43:18-19 "Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland."

1 Corinthians 15:52 In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

At the last trumpet, the dead will be raised incorruptible and we will be changed in a moment.

1. The Power of the Resurrection 2. The End of Time

1. Romans 8:11 - And if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you. 2. 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17 - For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.

1 Corinthians 15:53 For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality.

The corruptible must become incorruptible and the mortal must become immortal.

1. The Hope of Eternal Life: How We Can Overcome Death

2. The Power of the Resurrection: Transforming Our Mortal Bodies

1. Romans 6:5-11 - The power of a transformed life through Jesus' resurrection.

2. 1 Peter 1:3-9 - The hope of eternal life through Jesus' resurrection.

1 Corinthians 15:54 So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory.

The corruptible and mortal will be replaced with incorruption and immortality, and Death will be defeated.

1: Victory in Christ - No matter what we face in life, Christ has already won the ultimate victory over death.

2: The Power of Faith - Through faith in God, we can have the assurance that even when death comes, we have the promise of resurrection and eternal life.

1: Isaiah 25:8 He will swallow up death in victory; and the Lord GOD will wipe away tears from off all faces; and the rebuke of his people shall he take away from off all the earth: for the LORD hath spoken it.

2: 1 Corinthians 15:26 The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death.

1 Corinthians 15:55 O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?

Passage Paul questions death's power and the grave's victory.

1: "The Victory of Life: Overcoming Death"

2: "The Strength of Our Hope: Not in the Grave"

1: Isaiah 25:8 - He will swallow up death forever; and the Lord God will wipe away tears from all faces.

2: Revelation 1:18 - I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death.

1 Corinthians 15:56 The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law.

Death is caused by sin, and the law is what gives sin its strength.

1. The Consequence of Sin is Death

2. The Power of the Law

1. Romans 6:23 - For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

2. James 2:8-13 - For if you fulfill the royal law according to the Scripture, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself,” you are doing well. But if you show partiality, you are committing sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors. For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become accountable for all of it. For he who said, “Do not commit adultery,” also said, “Do not murder.” If you do not commit adultery but do murder, you have become a transgressor of the law. So speak and so act as those who are to be judged under the law of liberty. For judgment is without mercy to one who has shown no mercy. Mercy triumphs over judgment.

1 Corinthians 15:57 But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

In 1 Corinthians 15:57, Paul gives thanks to God for providing victory through Jesus Christ.

1. "Victory Through Jesus Christ"

2. "Giving Thanks to God"

1. Philippians 4:13 - I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.

2. Psalm 118:14 - The Lord is my strength and my song; he has become my salvation.

1 Corinthians 15:58 Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.

Believers should remain steadfast and committed to serving the Lord, for their efforts are not in vain.

1. Abundant Faith: A Path to Steadfast Commitment

2. Unwavering Service: The Fruits of Faithful Labor

1. Hebrews 10:23-24 - Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised;) and let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works.

2. James 1:22-25 - But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves. For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass: For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was. But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed.

1 Corinthians 16 is the sixteenth and final chapter of the First Epistle of Paul to the Corinthians. In this chapter, Paul provides various instructions and greetings to the Corinthian believers.

1st Paragraph: Paul instructs the Corinthian believers on how to collect a special offering for the saints in Jerusalem. He advises them to set aside a portion of their income each week according to their prosperity so that there won't be a need for last-minute collections when he arrives (1 Corinthians 16:1-3). Paul expresses his desire to accompany representatives from Corinth when they deliver this generous gift, as he plans to visit them after passing through Macedonia (1 Corinthians 16:4-6).

2nd Paragraph: Paul discusses his travel plans and expresses his intention to stay in Ephesus until Pentecost because an opportunity for effective ministry has opened up there (1 Corinthians 16:8-9). He urges believers in Corinth to be watchful, stand firm in their faith, act like men, and be strong (1 Corinthians 16:13). He encourages them to do everything with love.

3rd Paragraph: The chapter concludes with personal greetings and instructions. Paul commends Stephanas, Fortunatus, and Achaicus for their faithful service and encourages the church in Corinth to submit themselves willingly to such leaders (1 Corinthians 16:15-18). He sends greetings from churches in Asia along with Aquila and Priscilla. Finally, he concludes by emphasizing that his love is with all those who are in Christ Jesus (1 Corinthians 16:19-24).

In summary, Chapter sixteen of First Corinthians contains various practical instructions and greetings from Paul. He advises on collecting an offering for Jerusalem's saints and provides guidelines on its collection. He shares his travel plans while urging believers in Corinth to remain steadfast in their faith. The chapter ends with personal commendations, greetings from other churches, and a final expression of Paul's love for all those in Christ Jesus. This chapter serves as a closing exhortation, highlighting the importance of practical matters, unity within the body of believers, and expressing Paul's affection for the Corinthian church.

1 Corinthians 16:1 Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I have given order to the churches of Galatia, even so do ye.

Paul instructs the church of Corinth to contribute to the collection for the saints, following the same instruction he gave the churches of Galatia.

1. The Power of Giving: How Giving to Others Can Make a Difference

2. Who Are the Saints? Examining What It Means to Be a Saint

1. Acts 20:35 - “In all things I have shown you that by working hard in this way we must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he himself said, ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’”

2. Galatians 6:10 - “So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith.”

1 Corinthians 16:2 Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him, that there be no gatherings when I come.

This verse encourages Christians to set aside a portion of what they earn on Sunday for the church, in order to avoid having to collect funds when Paul arrives.

1: God has blessed us with the ability to work, so let us use it to contribute to His church.

2: Generosity in giving is a sign of true discipleship.

1: Luke 6:38 - "Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same

measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again."

2: 2 Corinthians 9:7 - "Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver."

1 Corinthians 16:3 And when I come, whomsoever ye shall approve by your letters, them will I send to bring your liberality unto Jerusalem.

Paul urges the Corinthians to send a delegate with a financial contribution to Jerusalem.

1. The importance of financial giving to God's work.

2. The responsibility of the church to care for the needs of others.

1. 2 Corinthians 9:7 - "Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver."

2. Acts 2:44-45 - "And all that believed were together, and had all things common; And sold their possessions and goods, and parted them to all men, as every man had need."

1 Corinthians 16:4 And if it be meet that I go also, they shall go with me.

Passage Paul is telling the Corinthians that if it is appropriate for him to go somewhere, they should accompany him.

1. God Calls us to be with Him in His Work

2. Serving Together for the Kingdom of God

1. Isaiah 58:12 - And they that shall be of thee shall build the old waste places: thou shalt raise up the foundations of many generations; and thou shalt be called, The repairer of the breach, The restorer of paths to dwell in.

2. Matthew 25:34-36 - Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: For I was an hungred, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in:

1 Corinthians 16:5 Now I will come unto you, when I shall pass through Macedonia: for I do pass through Macedonia.

Paul plans to pass through Macedonia on his way to visit the Corinthians.

1. Persevere in the Face of Adversity: Paul's Journey to the Corinthians

2. The Value of Goals and Plans: Paul's Trip to the Corinthians

1. Philippians 4:13 - "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me."

2. Romans 8:37 - "Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us."

1 Corinthians 16:6 And it may be that I will abide, yea, and winter with you, that ye may bring me on my journey whithersoever I go.

Paul is considering staying with the Corinthians for the winter, and they must provide him with transportation to his next destination.

1. God calls us to hospitality and generosity, even to those we do not know.

2. We must be willing to serve others, even if it requires sacrifice on our part.

1. Hebrews 13:2 - "Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares."

2. Matthew 10:42 - "And whoever gives one of these little ones even a cup of cold water because he is a disciple, truly, I say to you, he will by no means lose his reward."

1 Corinthians 16:7 For I will not see you now by the way; but I trust to tarry a while with you, if the Lord permit.

Paul expresses his desire to visit the Corinthians, but acknowledges that it is ultimately up to God.

1. God is in Control: Reflecting on Paul's Submission to the Lord in 1 Corinthians 16:7.

2. God's Will and Our Plans: How to Properly Integrate Our Dreams with God's Providence.

1. James 4:15 - Instead you ought to say, “If the Lord wills, we will live and do this or that.”

2. Proverbs 16:9 - The heart of man plans his way, but the Lord establishes his steps.

1 Corinthians 16:8 But I will tarry at Ephesus until Pentecost.

Paul plans to stay in Ephesus until Pentecost: 2

1. The importance of staying in God's will, no matter the cost.

2. The importance of endurance and patience in service to God.

2

1. Romans 8:25 - "But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently."

2. James 1:2-3 - "Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance."

1 Corinthians 16:9 For a great door and effectual is opened unto me, and there are many adversaries.

Paul is facing many obstacles in his mission, but a great opportunity has been opened to him.

1. "Press On Despite Adversity"

2. "The Power of a Positive Attitude"

1. Philippians 4:13 - "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me."

2. Isaiah 41:10 - "Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness."

1 Corinthians 16:10 Now if Timotheus come, see that he may be with you without fear: for he worketh the work of the Lord, as I also do.

Paul encourages the Corinthians to welcome Timothy, who is working for the Lord, just as Paul is.

1. The Power of Acceptance: Welcoming Others in Service to the Lord

2. Unleashing the Power of Working for the Lord

1. Hebrews 13:2 Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it.

2. Colossians 3:23 Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters.

1 Corinthians 16:11 Let no man therefore despise him: but conduct him forth in peace, that he may come unto me: for I look for him with the brethren.

Paul encourages the church to welcome Timothy on his arrival and treat him with respect.

1 - How Respectful Interactions Build Strong Communities

2 - The Importance of Welcoming Others

1 - Galatians 6:10, “So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith.”

2 - Ephesians 4:32, “Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.”

1 Corinthians 16:12 As touching our brother Apollos, I greatly desired him to come unto you with the brethren: but his will was not at all to come at this time; but he will come when he shall have convenient time.

Paul desired Apollos to come to the church with the other brethren, but Apollos chose to come at a later time.

1. God's Plans for Us Don't Always Match Our Own

2. God's Timing is Perfect

1. Proverbs 16:9 - We can make plans, but the LORD determines our steps.

2. Jeremiah 29:11 - For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.

1 Corinthians 16:13 Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, quit you like men, be strong.

Paul encourages the Corinthians to remain alert and steadfast in their faith, to be brave and strong.

1. Be Courageous: Standing Firm in Your Faith

2. Overcoming Fear and Doubt Through Strength in the Lord

1. Isaiah 40:31 - But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.

2. Ephesians 6:10-18 - Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil’s schemes.

1 Corinthians 16:14 Let all your things be done with charity.

Paul admonishes the Corinthians to act with love and charity in all their actions.

1. Love is the greatest commandment - 1 Corinthians 16:14

2. Do everything with love - 1 Corinthians 16:14

1. John 3:16 - For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have everlasting life.

2. Galatians 5:13-14 -For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another. For the whole law is fulfilled in one word: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”

1 Corinthians 16:15 I beseech you, brethren, (ye know the house of Stephanas, that it is the firstfruits of Achaia, and that they have addicted themselves to the ministry of the saints,)

Paul encourages the Corinthians to recognize and honor the ministry of the house of Stephanas.

1. The Importance of Honoring those Dedicated to Ministry

2. Recognizing and Appreciating Ministry in our Lives

1. Colossians 3:23-24 - And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men; Knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ.

2. Hebrews 13:7 - Remember them which have the rule over you, who have spoken unto you the word of God: whose faith follow, considering the end of their conversation.

1 Corinthians 16:16 That ye submit yourselves unto such, and to every one that helpeth with us, and laboureth.

Paul encourages the Corinthians to submit to those who are helping and laboring with them.

1. The importance of submission to those who work with us.

2. Appreciating the importance of labor and hard work.

1. Philippians 2:3-4 - “Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.”

2. Ephesians 6:5-8 - “Slaves, obey your earthly masters with fear and trembling, with a sincere heart, as you would Christ, not by the way of eye-service, as people-pleasers, but as servants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart, rendering service with a good will as to the Lord and not to man, knowing that whatever good anyone does, this he will receive back from the Lord, whether he is a slave or free.”

1 Corinthians 16:17 I am glad of the coming of Stephanas and Fortunatus and Achaicus: for that which was lacking on your part they have supplied.

Paul praises the presence of Stephanas, Fortunatus, and Achaicus for their valuable contribution to the church in Corinth.

1. The Power of Unity: The Contributions of Stephanas, Fortunatus, and Achaicus

2. The Importance of Community: Working Together to Build the Kingdom

1. Philippians 2:3-4 - Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.

2. Proverbs 18:24 - A man of many companions may come to ruin, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother.

1 Corinthians 16:18 For they have refreshed my spirit and yours: therefore acknowledge ye them that are such.

Paul encourages the Corinthians to recognize those who have served them spiritually and to acknowledge their efforts.

1. Acknowledging the Spiritual Leaders in Our Lives

2. The Importance of Appreciation and Gratitude

1. Hebrews 13:17 - Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they are keeping watch over your souls, as those who will have to give an account.

2. Acts 20:28-32 - Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God, which he obtained with his own blood.

1 Corinthians 16:19 The churches of Asia salute you. Aquila and Priscilla salute you much in the Lord, with the church that is in their house.

Paul sends greetings from the churches in Asia, as well as from Aquila and Priscilla, who have a church in their house.

1. The Importance of Community: Examining Paul's Greetings from the Churches of Asia

2. Aquila and Priscilla: Models of Hospitality and Faithfulness

1. Romans 16:3-5 - Greet Priscilla and Aquila, my fellow workers in Christ Jesus, who risked their necks for my life, to whom not only I give thanks but also all the churches of the Gentiles.

2. Acts 2:42-47 - And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. And all who believed were together and had all things in common.

1 Corinthians 16:20 All the brethren greet you. Greet ye one another with an holy kiss.

Paul encourages the Corinthians to greet each other with an holy kiss, and he also sends his greetings to them.

1. The Power of a Kiss: Exploring the Significance of Greeting Each Other with an Holy Kiss

2. Love, Unity, and the Holy Kiss: Examining the Principles of Fellowship in 1 Corinthians 16:20

1. Romans 15:5-6 - May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, that together you may with

one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

2. Hebrews 13:1-2 - Keep on loving one another as brothers and sisters. Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by so doing some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it.

1 Corinthians 16:21 The salutation of me Paul with mine own hand.

Paul sends his personal greetings as a sign of his care and concern for the Corinthians.

1) The Power of Connection: How Paul's Salutation of the Corinthians Can Help Us Strengthen Our Bonds Today

2) The Meaning of Care: What Paul's Salutation of the Corinthians Can Teach Us About Devotion

1) Romans 16:16 - Greet one another with a holy kiss.

2) 1 John 4:7 - Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God.

1 Corinthians 16:22 If any man love not the Lord Jesus Christ, let him be Anathema Maranatha.

Paul encourages Christians to love the Lord Jesus Christ, and warns against not loving Him.

1. The Love of Jesus: Why it Matters.

2. Anathema Maranatha: A Warning for Disobedience.

1. John 3:16 - "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."

2. Romans 8:38-39 - "For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord."

1 Corinthians 16:23 The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

Passage:

Paul sends his greetings to the Corinthian church, encouraging them with the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Paul sends a greeting to the Corinthian church, wishing them the grace of Jesus Christ.

1. The Power of Grace: Exploring the Love of Jesus Christ

2. God's Unconditional Grace: Receiving the Blessings of Jesus

1. Romans 5:20-21 - "But where sin increased, grace increased all the more, so that, just as sin reigned in death, so also grace might reign through righteousness to bring eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."

2. Ephesians 2:8-9 - "For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— not by works, so that no one can boast."

1 Corinthians 16:24 My love be with you all in Christ Jesus. Amen.

Paul sends his love to the members of the church in Corinth and affirms his faith in Jesus Christ.

1. The Power of Love: A Look at What it Means to Love Others in the Body of Christ

2. Love and Unity: The Role of Love in Uniting the Church

1. 1 John 4:7-8 - "Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love."

2. Ephesians 4:2-3 - "with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace."

2 Corinthians 1 is the first chapter of the Second Epistle of Paul to the Corinthians. In this chapter, Paul addresses the Corinthian believers and shares his personal experiences of suffering and comfort, highlighting God's faithfulness in times of trouble.

1st Paragraph: Paul begins by expressing gratitude to God for His comfort and encouragement during times of affliction. He acknowledges that he and his companions faced hardships in Asia that were beyond their strength to bear (2 Corinthians 1:8). However, he testifies that God provided them with divine comfort so that they could endure and overcome their trials (2 Corinthians 1:9). Paul emphasizes that these experiences have given him a deeper understanding of suffering and how God's comfort is abundant in such circumstances.

2nd Paragraph: Paul reassures the Corinthian believers that just as he has experienced God's comfort in his own sufferings, they too can find solace in Him. He encourages them by stating that their sufferings are not in vain but rather serve a purpose. He explains that through their trials, they will be able to offer genuine comfort to others who are going through similar difficulties (2 Corinthians 1:4). Paul affirms that just as Christ suffered for humanity's sake, so too can believers share in His sufferings knowing they will also share in His comfort (2 Corinthians 1:5).

3rd Paragraph: The chapter concludes with an explanation of Paul's change in travel plans regarding his visit to Corinth. He assures them that he did not make this decision lightly or out of fickleness but rather with consideration for their benefit. He desired to spare them any potential sorrow or burden during his visit (2 Corinthians 1:23-24). Instead, he writes this letter as a means of addressing issues within the church before coming personally.

In summary, Chapter one of Second Corinthians showcases Paul's personal experiences with suffering and divine comfort. He expresses gratitude for God's faithfulness in providing comfort during times of affliction. Paul encourages the Corinthian believers to find solace in God's comfort, assuring them that their sufferings serve a purpose and enable them to offer genuine comfort to others. He concludes the chapter by explaining his change in travel plans, emphasizing his desire to spare the Corinthians any potential burden and addressing church matters through this letter. This chapter highlights the theme of finding strength and encouragement in God amidst trials while also emphasizing the importance of offering support and empathy to fellow believers facing difficulties.

2 Corinthians 1:1 Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, and Timothy our brother, unto the church of God which is at Corinth, with all the saints which are in all Achaia:

Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ, and Timothy write to the church of God at Corinth and all

the saints in Achaia.

1. The Power of God in Action

2. The Strength of the Church

1. Ephesians 5:19 - “Speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord”

2. Romans 12:12 - “Rejoicing in hope, patient in tribulation, continuing steadfastly in prayer”

2 Corinthians 1:2 Grace be to you and peace from God our Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ.

Paul sends greetings of grace and peace from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ to the Corinthians.

1. The Power of Grace and Peace in our Lives

2. The Divine Source of Grace and Peace

1. Ephesians 1:2 - "Grace be to you, and peace, from God our Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ."

2. Philippians 1:2 - "Grace be unto you, and peace, from God our Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ."

2 Corinthians 1:3 Blessed be God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort;

God is praised for being the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort.

1. "God is Our Comfort in Troubled Times"

2. "God is the Source of All Mercy"

1. Isaiah 40:1 - "Comfort ye, comfort ye my people, saith your God."

2. Psalm 86:5 - "For thou, Lord, art good, and ready to forgive; and plenteous in mercy unto all them that call upon thee."

2 Corinthians 1:4 Who comforteth us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble, by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God.

God comforts us in all our times of trouble so that we can comfort others in their times of trouble.

1. The Comfort of the Lord in Times of Trouble

2. Reaching Out in Love: Comforting Others in Their Times of Difficulty

1. Psalm 34:18 - The Lord is near to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit.

2. Isaiah 41:10 - So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.

2 Corinthians 1:5 For as the sufferings of Christ abound in us, so our consolation also aboundeth by Christ.

Suffering in Christ abounds in us, but so does the consolation found in Him.

1. "The Sufferings and Consolations of Christ"

2. "The Abundance of Grace in Troubled Times"

1. Romans 8:18 - "For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us."

2. Isaiah 43:2 - "When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you."

2 Corinthians 1:6 And whether we be afflicted, it is for your consolation and salvation, which is effectual in the enduring of the same sufferings which we also suffer: or whether we be comforted, it is for your consolation and salvation.

The afflictions and comforts of life can bring salvation and consolation to believers.

1. Enduring Suffering for the Sake of Salvation

2. Comfort Offered for Salvation

1. Isaiah 61:1-2 - The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me; because the Lord hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; he hath sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound;

2. Romans 8:28-29 - And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose. For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.

2 Corinthians 1:7 And our hope of you is stedfast, knowing, that as ye are partakers of the sufferings, so shall ye be also of the consolation.

Paul expresses his hope that the Corinthians will share in the consolations of Christ, as they have shared in his sufferings.

1. The Power of Hope in Suffering - how to have faith in the midst of pain

2. Comfort in Suffering - How to find hope and peace in difficult times

1. Psalm 34:18-19 - The LORD is near to the brokenhearted and saves the crushed in spirit.

2. Romans 8:18 - For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us.

2 Corinthians 1:8 For we would not, brethren, have you ignorant of our trouble which came to us in Asia, that we were pressed out of measure, above strength, insomuch that we despaired even of life:

Paul and his companions experienced a great trial while in Asia, one that was so extreme they felt they would not survive.

1. God's Strength in Times of Trouble

2. Overcoming Despair in Difficult Circumstances

1. Isaiah 41:10 - "Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand."

2. Psalm 34:17-19 - "When the righteous cry for help, the Lord hears and delivers them out of all their troubles. The Lord is near to the brokenhearted and saves the crushed in spirit. Many are the afflictions of the righteous, but the Lord delivers him out of them all."

2 Corinthians 1:9 But we had the sentence of death in ourselves, that we should not trust in ourselves, but in God which raiseth the dead:

Paul reminds the Corinthians that they should not trust in themselves, but in God who can raise the dead.

1. God Raises the Dead: Finding Hope in Difficult Times

2. Trust in God, Not Ourselves: Learning to Rely on God's Strength

1. Romans 8:11; "But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you."

2. Isaiah 40:28-31; "Hast thou not known? hast thou not heard, that the everlasting God, the LORD, the Creator of the ends of the earth, fainteth not, neither is weary? there is no searching of his understanding. He giveth power to the faint; and to them that have no might he increaseth strength. Even the youths shall faint and be weary, and the young men shall utterly fall: But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall

walk, and not faint."

2 Corinthians 1:10 Who delivered us from so great a death, and doth deliver: in whom we trust that he will yet deliver us;

God has delivered us from death and continues to do so, and we trust that He will continue to deliver us in the future.

1. The Power of Deliverance from God

2. How to Hold on to Hope in Difficult Times

1. Romans 8:37-39 - “No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

2. Isaiah 43:1-3 - “But now, this is what the Lord says— he who created you, Jacob, he who formed you, Israel: “Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have summoned you by name; you are mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and when you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned; the flames will not set you ablaze. For I am the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior.”

2 Corinthians 1:11 Ye also helping together by prayer for us, that for the gift bestowed upon us by the means of many persons thanks may be given by many on our behalf.

Christians should come together to pray for each other and give thanks for the gifts given to them from God through other people.

1. The Power of Praying Together: How Cooperation Strengthens Our Faith

2. Showing Gratitude: How to Give Thanks to God and Our Fellow Brothers and Sisters

1. James 5:16 - Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed.

2. Acts 12:5 - Peter therefore was kept in prison: but prayer was made without ceasing of

the church unto God for him.

2 Corinthians 1:12 For our rejoicing is this, the testimony of our conscience, that in simplicity and godly sincerity, not with fleshly wisdom, but by the grace of God, we have had our conversation in the world, and more abundantly to you-ward.

Paul rejoices because he has conducted himself in the world with simplicity and sincerity, guided by the grace of God.

1. The Power of Simplicity: How to Conduct Ourselves with Godly Integrity

2. The Strength of Sincerity: Following the Lead of God's Grace

1. Matthew 6:25-34 - Consider the birds of the air and the lilies of the field

2. Proverbs 3:5-6 - Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding.

2 Corinthians 1:13 For we write none other things unto you, than what ye read or acknowledge; and I trust ye shall acknowledge even to the end;

Paul writes to the Corinthians, reminding them of the truth that they already know and trust.

1. The Power of Acknowledgment - How recognizing truth can lead to greater understanding

2. God’s Faithfulness in our Lives - How God guides us through difficult times

1. Philippians 1:6 - “Being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.”

2. Romans 8:28 - “And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.”

2 Corinthians 1:14 As also ye have acknowledged us in part, that we are your rejoicing, even as ye also are ours in the day of the Lord Jesus.

The Corinthians have shown their appreciation for Paul and his ministry by rejoicing with him in the day of the Lord Jesus.

1. Rejoice in the Lord: Celebrating His Redemption and Provision

2. Acknowledging God's Faithfulness: How We Show Appreciation

1. Philippians 4:4 - Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice!

2. 1 Thessalonians 5:18 - Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

2 Corinthians 1:15 And in this confidence I was minded to come unto you before, that ye might have a second benefit;

Paul wanted to visit the Corinthians again so that they could receive a second blessing.

1. "God's Plan for Our Blessing: Twice is Nice"

2. "God's Mercy and Compassion: The Gift That Keeps on Giving"

1. James 1:17 - Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father.

2. Romans 8:28 - And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.

2 Corinthians 1:16 And to pass by you into Macedonia, and to come again out of Macedonia unto you, and of you to be brought on my way toward Judaea.

Paul is travelling from Corinth to Macedonia, and then back to Corinth before continuing his journey to Judaea.

1. Overcoming Challenges in Life - Paul's Journey to Judaea

2. Persevering Through Difficult Times - Paul's Travels from Corinth to Macedonia

1. Romans 8:28 - And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.

2. Philippians 4:13 - I can do all this through him who gives me strength.

2 Corinthians 1:17 When I therefore was thus minded, did I use lightness? or the things that I purpose, do I purpose according to the flesh, that with me there should be yea yea, and nay nay?

Paul questions whether he has been too quick or too flippant in his decision making, or if he has been making decisions based on the flesh.

1. Learning to Live in Discernment: Making Wise Decisions

2. Living a Life of Integrity: Living Out What We Believe

1. James 1:5 - If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him.

2. Proverbs 14:12 - There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way to death.

2 Corinthians 1:18 But as God is true, our word toward you was not yea and nay.

God's word towards us is always true and never wavering.

1. God's truthfulness is a constant and unchanging source of strength.

2. We can trust in God's word as our foundation for life.

1. Isaiah 40:8 - "The grass withers and the flowers fade, but the word of our God stands forever."

2. Romans 8:38-39 - "For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor

things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord."

2 Corinthians 1:19 For the Son of God, Jesus Christ, who was preached among you by us, even by me and Silvanus and Timotheus, was not yea and nay, but in him was yea.

Paul, Silvanus and Timotheus preached the Gospel of Jesus Christ among the Corinthians, and they declared that in Him there is only truth.

1. The Unshakeable Foundation of Jesus Christ

2. The Unchanging Nature of the Gospel of Jesus Christ

1. John 14:6 - Jesus said to him, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.

2. Matthew 7:24-27 - “Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock: and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock.

2 Corinthians 1:20 For all the promises of God in him are yea, and in him Amen, unto the glory of God by us.

The passage asserts that all the promises of God are affirmed in Christ and bring glory to God.

1. The Assurance of God’s Promises

2. The Power of Amen

1. Romans 8:38-39 - For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

2. Matthew 6:13 - And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

2 Corinthians 1:21 Now he which stablisheth us with you in Christ, and hath anointed us,

is God;

God has established and anointed believers in Christ.

1. Anointed By God: What Does it Mean to Be Set Apart?

2. Experiencing God's Steadfast Love in Christ.

1. Romans 8:38-39: "For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord."

2. Psalm 89:20-22: "I have found David my servant; with my holy oil I have anointed him, so that my hand shall be established with him; my arm also shall strengthen him. The enemy shall not outwit him; the wicked shall not humble him. I will crush his foes before him and strike down those who hate him.”

2 Corinthians 1:22 Who hath also sealed us, and given the earnest of the Spirit in our hearts.

God has sealed believers through the Holy Spirit and has given them an assurance of salvation.

1. Experiencing the Power of the Holy Spirit

2. Understanding the Assurance of Salvation Through the Spirit

1. Romans 8:16-17 - The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God.

2. Hebrews 6:13-20 - God has given us an unchangeable pledge of His promise.

2 Corinthians 1:23 Moreover I call God for a record upon my soul, that to spare you I came not as yet unto Corinth.

Paul did not visit Corinth yet, even though he wanted to, in order to spare them.

1. Paul's Unconditional Love: Learning to Love Unconditionally from Paul's Example.

2. God's Faithfulness: Knowing that God is Faithful to Uphold His Promises.

1. Romans 5:8 - "But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us."

2. John 13:35 - "By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

2 Corinthians 1:24 Not for that we have dominion over your faith, but are helpers of your joy: for by faith ye stand.

Paul emphasizes that the Corinthians should rely on their faith, not the authority of the church.

1. The Strength of Faith: How Our Beliefs Give Us Strength and Joy

2. The Power of Community: How the Support of Others Can Help Us Stand Tall

1. Hebrews 11:1 - "Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen."

2. Ephesians 2:19-22 - "So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit."

2 Corinthians 2 is the second chapter of the Second Epistle of Paul to the Corinthians. In this chapter, Paul continues his correspondence with the Corinthian believers, addressing matters related to forgiveness, reconciliation, and ministry.

1st Paragraph: Paul begins by discussing a previous painful visit he had made to Corinth. He explains that he wrote a letter out of great distress and anguish, not intending to cause further sorrow but rather hoping for their understanding and reconciliation (2 Corinthians 2:4-5). He urges them to reaffirm their love for a repentant individual who had caused grief in the community so that they would not overwhelm him with excessive sorrow but instead forgive and comfort him (2 Corinthians 2:6-8).

2nd Paragraph: Paul describes his own emotional state during his visit to Troas. Despite an open door for ministry there, he was unable to find peace because he did not find Titus, who was supposed to bring news from Corinth (2 Corinthians 2:12-13). Nevertheless, Paul thanks God for always leading him in triumphal procession through Christ and spreading the fragrance of knowledge about Him everywhere they go (2 Corinthians 2:14-15).

3rd Paragraph: The chapter concludes with reflections on sincerity in ministry. Paul asserts that he does not peddle God's word for profit or manipulate others but speaks sincerely as commissioned by God. He emphasizes that their authenticity comes from God and that they are ministers of a new covenant based on the Spirit rather than mere letters or legalism (2 Corinthians 3:1-6). He contrasts this new covenant with the old one given through Moses which brought death while highlighting how much more glorious and life-giving the ministry of righteousness under the new covenant is.

In summary, Chapter two of Second Corinthians addresses forgiveness, reconciliation, emotional turmoil during ministry journeys, and sincerity in ministering God's word. Paul seeks understanding and reconciliation regarding a painful visit to Corinth, urging forgiveness and comfort for a repentant individual. He expresses his own emotional distress during his time in Troas and the importance of finding peace through news from Corinth. Paul emphasizes the sincerity of their ministry, highlighting their authenticity as ministers of a new covenant based on the Spirit. He contrasts this with the old covenant and its legalistic approach, affirming the superiority and life-giving nature of the ministry under the new covenant. This chapter emphasizes forgiveness, authenticity in ministry, and the transformative power of God's grace in relationships and service.

2 Corinthians 2:1 But I determined this with myself, that I would not come again to you in heaviness.

Paul had decided that he would not come to the Corinthians with a heavy heart.

1. "Lightening the Load: How to Let Go of Anxiety and Worry"

2. "A Heart of Joy: How to Live with Gratitude and Appreciation"

1. Romans 12:12 - Rejoicing in hope; patient in tribulation; continuing instant in prayer;

2. Philippians 4:4-7 - Rejoice in the Lord always: and again I say, Rejoice. Let your moderation be known unto all men. The Lord is at hand. Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your

hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

2 Corinthians 2:2 For if I make you sorry, who is he then that maketh me glad, but the same which is made sorry by me?

Paul is trying to point out that if he has made someone else unhappy, who can make him feel better but the same person he has made feel bad?

1. The Power of Reconciliation: How to Overcome Hurtful Actions

2. The Beauty of Forgiveness: How to Apologize and Find Peace

1. Ephesians 4:32 - "Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you."

2. Matthew 6:14-15 - "For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you, but if you do not forgive others their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses."

2 Corinthians 2:3 And I wrote this same unto you, lest, when I came, I should have sorrow from them of whom I ought to rejoice; having confidence in you all, that my joy is the joy of you all.

Paul wrote to the Corinthians to let them know that he had confidence in them and that his joy was their joy.

1. Celebrate God's Joy in Unity

2. The Power of Confidence in Others

1. Philippians 2:2-4 - Complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind.

2. Romans 15:13 - May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.

2 Corinthians 2:4 For out of much affliction and anguish of heart I wrote unto you with many tears; not that ye should be grieved, but that ye might know the love which I have

more abundantly unto you.

Paul wrote a letter to the Corinthians with many tears, expressing his deep love for them.

1. The Depth of God's Love - Paul's Tears of Affection for the Corinthians

2. Comfort in Affliction: Knowing the Abundant Love of God

1. Romans 5:8 - But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

2. John 3:16 - For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

2 Corinthians 2:5 But if any have caused grief, he hath not grieved me, but in part: that I may not overcharge you all.

Paul advises the Corinthians to not overburden themselves with grief caused by someone, as he has only been partially grieved.

1. Grief: How to Move On - Learning to accept the pain of grief and move on with our lives.

2. Forgiveness: The Path to Healing - Why forgiveness is essential for emotional healing.

1. James 5:16 - "Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working."

2. Romans 12:19 - "Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, ?□engeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord.??

2 Corinthians 2:6 Sufficient to such a man is this punishment, which was inflicted of many.

Paul states that the punishment meted out to a person should be sufficient and should be agreed upon by many people.

1. God's justice is always fair and just.

2. We should always seek collective agreement in punishing people.

1. Romans 12:19 - "Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, ?□engeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord.??

2. Proverbs 19:11 - "Good sense makes one slow to anger, and it is his glory to overlook an offense."

2 Corinthians 2:7 So that contrariwise ye ought rather to forgive him, and comfort him, lest perhaps such a one should be swallowed up with overmuch sorrow.

Christians should forgive and comfort those who have sinned, as an excess of sorrow can be detrimental.

1. The Power of Forgiveness - The importance of showing mercy and grace in our lives.

2. Comfort in Times of Trial - How to provide solace in times of difficulty.

1. Luke 6:37 "Judge not, and ye shall not be judged: condemn not, and ye shall not be condemned: forgive, and ye shall be forgiven."

2. Romans 12:15 "Rejoice with them that do rejoice, and weep with them that weep."

2 Corinthians 2:8 Wherefore I beseech you that ye would confirm your love toward him.

Paul pleads with the Corinthians to demonstrate their love for him.

1. Love is Not a Feeling, But an Action - 2 Corinthians 2:8

2. The Power of Demonstrating Love - 2 Corinthians 2:8

1. 1 John 3:18 - "Little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth."

2. Romans 12:9-10 - "Let love be without dissimulation. Abhor that which is evil; cleave to that which is good. Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another."

2 Corinthians 2:9 For to this end also did I write, that I might know the proof of you, whether ye be obedient in all things.

Paul wrote to the Corinthians to test their obedience and to prove them.

1. The Proof of Obedience - How We Demonstrate Our Faith

2. The Test of Discipleship - Living Up to God's Standards

1. Romans 12:2 - Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

2. James 1:22-25 - But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks intently at his natural face in a mirror. For he looks at himself and goes away and at once forgets what he was like. But the one who looks into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and perseveres, being no hearer who forgets but a doer who acts, he will be blessed in his doing.

2 Corinthians 2:10 To whom ye forgive any thing, I forgive also: for if I forgave any thing, to whom I forgave it, for your sakes forgave I it in the person of Christ;

Paul teaches the Corinthians that they should forgive others, as Jesus has forgiven them.

1. The Power of Forgiveness: Learning to Receive and Give Grace

2. How Jesus Models Forgiveness: Following His Example

1. Colossians 3:13 - "Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you."

2. Matthew 6:14-15 - "For if you forgive other people when they sin against you, your

heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive others their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins."

2 Corinthians 2:11 Lest Satan should get an advantage of us: for we are not ignorant of his devices.

Paul warns against Satan's schemes, reminding believers that they are not ignorant of his tactics.

1. "Awareness is Key: Understanding Satan's Schemes"

2. "Be Diligent: Staying a Step Ahead of the Enemy"

1. Ephesians 6:11 - "Put on the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil."

2. 1 Peter 5:8 - "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour."

2 Corinthians 2:12 Furthermore, when I came to Troas to preach Christ's gospel, and a door was opened unto me of the Lord,

Paul was given an opportunity by the Lord to preach the gospel of Christ in Troas.

1. God's Open Doors: Recognizing and Seizing Opportunities for Ministry

2. Preaching the Gospel: A Divine Call to Action

1. Isaiah 45:2 "I will go before you and make the crooked places straight: I will break in pieces the gates of brass, and cut in sunder the bars of iron."

2. Hebrews 13:20-21 "Now may the God of peace, who through the blood of the eternal covenant brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, equip you with everything good for doing his will, and may he work in us what is pleasing to him, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen."

2 Corinthians 2:13 I had no rest in my spirit, because I found not Titus my brother: but taking my leave of them, I went from thence into Macedonia.

Paul experienced unrest in his spirit when Titus was not with him, so he traveled from Corinth to Macedonia.

1. The Power of Companionship: How Having a Friend Can Bring Peace and Comfort

2. Overcoming Discouragement: Learning to Find Strength and Hope in Difficult Times

1. Romans 15:5-6 - May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

2. Proverbs 17:17 - A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for a time of adversity.

2 Corinthians 2:14 Now thanks be unto God, which always causeth us to triumph in Christ, and maketh manifest the savour of his knowledge by us in every place.

God causes us to triumph in Christ and makes His knowledge known through us everywhere.

1. The Power of God: How He Enables Us to Triumph and Proclaim His Knowledge

2. Experience the Triumph of God: How He Makes Us Witnesses of His Knowledge

1. Romans 8:37 - "Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us."

2. Ephesians 6:10-13 - "Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand."

2 Corinthians 2:15 For we are unto God a sweet savour of Christ, in them that are saved, and in them that perish:

Christians should strive to be a pleasing aroma to God and to those around them, regardless of the outcome.

1. The Aroma of Christ: How to be a Sweet Savor to God and Others

2. The Possibility of Perishing: Making the Most of Every Opportunity

1. Isaiah 6:8 ?□hen I heard the voice of the Lord saying, ?□hom shall I send? And who will go for us???And I said, ?□ere am I. Send me!??

2. Colossians 4:5-6 ?□onduct yourselves wisely toward outsiders, making the best use of the time. Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person.??

2 Corinthians 2:16 To the one we are the savour of death unto death; and to the other the savour of life unto life. And who is sufficient for these things?

Paul expresses his concern that his teachings will have a different effect on different people, making him feel inadequate for the challenge.

1. Our lives and words can have great consequences on the lives of others, and we must be aware of this responsibility.

2. God entrusts us with great power to bring life or death, and we must use it wisely.

1. Proverbs 10:19 - When words are many, sin is not absent, but he who holds his tongue is wise.

2. 1 Corinthians 4:2 - Now it is required that those who have been given a trust must prove faithful.

2 Corinthians 2:17 For we are not as many, which corrupt the word of God: but as of sincerity, but as of God, in the sight of God speak we in Christ.

Paul is warning the Corinthians not to corrupt the word of God, and to speak with sincerity as if in the sight of God in Christ.

1. The Uncorrupted Word - A Study in 2 Corinthians 2:17

2. The Sight of God - Living in the Presence of Christ

1. Psalm 119:140 Thy word is very pure: therefore thy servant loveth it.

2. Matthew 5:8 Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God.

2 Corinthians 3 is the third chapter of the Second Epistle of Paul to the Corinthians. In this chapter, Paul discusses the superiority of the new covenant in Christ compared to the old covenant given through Moses. He emphasizes the transformative power of the Spirit and contrasts it with legalism and a ministry based on letters.

1st Paragraph: Paul begins by asserting that believers are living letters, known and read by all people, a testament to their transformation in Christ (2 Corinthians 3:2-3). He highlights how their competence comes from God who has made them ministers of a new covenant, not one based on written code but on the Spirit (2 Corinthians 3:4-6). Paul contrasts this with the old covenant that brought condemnation and death because it was engraved on stone tablets.

2nd Paragraph: Paul explains that although Moses' ministry came with glory—his face shining after encountering God—it was temporary and fading (2 Corinthians 3:7-11). He emphasizes that if there was glory in a ministry that brought condemnation, then how much more glorious is a ministry of righteousness under the new covenant? The glory of this new covenant surpasses that which Moses experienced. It brings freedom, transformation, and lasting glory through Christ.

3rd Paragraph: The chapter concludes with an illustration using Moses' veil. Paul explains how Moses used to wear a veil to hide his shining face from Israelites when its glory faded away (2 Corinthians 3:13). However, now in Christ, believers can approach God without veils or hindrance. As they turn to Him with unveiled faces, they are being transformed into His image from one degree of glory to another by His Spirit (2 Corinthians 3:18).

In summary, Chapter three of Second Corinthians focuses on contrasting the old and new covenants. Paul highlights how believers are living testimonies as transformed individuals under the new covenant. He emphasizes that their competence and ministry come from God through the Spirit, not through legalistic adherence to written code. Paul contrasts the temporary glory of Moses' ministry with the surpassing glory of the new covenant in Christ, which brings righteousness, freedom, and lasting transformation. He concludes by illustrating how believers can approach God without veils or hindrance, being transformed into His image by His Spirit. This chapter emphasizes the superiority of the new covenant and its transformative power through the Spirit.

2 Corinthians 3:1 Do we begin again to commend ourselves? or need we, as some others, epistles of commendation to you, or letters of commendation from you?

Paul is asking the church at Corinth if they need any letters of commendation from him or from anyone else in order to believe him.

1. "Relying on God's Word Alone"

2. "The Power of Commendation"

1. Proverbs 3:5-6 - Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.

2. Romans 10:17 - So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.

2 Corinthians 3:2 Ye are our epistle written in our hearts, known and read of all men:

The Corinthians are like an epistle written in the hearts of all men, known and read by all.

1. The Power of a Godly Example: Living a Life That Speaks Louder than Words

2. Writing Your Story: How to Transform Your Life into a Powerful Testimony

1. Proverbs 12:28 - In the way of righteousness is life, and in the pathway thereof there is no death.

2. Romans 12:2 - Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.

2 Corinthians 3:3 Forasmuch as ye are manifestly declared to be the epistle of Christ ministered by us, written not with ink, but with the Spirit of the living God; not in tables of stone, but in fleshy tables of the heart.

The Corinthians have been declared to be the epistle of Christ, written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not in tables of stone but in fleshy tables of the heart.

1. Living Letters of Christ: The Power of the Spirit

2. Written on Our Hearts: The Power of Love

1. Romans 2:15-16 - For when the Gentiles, which have not the law, do by nature the things contained in the law, these, having not the law, are a law unto themselves: Which shew the work of the law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness, and their thoughts the mean while accusing or else excusing one another.

2. Psalm 119:11 - Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.

2 Corinthians 3:4 And such trust have we through Christ to God-ward:

Paul expresses his trust in Christ to access God.

1. The Power of Faith in Christ: How to Access God's Presence

2. The Blessing of Trust: How to Strengthen Our Relationship with God

1. John 3:16 - For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

2. Jeremiah 29:13 - You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart.

2 Corinthians 3:5 Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think any thing as of ourselves; but our sufficiency is of God;

Believers must rely on God's sufficiency for their strength and abilities.

1. Relying on God's Strength - 2 Corinthians 3:5

2. Trusting in God's Provision - Philippians 4:19

1. 2 Corinthians 3:5 - Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think any thing as of ourselves; but our sufficiency is of God;

2. Philippians 4:19 - And my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

2 Corinthians 3:6 Who also hath made us able ministers of the new testament; not of the letter, but of the spirit: for the letter killeth, but the spirit giveth life.

Paul encourages believers to be ministers of the new covenant, with the Spirit and not the letter of the law, as the letter can be deadly but the Spirit gives life.

1. The Power of the Holy Spirit: How the Holy Spirit Brings Life to the New Covenant

2. The Letter and the Spirit: How to Discern and Follow the True Path of the New Covenant

1. Romans 8:2-4 – For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death.

2. Galatians 5:16-18 – This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh.

2 Corinthians 3:7 But if the ministration of death, written and engraven in stones, was glorious, so that the children of Israel could not stedfastly behold the face of Moses for the glory of his countenance; which glory was to be done away:

Moses' face was so glorious that the Israelites could not look directly at it, but the glory was temporary.

1: Moses' glory faded, but God's glory lasts forever.

2: We should look beyond the temporary glory of the world to the glory of God.

1: Psalm 27:4 - One thing have I desired of the Lord, that will I seek after; that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord, and to inquire in his temple.

2: Isaiah 43:7 - Even every one that is called by my name: for I have created him for my glory, I have formed him; yea, I have made him.

2 Corinthians 3:8 How shall not the ministration of the spirit be rather glorious?

Paul emphasizes that the ministry of the Spirit is more glorious than the ministry of the letter.

1. The Power of the Spirit: Exploring the Glorious Ministry of the Spirit

2. The Unfathomable Majesty of the Spirit: Unveiling the Splendor of the Gospel

1. Romans 8:26-27 – “Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. And he who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.”

2. John 3:8 – “The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.”

2 Corinthians 3:9 For if the ministration of condemnation be glory, much more doth the ministration of righteousness exceed in glory.

The ministration of righteousness is far more glorious than the ministration of condemnation.

1) The Power of Righteousness: How walking with God leads to true glory

2) The Shadow of Condemnation: How the world's view of success is fleeting and misguided

1) Romans 5:17 - For if by one man's offence death reigned by one; much more they which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ.

2) Matthew 6:33 - But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.

2 Corinthians 3:10 For even that which was made glorious had no glory in this respect, by

reason of the glory that excelleth.

The glory of God is far greater than anything humans can offer and it surpasses any glory given by man.

1. The Magnificence of God's Glory

2. The Overwhelming Beauty of God's Majesty

1. Isaiah 6:3 - "And one cried to another and said: “Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; The whole earth is full of His glory!”

2. Psalm 19:1 - “The heavens declare the glory of God; And the firmament shows His handiwork.”

2 Corinthians 3:11 For if that which is done away was glorious, much more that which remaineth is glorious.

The glory of that which is done away is nothing compared to the glory that remains.

1. The Unsurpassable Glory of God

2. The Transcendent Nature of Faith

1. Romans 8:18, "For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us."

2. Hebrews 11:1, "Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen."

2 Corinthians 3:12 Seeing then that we have such hope, we use great plainness of speech:

Christians have hope that is seen in their speech.

1. Speak Your Hope: Exploring the Power of a Positive Attitude

2. Boldness in Speech: Confronting Challenges with Faith-filled Words

1. Romans 15:13 - May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.

2. Psalm 34:18 - The LORD is near to the brokenhearted and saves the crushed in spirit.

2 Corinthians 3:13 And not as Moses, which put a vail over his face, that the children of Israel could not stedfastly look to the end of that which is abolished:

Paul compares Moses' use of a veil to cover his face with the veil of the Old Covenant being lifted by Jesus.

1. The Veil of the Old Covenant: Understanding Its Significance and What It Means for Us Today

2. The Abolishment of the Old Covenant: How Jesus Brought Freedom to All

1. Hebrews 10:19-22 - Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus, by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain, that is, through his flesh, and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith.

2. Revelation 21:1-4 - Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.”

2 Corinthians 3:14 But their minds were blinded: for until this day remaineth the same vail untaken away in the reading of the old testament; which vail is done away in Christ.

The minds of the people of the Old Testament were blinded to understanding until Christ took away the veil that separated them from the truth.

1. "The Power of Christ to Reveal Truth"

2. "Seeing the Light of Christ"

1. Isaiah 25:7 - He will swallow up death forever; and the Lord God will wipe away tears from all faces.

2. Luke 24:45 - Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures.

2 Corinthians 3:15 But even unto this day, when Moses is read, the vail is upon their heart.

The Israelites were unable to understand the teachings of Moses because a veil was covering their hearts.

1. The Veil of Unbelief: Rejecting God's Word

2. The Power of Faith: Understanding the Truth

1. Isaiah 6:9-10 - "And he said, Go, and tell this people, Hear ye indeed, but understand not; and see ye indeed, but perceive not. Make the heart of this people fat, and make their ears heavy, and shut their eyes; lest they see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and understand with their heart, and convert, and be healed."

2. John 8:32 - "And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."

2 Corinthians 3:16 Nevertheless when it shall turn to the Lord, the vail shall be taken away.

The vail of unbelief can be taken away when one turns to the Lord.

1. The Veil of Unbelief: How to Overcome it and Turn to the Lord

2. The Power to Overcome: Discovering True Freedom in God

1. 2 Corinthians 5:17 - Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has

passed away; behold, the new has come.

2. Isaiah 25:7 - And he will destroy on this mountain the shroud that is cast over all peoples, the sheet that is spread over all nations.

2 Corinthians 3:17 Now the Lord is that Spirit: and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty.

The Spirit of the Lord brings liberty to those who follow Him.

1. The Power of the Spirit: How God Brings Liberty to Our Lives

2. Freedom Through the Spirit: Experiencing the Blessing of the Lord's Presence

1. Romans 8:2 - For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death.

2. Galatians 5:1 - Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage.

2 Corinthians 3:18 But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the LORD.

We are reflecting the glory of the Lord and being transformed to be more like Him as we become filled with the Spirit of the Lord.

1. The Transforming Glory of the Lord

2. Becoming Like Christ Through the Spirit

1. Romans 8:29 - For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.

2. 1 Corinthians 13:12 - For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known.

2 Corinthians 4 is the fourth chapter of the Second Epistle of Paul to the Corinthians. In this chapter, Paul discusses the ministry of the gospel, highlighting its challenges and emphasizing the hope and glory found in Christ.

1st Paragraph: Paul begins by acknowledging that he and his companions have received God's mercy and have been entrusted with a ministry. He declares that they do not lose heart despite facing various trials, hardships, and persecution (2 Corinthians 4:1-9). Paul emphasizes that their ministry is not about themselves but about proclaiming Jesus Christ as Lord. He highlights how they carry within them the treasure of the gospel in fragile clay jars so that it is evident that their power comes from God (2 Corinthians 4:5-7).

2nd Paragraph: Paul describes their sufferings for Christ's sake, affirming that even though they face affliction, they are not crushed; even when persecuted, they are not abandoned; even when struck down, they are not destroyed (2 Corinthians 4:8-9). He explains that their suffering serves to reveal Jesus' life in their mortal bodies so that His life may also be revealed in others through them (2 Corinthians 4:10-12). Despite outwardly wasting away due to persecution and trials, inwardly they are being renewed day by day.

3rd Paragraph: The chapter concludes with a focus on eternal perspective. Paul contrasts their present momentary afflictions with an eternal weight of glory beyond comparison (2 Corinthians 4:17). He encourages believers to fix their eyes not on what is seen but on what is unseen because what is seen is temporary while what is unseen is eternal (2 Corinthians 4:18). Paul emphasizes how this hope sustains them through difficulties as they strive to live out their faith.

In summary, Chapter four of Second Corinthians centers on the challenges faced in ministry while highlighting hope and glory found in Christ. Paul emphasizes that their ministry is not about themselves but about proclaiming Jesus Christ as Lord. He describes the trials and sufferings they endure, affirming that their power comes from God. Despite facing affliction, they are not crushed or abandoned; instead, they carry within them the treasure of the gospel. Paul explains how their suffering serves to reveal Jesus' life in them and encourages believers to fix their eyes on eternal glory rather than temporary afflictions. This chapter highlights the challenges of ministry, the transformative power of Christ's life within believers, and the hope found in an eternal perspective.

2 Corinthians 4:1 Therefore seeing we have this ministry, as we have received mercy, we faint not;

The author encourages the readers to not give up on their ministry, as they have been given mercy.

1. “In God's Mercy, We Persevere”

2. “The Strength of Mercy to Uplift Us”

1. Romans 5:20-21 - “Moreover the law entered, that the offence might abound. But where sin abounded, grace did much more abound: That as sin hath reigned unto death, even so might grace reign through righteousness unto eternal life by Jesus Christ our Lord.”

2. Psalm 103:17-18 - “But the mercy of the LORD is from everlasting to everlasting upon them that fear him, and his righteousness unto children's children; To such as keep his covenant, and to those that remember his commandments to do them.”

2 Corinthians 4:2 But have renounced the hidden things of dishonesty, not walking in craftiness, nor handling the word of God deceitfully; but by manifestation of the truth commending ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God.

Paul commends himself and his coworkers to every man's conscience by walking in truth and not deceitfully handling the word of God.

1. The Power of a Transparent Life

2. The Duty of Honesty in Handling God's Word

1. Proverbs 12:22 - Lying lips are an abomination to the Lord, but those who deal truthfully are His delight.

2. Ephesians 4:15 - Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ.

2 Corinthians 4:3 But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost:

The gospel of Jesus Christ can only be seen by those who are lost and need saving.

1. The Need to Seek the Gospel: Why Everyone Should Search for Salvation

2. The Power of the Gospel: How Jesus Can Transform Lives

1. Luke 19:10 - “For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.”

2. Romans 10:14-17 - “How then will they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in Him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, ‘How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!’”

2 Corinthians 4:4 In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.

The god of this world has blinded the minds of those who do not believe, so they cannot perceive the light of the gospel of Jesus Christ, who is the image of God.

1. God’s Light is Always Shining: How to Find the Illumination of the Gospel.

2. The God of This World: Recognizing the Enemy, Pursuing the Light.

1. Matthew 5:14-16 - You are the light of the world.

2. Romans 1:16-17 - The gospel is the power of God for salvation.

2 Corinthians 4:5 For we preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord; and ourselves your servants for Jesus' sake.

The Apostle Paul reminds us that when we preach, we should be preaching the message of Christ, not ourselves, and that we should do so as humble servants.

1. The Power of Preaching Christ

2. The Humble Service of Preaching

1. Matthew 28:18-20 – “And Jesus came and said to them, ‘All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.’”

2. Romans 10:14-17 – “How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, ‘How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!’ But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Isaiah says, ‘Lord, who has believed what he has heard from us?’ So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.”

2 Corinthians 4:6 For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

God has brought light and knowledge to our hearts through Jesus Christ, allowing us to recognize the glory of God.

1. The Light of God: How Jesus Christ Reveals God's Glory 2. Illuminated Hearts: Finding Knowledge and Light Through Jesus Christ

1. Isaiah 9:2 – The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shined. 2. John 1:14 – And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

2 Corinthians 4:7 But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us.

The Apostle Paul teaches that although believers are weak, God's power is made perfect through them.

1. God's Strength Shines Brightly Through Our Weaknesses

2. How to Embrace Our Weaknesses and Allow God's Power to Shine Through

1. 2 Corinthians 12:9-10 - And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

2. Romans 8:26-27 - Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God.

2 Corinthians 4:8 We are troubled on every side, yet not distressed; we are perplexed, but not in despair;

Despite being troubled on every side, Paul and his companions are not distressed nor in despair.

1. God's Comfort in Times of Trouble

2. Persevering Through Life's Challenges

1. Psalm 34:17-19 "When the righteous cry for help, the Lord hears and delivers them out of all their troubles. The Lord is near to the brokenhearted and saves the crushed in spirit. Many are the afflictions of the righteous, but the Lord delivers him out of them all.

2. Isaiah 41:10-13 "Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand. Behold, all who are incensed against you shall be put to shame and confounded; those who strive against you shall be as nothing and shall perish. You shall seek those who contend with you, but you shall not find them; those who war against you shall be as nothing at all. For I, the Lord your God, hold your right hand; it is I who say to you, “Fear not, I am the one who helps you.”

2 Corinthians 4:9 Persecuted, but not forsaken; cast down, but not destroyed;

Christians are often persecuted, but God never forsakes them and they are never destroyed.

1. Finding Strength and Hope in Difficult Times: How God Supports Us Even When We Feel Cast Down

2. Overcoming Persecution: God's Faithfulness in the Face of Hardship

1. Isaiah 43:2 - “When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; And through the rivers, they shall not overflow you. When you walk through the fire, you shall not be burned, Nor shall the flame scorch you.”

2. Psalm 34:17 - “The righteous cry out, and the Lord hears, And delivers them out of all their troubles.”

2 Corinthians 4:10 Always bearing about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our body.

The Apostle Paul exhorts believers to always carry the death of the Lord Jesus in their bodies, so that the life of Jesus might be made manifest in their lives.

1. The Manifestation of Jesus in Our Lives

2. The Power of Bearing Jesus' Death Within Us

1. Romans 6:11 - In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus.

2. John 12:24 - Very truly I tell you, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds.

2 Corinthians 4:11 For we which live are alway delivered unto death for Jesus' sake, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our mortal flesh.

We as believers are constantly facing death, but through this death the life of Jesus is revealed in our mortal bodies.

1. The Life of Jesus Revealed in Our Mortality

2. The Power of Death in Demonstrating the Life of Jesus

1. Romans 8:11 - "But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you."

2. Philippians 1:21 - "For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain."

2 Corinthians 4:12 So then death worketh in us, but life in you.

Paul reminds the Corinthians that although death is at work in them, life is at work in the Corinthians.

1. The Life-Giving Power of Faith: A Look at 2 Corinthians 4:12

2. Overcoming Death: Finding Strength in 2 Corinthians 4:12

1. Romans 8:11 - And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies because of his Spirit who lives in you.

2. 2 Timothy 1:10 - But now he has revealed it to us by the Spirit, for the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God.

2 Corinthians 4:13 We having the same spirit of faith, according as it is written, I believed, and therefore have I spoken; we also believe, and therefore speak;

We have a spirit of faith that enables us to believe and speak, as written in 2 Corinthians 4:13.

1. "The Power of Faith: Speaking from the Heart"

2. "Living a Life of Faith: Believing and Speaking"

1. Romans 10:9 - That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.

2. Hebrews 11:1 - Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

2 Corinthians 4:14 Knowing that he which raised up the Lord Jesus shall raise up us also by Jesus, and shall present us with you.

Passage:

In this passage, Paul is reminding the Corinthians that, just as Jesus was raised from the dead, they too will be raised to eternal life in the presence of the Lord. He states that it is the same power that raised Jesus that will also raise them up.

Paul encourages the Corinthians to have faith that they will be resurrected to eternal life in the presence of the Lord.

1. "The Power of God: Knowing Our Future is Secure"

2. "The Hope of the Resurrection: Transformative Power of Faith"

1. Romans 8:11 - "And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies because of his Spirit who lives in you."

2. John 11:25 - "Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die."

2 Corinthians 4:15 For all things are for your sakes, that the abundant grace might through the thanksgiving of many redound to the glory of God.

Paul encourages the Corinthians to give thanks to God, as all things in life have been given to them for His purposes and glory.

1. The Power of Gratitude: Learning to Appreciate God's Blessings

2. Giving Thanks: Releasing the Joy of God's Abundant Grace

1. Colossians 3:15-17 - Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God.

2. Psalm 103:1-5 - Praise the Lord, my soul; all my inmost being, praise his holy name. Praise the Lord, my soul, and forget not all his benefits— who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases, who redeems your life from the pit and crowns you with love and compassion, who satisfies your desires with good things so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.

2 Corinthians 4:16 For which cause we faint not; but though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day.

Despite the difficulties of life, believers can remain strong because their inner man is

renewed each day.

1. "The Hope of Renewal: The Power of the Inward Man"

2. "Persevering Through Difficult Times: The Strength of Renewal"

1. Psalm 51:10 “Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.”

2. Romans 12:2 “Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.”

2 Corinthians 4:17 For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory;

Though we experience affliction in this life, it can work for us an eternal weight of glory in the life to come.

1. The Light of Affliction: How Pain & Suffering Can Lead To Eternal Glory

2. Transforming Our Momentary Trials into Lasting Kingdom Impact

1. Romans 8:18 - “For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us.”

2. Hebrews 12:1-2 - “Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.”

2 Corinthians 4:18 While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal.

We should not focus on temporary, physical things, but instead on eternal, unseen things.

1. The Unseen Kingdom: How to Live with an Eternal Perspective

2. Don't be Fooled by the Things You See: Pursuing the Things of Eternity

1. Matthew 6:19-21 - Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

2. Colossians 3:1-3 - If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth. For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.

2 Corinthians 5 is the fifth chapter of the Second Epistle of Paul to the Corinthians. In this chapter, Paul discusses topics such as our earthly bodies, our eternal dwelling, and reconciliation with God through Christ.

1st Paragraph: Paul begins by expressing his longing for believers to receive their heavenly dwelling, emphasizing that our earthly bodies are temporary and subject to decay (2 Corinthians 5:1-4). He explains that while we are in these earthly bodies, we groan and long for our heavenly dwelling, desiring to be clothed with our heavenly bodies so that mortality may be swallowed up by life (2 Corinthians 5:4-5). Paul reassures believers that God has prepared us for this very purpose and has given us His Spirit as a guarantee of what is to come.

2nd Paragraph: Paul continues by discussing the believer's relationship with Christ. He affirms that whether we are at home in these earthly bodies or away from them in the presence of the Lord, we make it our aim to please Him (2 Corinthians 5:9). He emphasizes how all believers will stand before the judgment seat of Christ to receive what is due for their deeds done in the body, whether good or bad (2 Corinthians 5:10). Paul underscores that it is Christ's love that compels him and urges believers to view others through a new perspective - no longer according to worldly standards but according to their new identity in Christ (2 Corinthians 5:14-17).

3rd Paragraph: The chapter concludes with a message of reconciliation. Paul declares that God reconciled us to Himself through Christ and has given us the ministry of reconciliation. He explains how God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not counting people's sins against them but offering forgiveness and salvation through Jesus (2 Corinthians 5:18-19). As ambassadors for Christ, Paul urges believers on behalf of Christ himself to be reconciled to God and become the righteousness of God in Christ (2 Corinthians 5:20-21).

In summary, Chapter five of Second Corinthians explores the themes of our earthly bodies, our eternal dwelling, and reconciliation with God through Christ. Paul highlights

the temporary nature of our earthly bodies and expresses a longing for our heavenly dwelling. He emphasizes that believers are called to live in a way that pleases the Lord. Paul discusses standing before the judgment seat of Christ and encourages believers to view others through a new perspective based on their identity in Christ. The chapter concludes with a message of reconciliation, affirming that God has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus and has entrusted us with the ministry of reconciliation. Paul urges believers to be reconciled to God and embrace their identity as ambassadors for Christ. This chapter emphasizes the hope we have in our eternal dwelling, living for Christ's sake, and participating in God's work of reconciliation through Jesus.

2 Corinthians 5:1 For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.

We know that when our earthly bodies die, we have a heavenly dwelling that is eternal and not made with human hands.

1. Our Eternal Home: Hope and Comfort in Heaven

2. The Unseen Realm: Our True Home in Heaven

1. John 14:2-3 - "In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also.

2. Hebrews 11:10 - For he was looking forward to the city that has foundations, whose designer and builder is God.

2 Corinthians 5:2 For in this we groan, earnestly desiring to be clothed upon with our house which is from heaven:

Believers desire to be clothed with their heavenly dwelling, as they groan in anticipation of the final redemption.

1. "Transitions of Life: Waiting on the Redeemer"

2. "Heavenly Dwellings: A Hope for Believers"

1. Romans 8:23 - And not only they, but ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of the

Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body.

2. John 14:2-3 - In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.

2 Corinthians 5:3 If so be that being clothed we shall not be found naked.

Believers are encouraged to live in anticipation of being clothed with the righteousness of Christ at the end of their earthly lives.

1. Living in Anticipation of the Final Cloth: An Exploration of 2 Corinthians 5:3

2. Striving for Holiness: The Cloth of Righteousness and 2 Corinthians 5:3

1. Romans 3:21-26 - "But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it??the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe."

2. Isaiah 61:10 - "I will greatly rejoice in the Lord; my soul shall exult in my God, for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation; he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself like a priest with a beautiful headdress, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels."

2 Corinthians 5:4 For we that are in this tabernacle do groan, being burdened: not for that we would be unclothed, but clothed upon, that mortality might be swallowed up of life.

Believers groan under the burden of mortality, longing to be clothed anew in immortality.

1. The Burden of Mortality: Longing for the Clothes of Life

2. Groaning in the Tabernacle: The Weight of Mortality

1. Romans 8:23 - And not only they, but ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body.

2. Philippians 3:20-21 - For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself.

2 Corinthians 5:5 Now he that hath wrought us for the selfsame thing is God, who also hath given unto us the earnest of the Spirit.

God has worked to bring us into His purpose and has given us the Holy Spirit as a guarantee.

1: Our Hope in God - 2 Corinthians 5:5

2: The Gift of the Holy Spirit - 2 Corinthians 5:5

1: Romans 8:16-17 - The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God.

2: Galatians 4:6 - And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, ?□bba! Father!??

2 Corinthians 5:6 Therefore we are always confident, knowing that, whilst we are at home in the body, we are absent from the Lord:

Believers have the assurance that although they are physically present in the world, they will one day be reunited with the Lord in Heaven.

1. "Glorious Hope: The Assurance of Heaven"

2. "Living with Confidence in a Fallen World"

1. Romans 8:18-25

2. 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

2 Corinthians 5:7 (For we walk by faith, not by sight:)

The passage encourages believers to live by faith and not by sight.

1: We must have faith in God's plans for us, even when we can't see the end result.

2: We mustn't be swayed by worldly desires and temptations, but instead trust in God's promises.

1: Hebrews 11:1 (Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.)

2: James 1:2-4 (Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.)

2 Corinthians 5:8 We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord.

Paul expresses his confidence in the knowledge that believers will be with the Lord in death.

1. Living with Confidence in Christ - Knowing that death brings us to be with the Lord.

2. The Comfort of Believing in Heaven - Experiencing assurance that life with the Lord awaits us.

1. Philippians 1:21-23 - For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain.

2. Romans 8:18 - For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.

2 Corinthians 5:9 Wherefore we labour, that, whether present or absent, we may be accepted of him.

Paul emphasizes the importance of striving to be accepted by God, whether we are present or absent.

1. "Believing in God's Love: Striving to Be Accepted by Him"

2. "A Call to Faithfulness: Making Every Effort to Please God"

1. Romans 12:11-12 "Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer."

2. Hebrews 11:6 "And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him."

2 Corinthians 5:10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.

All people must appear before the judgment seat of Christ to receive what they have done in their bodies, whether good or bad.

1. Living in Light of Judgment Day - How we should live in light of the certainty of judgment day.

2. The Rewards of Righteousness - How we can receive rewards for righteous living.

1. Ecclesiastes 12:13-14 - Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man. For God will bring every work into judgment, including every secret thing, whether good or evil.

2. Romans 14:10-12 - Why do you pass judgment on your brother? Or you, why do you despise your brother? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God; for it is written, ?□s I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God.??So then each of us will give an account of himself to God.

2 Corinthians 5:11 Knowing therefore the terror of the Lord, we persuade men; but we are made manifest unto God; and I trust also are made manifest in your consciences.

Paul explains that he and his fellow ministers take on the responsibility of persuading men to accept the Gospel, knowing that God is aware of their efforts.

1. The Responsibility of Ministers: Knowing the Terror of the Lord

2. Living Out Your Faith in the Presence of God

1. Romans 10:14-15 - How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher?

2. Colossians 4:5-6 - Walk in wisdom toward them that are without, redeeming the time. Let your speech be alway with grace, seasoned with salt, that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man.

2 Corinthians 5:12 For we commend not ourselves again unto you, but give you occasion to glory on our behalf, that ye may have somewhat to answer them which glory in appearance, and not in heart.

Paul encourages the Corinthians to glorify God by not boasting in their own accomplishments, but instead to focus on the heart rather than the appearance.

1: "The Heart of the Matter: Focusing on What Really Matters"

2: "God's Glory: Seeking to Honor God in All We Do"

1: 1 Peter 5:5-7 - ?□ikewise, you who are younger, be subject to the elders. Clothe yourselves, all of you, with humility toward one another, for ?□od opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.??Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you, casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you.??

2: Proverbs 21:2 - ?□very way of a man is right in his own eyes, but the Lord weighs the heart.??

2 Corinthians 5:13 For whether we be beside ourselves, it is to God: or whether we be sober, it is for your cause.

Paul encourages Christians to be focused on God, whether in a state of excitement or sobriety.

1. "Living in God's Joy: Staying Sober in a World of Excitement"

2. "The Power of Dedication: Serving God and Others"

1. Psalm 100:2 - Serve the Lord with gladness: come before his presence with singing.

2. Galatians 5:13 - For, brethren, ye have been called unto liberty; only use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another.

2 Corinthians 5:14 For the love of Christ constraineth us; because we thus judge, that if one died for all, then were all dead:

Christ's love motivates us to judge that if He died for all, then all were dead.

1. The Power of Love: How Christ's Love Constrains Us

2. The Cost of Love: Understanding the Implications of Christ's Sacrifice

1. Romans 5:8 - But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

2. John 15:13 - Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.

2 Corinthians 5:15 And that he died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto him which died for them, and rose again.

Jesus died for all so that those who live can live for Him instead of themselves.

1: True Freedom - Living for Christ instead of ourselves

2: The Power of the Cross - Jesus dying for us and rising again

1: John 15:13 - Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one?□ life for one?□ friends.

2: Romans 5:8 - But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

2 Corinthians 5:16 Wherefore henceforth know we no man after the flesh: yea, though we have known Christ after the flesh, yet now henceforth know we him no more.

We no longer recognize anyone by their physical appearances, even though we once knew Christ in his physical form, now we rely on spiritual recognition.

1. "Living a Life Beyond the Flesh"

2. "The Power of Spiritual Recognition"

1. Romans 8:5-8 "For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit. For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be. So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God."

2. Galatians 6:14-15 "But God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world. For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision, but a new creature."

2 Corinthians 5:17 Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

Believers in Christ are made new, and all things have become new.

1. "The New Creature: Exploring Renewal and Transformation in Christ"

2. "The Renewing Power of the Gospel: Becoming a New Creation"

1. Romans 12:2 - Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

2. Ephesians 4:22-24 - To put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.

2 Corinthians 5:18 And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation;

God has reconciled us to himself through Jesus Christ and has given us the ministry of reconciliation.

1. "The Ministry of Reconciliation"

2. "God's Gift of Reconciliation Through Jesus Christ"

1. Romans 5:10-11 - For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life. And not only so, but we also joy in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom we have now received the atonement.

2. Colossians 1:19-20 - For it pleased the Father that in him should all fulness dwell; And, having made peace through the blood of his cross, by him to reconcile all things unto himself; by him, I say, whether they be things in earth, or things in heaven.

2 Corinthians 5:19 To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation.

God was in Christ to reconcile the world to Himself, not to punish them for their sins, and has given us the message of reconciliation.

1. "God's Grace of Reconciliation: How Jesus Reconciles Us to God"

2. "Living a Life of Reconciliation: What Does it Look Like to Follow Christ?"

1. Colossians 1:20-22 - And, having made peace through the blood of his cross, by him to reconcile all things unto himself; by him, I say, whether they be things in earth, or things in heaven.

2. Romans 5:10-11 - For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life.

2 Corinthians 5:20 Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God.

Believers are called to be ambassadors for Christ, to pray that people would be reconciled to God.

1. Called to be Ambassadors for Christ

2. Reconciled to God through Faith

1. Matthew 28:18-20 - And Jesus came and said to them, ?ll authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.??

2. Romans 10:14-17 - How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, ?ow beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!??But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Isaiah says, ?ord, who has believed what he has heard from us???So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.

2 Corinthians 5:21 For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.

God sent Jesus to be a sin offering on our behalf, so that through Him we can be made righteous.

1. The Power of God's Grace: How Jesus Paid the Ultimate Price for Our Salvation

2. The Holiness of God: Our Righteousness in Christ

1. Romans 3:21-26

2. John 3:16-17

2 Corinthians 6 is the sixth chapter of the Second Epistle of Paul to the Corinthians. In this chapter, Paul addresses various aspects of his ministry and urges believers to live as faithful servants of God.

1st Paragraph: Paul begins by highlighting the urgency of salvation, urging believers not to receive God's grace in vain. He emphasizes that now is the acceptable time and now is the day of salvation (2 Corinthians 6:2). Paul then describes his commitment to ministry, expressing how he and his companions have endured hardships, afflictions, and challenges while serving faithfully (2 Corinthians 6:3-10). He encourages believers to demonstrate their authenticity as servants of God through their endurance in trials, purity in conduct, understanding, patience, kindness, love, and truthful speech.

2nd Paragraph: Paul addresses the Corinthian believers' relationship with unbelievers. He urges them not to be unequally yoked with unbelievers but rather separate themselves from any form of idolatry or ungodly influence (2 Corinthians 6:14-16). He emphasizes that believers are temples of the living God and should not compromise their faith by aligning themselves with those who do not share their beliefs (2 Corinthians 6:16-18).

3rd Paragraph: The chapter concludes with an appeal for open-heartedness toward Paul and his companions. Despite facing persecution and opposition from some in Corinth, he assures them that he has opened his heart wide toward them (2 Corinthians 6:11-13). He urges them to reciprocate this openness by also opening their hearts wide towards him. Paul affirms that there is no lack of affection on his part but rather a call for mutual love and partnership.

In summary, Chapter six of Second Corinthians addresses various aspects related to ministry and faithful living. Paul emphasizes the urgency of salvation and encourages believers to live as authentic servants of God amidst hardships and challenges. He urges them to separate themselves from ungodly influences and not be unequally yoked with unbelievers. Paul highlights the believers' identity as temples of the living God and calls for a commitment to purity and faithfulness. He concludes by appealing for open-heartedness and mutual love, emphasizing the importance of partnership in ministry. This chapter emphasizes the urgency of salvation, faithful living, separation from ungodliness, and the need for open-heartedness and love within the Christian community.

2 Corinthians 6:1 We then, as workers together with him, beseech you also that ye receive not the grace of God in vain.

Paul exhorts believers to not take the grace of God for granted and to use it to its fullest.

1. “The Power of Grace: Receive God’s Gift and Make the Most of It”

2. “The Blessing of God’s Unmerited Favor: Don’t Take it for Granted”

1. Ephesians 2:8-9 - For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your

own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.

2. Romans 5:17 - For if, because of one man's trespass, death reigned through that one man, much more will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man Jesus Christ.

2 Corinthians 6:2 (For he saith, I have heard thee in a time accepted, and in the day of salvation have I succoured thee: behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.)

God is offering salvation and has heard us in a time of acceptance. Now is the time to accept his offer of salvation.

1. "The Accepted Time: Make the Most of God's Offer of Salvation"

2. "Today is the Day of Salvation: Don't Miss Out on God's Blessing"

1. Isaiah 49:8 (Thus saith the Lord, In an acceptable time have I heard thee, and in a day of salvation have I helped thee: and I will preserve thee, and give thee for a covenant of the people, to establish the earth, to cause to inherit the desolate heritages;)

2. Ephesians 2:8-9 (For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast.)

2 Corinthians 6:3 Giving no offence in any thing, that the ministry be not blamed:

Believers should live in a way that is not offensive so that the ministry is not blamed.

1. Living without Offense: A Call to Holiness

2. Walking in Wisdom: A Guide for Ministry

1. Ephesians 5:15-17 - Be ye therefore followers of God, as dear children; And walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweetsmelling savour. But fornication, and all uncleanness, or covetousness, let it not be once named among you, as becometh saints;

2. James 3:13-18 - Who is a wise man and endued with knowledge among you? let him

shew out of a good conversation his works with meekness of wisdom. But if ye have bitter envying and strife in your hearts, glory not, and lie not against the truth. This wisdom descendeth not from above, but is earthly, sensual, devilish. For where envying and strife is, there is confusion and every evil work. But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be intreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy. And the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace of them that make peace.

2 Corinthians 6:4 But in all things approving ourselves as the ministers of God, in much patience, in afflictions, in necessities, in distresses,

Paul encourages Christians to remain steadfast in their faith by being patient and enduring hardships.

1. Patience in the Trials of Life

2. Enduring Hardships with a Godly Attitude

1. James 1:2-4 - Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. And let endurance have its perfect result, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

2. Romans 5:3-5 - And not only this, but we also exult in our tribulations, knowing that tribulation brings about perseverance; and perseverance, proven character; and proven character, hope; and hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us.

2 Corinthians 6:5 In stripes, in imprisonments, in tumults, in labours, in watchings, in fastings;

Paul recounts the hardships he has experienced in his ministry to the Corinthians.

1. Trusting in God's Promises in Difficult Times

2. The Power of Perseverance

1. Psalm 23:4 - Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

2. Romans 8:18 - For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us.

2 Corinthians 6:6 By pureness, by knowledge, by longsuffering, by kindness, by the Holy Ghost, by love unfeigned,

The passage encourages Christians to live a holy life by being pure, knowledgeable, patient, kind, led by the Holy Spirit and showing true love.

1. The Power of True Love: A Study on 2 Corinthians 6:6

2. The Power of the Holy Spirit: How to Live a Holy Life According to 2 Corinthians 6:6

1. Ephesians 5:1-2 - "Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God."

2. 1 John 4:7-11 - "Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another."

2 Corinthians 6:7 By the word of truth, by the power of God, by the armour of righteousness on the right hand and on the left,

Paul encourages the Corinthians to live according to God's truth by relying on His power and wearing His armor.

1. "The Power of Truth: Relying on God's Strength to Live Rightly"

2. "Putting On the Armor of God: A Call to Live Righteous Lives"

1. Ephesians 6:10-18 - The Whole Armor of God

2. Proverbs 3:5-6 - Trust in the Lord with All Your Heart

2 Corinthians 6:8 By honour and dishonour, by evil report and good report: as deceivers,

and yet true;

Paul is encouraging the Corinthians to be true to their faith, even in the face of criticism and misunderstanding.

1. Overcoming Negative Opinions: Being True to Your Faith in the Face of Criticism

2. Relying on God's Truth in Difficult Times: Staying True to Your Convictions

1. Romans 12:2 - “Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.”

2. James 1:2-4 - “Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.”

2 Corinthians 6:9 As unknown, and yet well known; as dying, and, behold, we live; as chastened, and not killed;

Paul speaks of the paradox of being unknown and yet well known, dying and yet living, and chastened but not killed.

1. God's Paradox: Living in the Unknown

2. How to Find Strength in Weakness

1. Romans 8:31-39 - What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us?

2. Psalm 34:17-19 - The righteous cry out, and the Lord hears, and delivers them out of all their troubles.

2 Corinthians 6:10 As sorrowful, yet alway rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing all things.

Paul encourages the Corinthians to remain faithful in all of life's circumstances despite their current condition of sorrow, poverty, and lack of material possessions.

1. Rejoice in the Lord Always - Philippians 4:4

2. Conquering Poverty with Faith - Matthew 6:25-33

1. Galatians 6:9 - And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.

2. Romans 8:18 - For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.

2 Corinthians 6:11 O ye Corinthians, our mouth is open unto you, our heart is enlarged.

Paul expresses his openness and love for the Corinthians in 2 Corinthians 6:11.

1. The Openness and Love of Paul

2. Enlarging Our Hearts to Grow Closer to God

1. Romans 5:5 - "And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us."

2. 1 John 4:11 - "Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another."

2 Corinthians 6:12 Ye are not straitened in us, but ye are straitened in your own bowels.

Paul reminds the Corinthians that their limitations do not come from him, but are self-imposed.

1. “Living in Freedom from Self-Imposed Limitations”

2. “Finding Strength and Freedom in God”

1. Psalm 34:4 - I sought the Lord, and he heard me, and delivered me from all my fears.

2. Romans 8:38-39 - For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

2 Corinthians 6:13 Now for a recompence in the same, (I speak as unto my children,) be ye also enlarged.

Paul encourages the Corinthians to be generous with their resources and treat others the same way they would treat their own children.

1. "Generosity in the Church: A Guide for How We Should Treat Others"

2. "Living in Enlargement: How We Can Show Generosity to Others"

1. James 2:14-17 - What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save them?

2. Matthew 25:31-46 - “When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his glorious throne. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats.

2 Corinthians 6:14 Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?

Christians should not form partnerships with unbelievers because of the incompatibility of righteousness and unrighteousness.

1. Light and Darkness: How to Live Out Our Faith in a Secular World

2. Unequally Yoked: How to Seek God's Will in All Our Relationships

1. Romans 12:2 - Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.

2. Proverbs 3:5-6 - Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.

2 Corinthians 6:15 And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel?

The passage questions the compatibility of Christianity and non-believers.

1. The Unbelievable Compatibility of Christianity

2. The Unifying Power of Believing in Christ

1. 2 Corinthians 6:15-17

2. Galatians 3:23-29

2 Corinthians 6:16 And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

The Apostle Paul is reminding the Corinthian church of their identity as the temple of the living God and that God has promised to dwell in and walk with them as His people.

1. What It Means To Be The Temple of The Living God

2. Experiencing God's Presence By Living As His People

1. 1 Corinthians 3:16-17 - Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in your midst?

2. Romans 8:14-16 - For those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God. The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again; rather, the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship. And by him we cry, “Abba, Father.”

2 Corinthians 6:17 Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you,

The Lord calls Christians to come out of the world, remain separate, and not associate

with anything unclean, and in turn He will accept them.

1. "The Power of Separation: How to Stand Out from the Crowd"

2. "Walk in Holiness: Pursuing Purity in a World of Impurity"

1. Romans 12:2 - "Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect."

2. Ephesians 5:11 - "Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them."

2 Corinthians 6:18 And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.

The Lord Almighty promises to be a Father to us, and in turn, we are to be His sons and daughters.

1: Don't be afraid to call God your Father.

2: Put your trust in the Lord and He will be your Father.

1: Isaiah 64:8 - But now, O Lord, thou art our father; we are the clay, and thou our potter; and we all are the work of thy hand.

2: Psalm 103:13 - Like as a father pitieth his children, so the Lord pitieth them that fear him.

2 Corinthians 7 is the seventh chapter of the Second Epistle of Paul to the Corinthians. In this chapter, Paul addresses the Corinthian believers' response to his previous letter and discusses the godly sorrow that leads to repentance.

1st Paragraph: Paul begins by expressing his joy and comfort in hearing about the positive impact his previous letter had on the Corinthian believers. He acknowledges that his letter had caused them grief, but it was a godly grief that led them to repentance (2 Corinthians 7:8-10). He explains that their sorrow produced in them a desire for change, leading to genuine repentance and salvation. Paul commends them for their earnestness in responding to his correction and expresses how their godly sorrow brought about

restoration and reconciliation.

2nd Paragraph: Paul reflects on how their response demonstrated their eagerness to clear themselves from any wrongdoing. He highlights how they were zealous for what is right, took action against sin, and demonstrated a strong desire for righteousness (2 Corinthians 7:11). He emphasizes that this godly sorrow led them away from worldly grief or remorse without true transformation. The repentance they exhibited produced fruit in terms of renewed commitment, indignation toward sin, fear of God's judgment, longing for righteousness, zeal for justice, and avenging of wrongs.

3rd Paragraph: The chapter concludes with further encouragement from Paul. He assures them of his love for them and rejoices over their restored relationship (2 Corinthians 7:13-16). Paul commends Titus as a trusted companion who shared in his joy regarding the Corinthian believers' response. He expresses gratitude towards God who comforts him through Titus' arrival and brings him great joy by seeing how much they have been encouraged by Titus' presence among them.

In summary, Chapter seven of Second Corinthians focuses on the Corinthian believers' response to Paul's previous letter and highlights the transformative power of godly sorrow leading to repentance. Paul expresses his joy and comfort in hearing about their positive response and commends them for their genuine repentance. He reflects on how their sorrow produced a desire for change and restoration, leading to renewed commitment and zeal for righteousness. Paul emphasizes the distinction between godly sorrow that leads to true transformation and worldly grief that lacks genuine repentance. He concludes with gratitude for their restored relationship, commending Titus as a trusted companion, and expressing his joy over the encouragement they have received through him. This chapter highlights the importance of genuine repentance, restoration, and the transformative power of godly sorrow in the life of believers.

2 Corinthians 7:1 Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.

Believers should strive to live holy lives, as they have been promised great things by God.

1. The Importance of Holiness: Making Godly Choices in Everyday Life

2. Cleansing Ourselves from Filthiness: Living in the Fear of God

1. 1 Thessalonians 4:7 - For God has not called us for impurity, but in holiness.

2. 1 Peter 1:15-16 - But as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, since it is written, “Be holy, for I am holy.”

2 Corinthians 7:2 Receive us; we have wronged no man, we have corrupted no man, we have defrauded no man.

Paul and his companions have done no wrong, have corrupted no one, and have not defrauded anyone.

1. The importance of integrity in our lives.

2. Doing what is right in the eyes of God.

1. Proverbs 11:3 - The integrity of the upright guides them, but the crookedness of the treacherous destroys them.

2. James 4:17 - So whoever knows the right thing to do and fails to do it, for him it is sin.

2 Corinthians 7:3 I speak not this to condemn you: for I have said before, that ye are in our hearts to die and live with you.

Paul expresses his deep love for the Corinthians and reassures them that he is not speaking to condemn them.

1. The Love of Jesus in Times of Trouble

2. The Power of Affirmation

1. Romans 5:8 - But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

2. Psalm 27:14 - Wait for the Lord; be strong and take heart and wait for the Lord.

2 Corinthians 7:4 Great is my boldness of speech toward you, great is my glorying of you: I am filled with comfort, I am exceeding joyful in all our tribulation.

Paul expresses his joy and comfort in the midst of tribulations, and boasts of having boldness of speech toward the Corinthians.

1. Suffering and Joy: Experiencing Comfort and Joy in Trials

2. The Boldness of our Speech: Using Our Voice to Speak Boldly in Truth

1. Romans 5:3-5 - Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; 4 perseverance, character; and character, hope. 5 And hope does not put us to shame, because God’s love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.

2. James 1:2-4 - Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, 3 because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. 4 Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.

2 Corinthians 7:5 For, when we were come into Macedonia, our flesh had no rest, but we were troubled on every side; without were fightings, within were fears.

Paul and his companions experienced difficulties and fears while travelling in Macedonia.

1. Overcoming Troubles and Fears in Our Lives - 2 Corinthians 7:5

2. The Strength to Persevere Through Difficult Times - 2 Corinthians 7:5

1. Isaiah 43:2 - When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee: when thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned; neither shall the flame kindle upon thee.

2. Philippians 4:6-7 - Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

2 Corinthians 7:6 Nevertheless God, that comforteth those that are cast down, comforted us by the coming of Titus;

God comforted the Corinthians by sending Titus to them.

1. God's Comforting Presence - How God's comfort and presence in our lives can bring us hope and peace.

2. The Blessing of Friendship - How meaningful and supportive relationships can provide joy and encouragement.

1. Isaiah 41:10 - "Do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand."

2. Galatians 6:2 - "Carry each other’s burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ."

2 Corinthians 7:7 And not by his coming only, but by the consolation wherewith he was comforted in you, when he told us your earnest desire, your mourning, your fervent mind toward me; so that I rejoiced the more.

Paul was comforted by the Corinthians' earnest desire, mourning, and fervent mind toward him, which caused him to rejoice.

1. The Power of Fervent Prayer

2. Encouraging Others with Love and Compassion

1. James 5:16 - "The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working."

2. Romans 12:15 - "Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep."

2 Corinthians 7:8 For though I made you sorry with a letter, I do not repent, though I did repent: for I perceive that the same epistle hath made you sorry, though it were but for a season.

Paul wrote a letter to the Corinthians that made them sad, but he didn't regret it because it eventually led to them feeling better.

1. A Letter of Love: How God Uses Pain for Good

2. The Power of God's Word: How Scripture Can Transform Us

1. Isaiah 55:11 - So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it.

2. Romans 8:28 - And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.

2 Corinthians 7:9 Now I rejoice, not that ye were made sorry, but that ye sorrowed to repentance: for ye were made sorry after a godly manner, that ye might receive damage by us in nothing.

Paul rejoiced that the Corinthians had sorrowed to repentance, showing they had acted in a godly manner.

1. The Power of Repentance: How to Live a Godly Life

2. Receiving Damage in Nothing: The Benefits of Repentance

1. Psalm 51:10-12 - Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me.

2. Luke 15:7 - I say unto you, that likewise joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that repenteth, more than over ninety and nine just persons, which need no repentance.

2 Corinthians 7:10 For godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of: but the sorrow of the world worketh death.

Godly sorrow leads to repentance and a salvation that cannot be repented of, but sorrow of the world leads to death.

1. The Power of Repentance - Turning from Our Sins and Relying on the Redemption of God

2. The Contrast of Godly Sorrow and Worldly Sorrow - A Tale of Two Sorrows

1. Psalm 51:17 - "The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart,

O God, thou wilt not despise."

2. Hebrews 12:11 - "Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby."

2 Corinthians 7:11 For behold this selfsame thing, that ye sorrowed after a godly sort, what carefulness it wrought in you, yea, what clearing of yourselves, yea, what indignation, yea, what fear, yea, what vehement desire, yea, what zeal, yea, what revenge! In all things ye have approved yourselves to be clear in this matter.

The Corinthians had a godly sorrow that provoked them to repent and take action. They showed a clear conscience in their actions.

1. The Power of Godly Sorrow - How to Transform our Lives

2. The Clearing of Conscience - How to Overcome Guilt

1. Proverbs 28:13 - He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy.

2. Psalm 32:5 - I acknowledged my sin unto thee, and mine iniquity have I not hid. I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord; and thou forgavest the iniquity of my sin.

2 Corinthians 7:12 Wherefore, though I wrote unto you, I did it not for his cause that had done the wrong, nor for his cause that suffered wrong, but that our care for you in the sight of God might appear unto you.

Paul wrote to the Corinthians to demonstrate God's care and concern for them.

1. God's Care for Us: Learning from Paul's Example

2. Demonstrating Care for Others: Following Paul's Lead

1. 1 Peter 5:7 - Casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you.

2. Romans 12:15-16 - Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. Live in harmony with one another. Do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly.

2 Corinthians 7:13 Therefore we were comforted in your comfort: yea, and exceedingly the more joyed we for the joy of Titus, because his spirit was refreshed by you all.

The apostle Paul and his companions were comforted by the Corinthians' comfort and were overjoyed by the joy of Titus, whose spirit was refreshed because of them.

1. The Power of Comfort: How God Uses Community to Refresh Our Spirits

2. The Joy of Community: How Reaching Out Can Bring Us Closer to God

1. Romans 15:13 - May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

2. Hebrews 10:24-25 - And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

2 Corinthians 7:14 For if I have boasted any thing to him of you, I am not ashamed; but as we spake all things to you in truth, even so our boasting, which I made before Titus, is found a truth.

Paul was not ashamed of his boasting to Titus about the Corinthians, because it was based in truth.

1. The Power of Truth: How Authenticity Strengthens Faith

2. Boast Not in Vanity, But in Truth

1. Romans 12:3 - For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned.

2. Proverbs 27:1 - Do not boast about tomorrow, for you do not know what a day may bring.

2 Corinthians 7:15 And his inward affection is more abundant toward you, whilst he remembereth the obedience of you all, how with fear and trembling ye received him.

Paul praises the Corinthians for their obedience to him and expresses his deep affection for them.

1. The Power of Obedience: How Following God's Word Can Strengthen Our Faith.

2. Love & Obedience: The Impact of Our Actions On Our Relationships.

1. Colossians 3:20 - Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord.

2. Luke 6:46 - Why do you call me ‘Lord, Lord,’ and do not do what I say?

2 Corinthians 7:16 I rejoice therefore that I have confidence in you in all things.

Paul expresses his joy for the Corinthians' faithfulness, which gives him confidence in them in all matters.

1. Joy in the Lord: Growing Faithful Discipleship

2. The Power of Confidence: Strengthening Relationships

1. Ephesians 4:2-3 - With all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

2. Philippians 2:3-4 - Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.

2 Corinthians 8 is the eighth chapter of the Second Epistle of Paul to the Corinthians. In this chapter, Paul discusses the topic of giving generously and sacrificially for the benefit of others, using the example of the Macedonian churches.

1st Paragraph: Paul begins by commending the Macedonian churches for their generosity in giving. He highlights how, despite their own poverty and affliction, they had an abundance of joy and a deep desire to contribute to the needs of others (2 Corinthians 8:1-4). Paul explains that their giving was voluntary and came from a sincere heart, surpassing his expectations. He emphasizes that they gave themselves first to God and then to him as an expression of their commitment.

2nd Paragraph: Paul then encourages the Corinthian believers to excel in this act of grace as well. He uses Jesus Christ as an example, who though being rich became poor for our sake so that through His poverty we might become rich (2 Corinthians 8:9). He urges them to complete what they had started in terms of their desire to give generously. Paul emphasizes that it is not about burdening them but about equality—those who have more sharing with those who have less—so that there may be fairness among believers.

3rd Paragraph: The chapter concludes with practical instructions regarding collection for Jerusalem's needs. Paul advises them on how to organize this collection so that it may be done efficiently and with integrity (2 Corinthians 8:16-24). He appoints trustworthy individuals, including Titus and two other brothers, to oversee this task. He assures them that these individuals are respected by both churches and will handle matters transparently for everyone's peace of mind.

In summary, Chapter eight of Second Corinthians focuses on the topic of generous giving for the benefit of others. Paul commends the Macedonian churches for their sacrificial generosity despite their own poverty. He encourages the Corinthian believers to follow their example and excel in this act of grace. Paul emphasizes the voluntary and sincere nature of giving, urging them to complete what they had started. He highlights the example of Jesus Christ's sacrificial giving and emphasizes the principle of equality in sharing resources among believers. The chapter concludes with practical instructions regarding the collection for Jerusalem's needs, appointing trustworthy individuals to oversee this task. This chapter underscores the importance of sacrificial giving, sincerity in generosity, and fair distribution for the well-being of all believers.

2 Corinthians 8:1 Moreover, brethren, we do you to wit of the grace of God bestowed on the churches of Macedonia;

Paul tells the Corinthians about the grace of God that has been given to the churches of Macedonia.

1. Understanding and Appreciating the Grace of God

2. Experiencing the Benefits of God's Grace

1. Ephesians 2:8-9 (For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast)

2. Romans 5:17 (For if by the one man’s offense death reigned through the one, much more those who receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ)

2 Corinthians 8:2 How that in a great trial of affliction the abundance of their joy and their deep poverty abounded unto the riches of their liberality.

Despite facing great suffering and poverty, the Corinthians were generous in their giving.

1. The Power of Generosity in the Face of Adversity

2. Joy in the Midst of Affliction

1. James 1:2-4 - Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

2. Matthew 5:3-4 - Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

2 Corinthians 8:3 For to their power, I bear record, yea, and beyond their power they were willing of themselves;

The Corinthians gave generously to the offering for the Jerusalem church, even beyond their capacity.

1. The power of sacrificial giving

2. Generosity in action

1. Romans 12:1-2 - Offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship.

2. James 2:15-17 - If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food, and one of you says to them, “Go in peace, be warmed and filled,” without giving them the things needed for the body, what good is that?

2 Corinthians 8:4 Praying us with much intreaty that we would receive the gift, and take upon us the fellowship of the ministering to the saints.

Paul asked the Corinthians to join in the effort to provide financial aid for the impoverished church in Jerusalem.

1. Compassion in Action: The Fellowship of Ministering to the Saints

2. Selfless Service: The Call to Help Our Brothers and Sisters

1. 1 John 3:17-18 - “But if anyone has the world’s goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God’s love abide in him? Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth.”

2. Galatians 6:2 - “Bear one another’s burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.”

2 Corinthians 8:5 And this they did, not as we hoped, but first gave their own selves to the Lord, and unto us by the will of God.

The Corinthians gave of themselves to the Lord and to the Apostles according to the will of God.

1. The Power of Self-Sacrifice - How we can learn from the Corinthians' example of offering themselves to the Lord.

2. The Priority of Obedience - Understanding the importance of following God's will.

1. Matthew 16:24-26 - Jesus' teaching on discipleship and self-denial.

2. Philippians 2:3-8 - Paul's teaching on humility and putting others before ourselves.

2 Corinthians 8:6 Insomuch that we desired Titus, that as he had begun, so he would also finish in you the same grace also.

Paul requested Titus to complete the grace he had started in the Corinthians.

1. The Grace of Completion: Learning from Titus

2. Finishing What We Started: A Lesson from Paul and Titus

1. 2 Corinthians 8:6

2. Philippians 1:6 - "being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus."

2 Corinthians 8:7 Therefore, as ye abound in every thing, in faith, and utterance, and knowledge, and in all diligence, and in your love to us, see that ye abound in this grace also.

Christians are encouraged to abound in faith, knowledge, diligence, love, and grace.

1. Abounding in Grace: The Gifts We Receive from God

2. Abounding in Faith: The Path to a Fulfilling Life

1. Hebrews 11:6 - And without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.

2. 1 Peter 4:8 - And above all things have fervent love for one another, for “love will cover a multitude of sins.”

2 Corinthians 8:8 I speak not by commandment, but by occasion of the forwardness of others, and to prove the sincerity of your love.

Others have shown willingness to give generously to the church, and Paul encourages the Corinthians to do the same to prove the sincerity of their love.

1. Proving Our Love Through Generosity

2. The Power of Giving

1. Matthew 6:21 – “For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

2. Luke 6:38 – “Give, and it will be given to you. Good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap. For with the measure you use it will be measured back to you.”

2 Corinthians 8:9 For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich.

Jesus Christ gave up his wealth and status to become poor for the sake of others, so that they might be rich.

1. The Power of Self-Sacrifice: Learning from Jesus' Example

2. Becoming Rich Through Poverty: How Jesus Changed Everything

1. Philippians 2:5-8 - Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

2. Matthew 19:24 - Again I tell you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God.

2 Corinthians 8:10 And herein I give my advice: for this is expedient for you, who have begun before, not only to do, but also to be forward a year ago.

Paul advises the Corinthians to continue with their generous giving, having already started a year prior.

1. "The Power of Generous Giving"

2. "The Rewards of Being Forward"

1. Deuteronomy 15:10 - "'You shall give to him freely, and your heart shall not be grudging when you give to him, because for this the Lord your God will bless you in all your work and in all that you undertake.'"

2. Proverbs 11:24-25 - "One gives freely, yet grows all the richer; another withholds what he should give, and only suffers want. Whoever brings blessing will be enriched, and one who waters will himself be watered."

2 Corinthians 8:11 Now therefore perform the doing of it; that as there was a readiness to will, so there may be a performance also out of that which ye have.

Paul urges the Corinthians to show their desire to give to the poor by doing it.

1. Be a Doer of the Word, Not Just A Hearer

2. Show Your Faith Through Action

1. James 1:22-25 - But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks intently at his natural face in a mirror. For he looks at himself and goes away and at once forgets what he was like. But the one who looks into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and perseveres, being no hearer who forgets but a doer who acts, he will be blessed in his doing.

2. Matthew 5:16 - In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.

2 Corinthians 8:12 For if there be first a willing mind, it is accepted according to that a man hath, and not according to that he hath not.

Paul encourages the Corinthians to give generously, according to their abilities and not what they lack.

1. "Counting Our Blessings: Giving Generously, Joyfully, and With a Willing Heart"

2. "The Power of Generosity: How Our Giving Reflects our Faith"

1. Matthew 10:8 "... freely ye have received, freely give."

2. Deuteronomy 15:10 "... thou shalt open thine hand wide unto him, and shalt surely lend him sufficient for his need, in that which he wanteth."

2 Corinthians 8:13 For I mean not that other men be eased, and ye burdened:

Paul encourages the Corinthians to help other churches in need, suggesting that they should not be burdened by this task.

1. God calls us to help others, even when it may be inconvenient.

2. We should be willing to serve others in need, even when it requires sacrifice.

1. Galatians 6:9-10 "And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up. So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith."

2. Matthew 25:35-36 "For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me."

2 Corinthians 8:14 But by an equality, that now at this time your abundance may be a supply for their want, that their abundance also may be a supply for your want: that there may be equality:

The abundance of some can be used to help those in need, creating an equal balance between the two.

1. "The Abundance of Equality: Sharing with Those in Need"

2. "Making the Most of Your Abundance: Being a Blessing to Others"

1. James 2:15-17 "If a brother or sister be naked, and destitute of daily food, And one of you say unto them, Depart in peace, be ye warmed and filled; notwithstanding ye give them not those things which are needful to the body; what doth it profit? Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone."

2. Matthew 25:35-40 "For I was an hungred, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in: Naked, and ye clothed me: I was sick, and ye visited me: I was in prison, and ye came unto me...Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me."

2 Corinthians 8:15 As it is written, He that had gathered much had nothing over; and he that had gathered little had no lack.

The apostle Paul encourages Christians to give generously, citing a quote from the Old Testament which demonstrates that God is generous and wants us to be generous too.

1. "Be Generous: God's Example and Our Responsibility"

2. "Sharing What We Have: The Blessing of Generosity"

1. Psalm 112:5 “Good will come to him who is generous and lends freely, who conducts his affairs with justice.”

2. Luke 6:38 “Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.”

2 Corinthians 8:16 But thanks be to God, which put the same earnest care into the heart of Titus for you.

God put an earnest care into Titus' heart for the Corinthians.

1. The Power of God's Love: How God's Care for Others Can Impact Our Lives

2. The Heart of a Servant: How God Calls Us to Care for Others

1. Romans 5:5 - "And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us."

2. James 1:17 - "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning."

2 Corinthians 8:17 For indeed he accepted the exhortation; but being more forward, of his own accord he went unto you.

Titus accepted an exhortation to go to Corinth of his own accord.

1. The Power of Self-Motivation

2. Taking Initiative for the Lord's Work

1. Romans 12:11 - Not slothful in business; fervent in spirit; serving the Lord;

2. Proverbs 16:3 - Commit your works to the Lord, And your thoughts will be established.

2 Corinthians 8:18 And we have sent with him the brother, whose praise is in the gospel throughout all the churches;

Paul sent a brother to the churches with the gospel.

1. "The Power of Praise"

2. "Sharing the Gospel"

1. Psalm 150:6 - Let everything that has breath praise the LORD.

2. Acts 10:36 - The word which God sent unto the children of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ: he is Lord of all.

2 Corinthians 8:19 And not that only, but who was also chosen of the churches to travel with us with this grace, which is administered by us to the glory of the same Lord, and declaration of your ready mind:

Paul and the other church leaders were chosen to bring grace to the churches in order to glorify the Lord and demonstrate the churches' willingness to receive it.

1. The Power of God's Grace in Our Lives

2. Living a Life of Gratitude and Generosity

1. Romans 8:37-39 - No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

2. Ephesians 2:4-7 - But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved. And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable

riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus.

2 Corinthians 8:20 Avoiding this, that no man should blame us in this abundance which is administered by us:

Paul encourages the Corinthians to give generously to the collection for the poor in Jerusalem, so that no one can criticize their ministry for the abundance that is provided.

1. Generosity in Giving: Paul's Example to the Corinthians

2. Abundance in Giving: Practicing a Life of Generosity

1. 1 Corinthians 16:2 - "On the first day of every week, each one of you is to put something aside and store it up, as he may prosper, so that there will be no collecting when I come."

2. 2 Corinthians 9:7 - "Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver."

2 Corinthians 8:21 Providing for honest things, not only in the sight of the Lord, but also in the sight of men.

Paul encourages believers to act honestly and above reproach both in the sight of the Lord and of men.

1. "Living a Life of Integrity: The Example of Paul"

2. "The Power of Honesty: A Biblical Perspective"

1. Proverbs 11:3 - "The integrity of the upright guides them, but the crookedness of the treacherous destroys them."

2. Ephesians 4:25 - "Therefore, having put away falsehood, let each one of you speak the truth with his neighbor, for we are members one of another."

2 Corinthians 8:22 And we have sent with them our brother, whom we have oftentimes proved diligent in many things, but now much more diligent, upon the great confidence which I have in you.

Paul is sending a trusted brother with the delegation to Corinth to demonstrate his confidence in the believers there.

1. The Power of Confidence: How Our Faith in Others Can Strengthen Our Relationship With God

2. The Importance of Proving Ourselves Worthy of Trust: Cultivating Diligence in Our Lives

1. Proverbs 3:5-6 - Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.

2. James 1:2-4 - My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.

2 Corinthians 8:23 Whether any do enquire of Titus, he is my partner and fellowhelper concerning you: or our brethren be enquired of, they are the messengers of the churches, and the glory of Christ.

The passage highlights the importance of Titus and the brethren as they are partners and fellow helpers of the churches, bringing glory to Christ.

1. Recognizing the Importance of Partnerships in the Church

2. Rejoicing in the Glory of Christ

1. Romans 15:20 - "And so I have made it my aim to preach the gospel, not where Christ was named, lest I should build upon another man's foundation,"

2. 1 Peter 4:11 - "If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God; if any man minister, let him do it as of the ability which God giveth: that God in all things may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom be praise and dominion for ever and ever. Amen."

2 Corinthians 8:24 Wherefore shew ye to them, and before the churches, the proof of your love, and of our boasting on your behalf.

The Corinthian church is being encouraged to show proof of their love and boasting to

the other churches.

1. The Proof of Your Love: The Power of Kindness in the Church

2. Boasting in the Lord: Proclaiming the Good News of Jesus Christ

1. Proverbs 17:17 - A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for a time of adversity.

2. Romans 12:10 - Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves.

2 Corinthians 9 is the ninth chapter of the Second Epistle of Paul to the Corinthians. In this chapter, Paul continues his discussion on giving generously and highlights the principles of cheerful giving and God's abundant provision.

1st Paragraph: Paul begins by encouraging the Corinthian believers to be ready with their generous contribution as they had previously promised. He emphasizes that those who sow sparingly will also reap sparingly, but those who sow bountifully will also reap bountifully (2 Corinthians 9:6). Paul emphasizes that each person should give according to their own decision and not out of compulsion or reluctance. He highlights that God loves a cheerful giver, one who gives willingly and joyfully from a grateful heart.

2nd Paragraph: Paul assures the believers that God is able to bless them abundantly so that they may have more than enough for every good work (2 Corinthians 9:8). He affirms that their generosity will result in thanksgiving to God from those who receive their gifts. Paul reminds them of how their giving not only meets the needs of others but also overflows with expressions of gratitude towards God.

3rd Paragraph: The chapter concludes with a reminder about the spiritual significance of their giving. Paul explains how their generosity demonstrates obedience to Christ's gospel and affirms their confession of faith (2 Corinthians 9:13-14). He encourages them to pray for him and his companions, acknowledging how their prayers have been instrumental in bringing about blessings and thanksgiving among many believers.

In summary, Chapter nine of Second Corinthians continues the discussion on generous giving. Paul encourages the Corinthian believers to fulfill their previous commitment by giving cheerfully according to each person's decision. He emphasizes God's ability to abundantly bless them so they can be generous in every good work. The chapter underscores how cheerful giving leads not only to meeting practical needs but also prompts thanksgiving towards God from both givers and recipients. Paul concludes by highlighting the spiritual significance of their giving, as it demonstrates obedience to the gospel and strengthens the bond among believers. This chapter emphasizes the

principles of cheerful giving, God's abundant provision, and the spiritual impact of generosity in the Christian community.

2 Corinthians 9:1 For as touching the ministering to the saints, it is superfluous for me to write to you:

The Apostle Paul did not need to write to the Corinthians about ministering to the saints, as they were already doing it.

1. The Joy of Giving: How to Serve the Saints with a Generous Heart

2. The Power of Giving: Understanding the Impact of Generous Giving

1. Proverbs 11:25 - He who refreshes others will himself be refreshed.

2. Luke 6:38 - Give, and it will be given to you: good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over will be put into your bosom. For with the same measure that you use, it will be measured back to you.

2 Corinthians 9:2 For I know the forwardness of your mind, for which I boast of you to them of Macedonia, that Achaia was ready a year ago; and your zeal hath provoked very many.

The Corinthians had shown a great amount of eagerness and enthusiasm to help the Christians in Macedonia, and this had inspired many other people to help as well.

1. The Power of Enthusiasm: How Our Zeal Can Inspire Others

2. The Blessings of Generosity: How Giving Can Impact Others

1. 2 Corinthians 8:1-5

2. Philippians 2:4-8

2 Corinthians 9:3 Yet have I sent the brethren, lest our boasting of you should be in vain in this behalf; that, as I said, ye may be ready:

Paul is sending fellow believers to the Corinthians to ensure that the Corinthians will be ready for his arrival.

1. The Power of Serving Together

2. The Importance of Preparation

1. Philippians 2:3-4 - "Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others."

2. James 1:22 - "But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves."

2 Corinthians 9:4 Lest haply if they of Macedonia come with me, and find you unprepared, we (that we say not, ye) should be ashamed in this same confident boasting.

Paul is concerned that if the people of Macedonia come with him and found the Corinthians unprepared, it would ruin his confidence.

1. The Importance of Being Prepared - Matthew 25:1-13

2. The Power of Humility - Philippians 2:3-11

1. 1 Corinthians 10:12 - Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall.

2. James 4:7 - Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

2 Corinthians 9:5 Therefore I thought it necessary to exhort the brethren, that they would go before unto you, and make up beforehand your bounty, whereof ye had notice before, that the same might be ready, as a matter of bounty, and not as of covetousness.

Paul exhorted the Corinthians to prepare a gift beforehand to be given with a spirit of generosity and not greed.

1. Generosity over Greed: Practicing a Spirit of Giving

2. God's Blessing of Generosity: A Life of Abundance

1. Luke 6:38 ???ive, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.??

2. Proverbs 11:25 ??? generous person will prosper; whoever refreshes others will be refreshed.??

2 Corinthians 9:6 But this I say, He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully.

We reap what we sow; those who sow sparingly will reap sparingly, while those who sow generously will reap generously.

1. Generosity Brings Abundance - 2 Corinthians 9:6

2. The Power of Sowing and Reaping - 2 Corinthians 9:6

1. Proverbs 11:24-25 - One person gives freely, yet gains even more; another withholds unduly, but comes to poverty. A generous person will prosper; whoever refreshes others will be refreshed.

2. Luke 6:38 - Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.

2 Corinthians 9:7 Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver.

We should give to God with a cheerful heart, without grudging or feeling obligated.

1. The Joy of Generous Giving

2. The Power of a Cheerful Heart

1. Proverbs 11:24-25 - There is one who scatters, yet increases more; and there is one who withholds more than is right, but it leads to poverty. The generous soul will be made rich, and he who waters will also be watered himself.

2. Luke 6:38 - Give, and it will be given to you: good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over will be put into your bosom. For with the same measure that you use, it will be measured back to you.

2 Corinthians 9:8 And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work:

God is able to provide grace and abundance toward us, so that we may be able to have all that we need and be able to do good works.

1. Abundance Through Grace: Relying on God's Provision

2. The Power of Generosity: Utilizing God's Provision

1. Matthew 6:33 - But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

2. Philippians 4:19 - And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus.

2 Corinthians 9:9 (As it is written, He hath dispersed abroad; he hath given to the poor: his righteousness remaineth for ever.

In 2 Corinthians 9:9, it is written that God has given to the poor and his righteousness remains forever.

1. The Blessing of Giving: How Giving to the Poor Glorifies God

2. The Promise of Righteousness: How God's Everlasting Righteousness Brings Joy

1. Proverbs 19:17 - He who is kind to the poor lends to the Lord, and He will reward him for what he has done.

2. Psalm 112:9 - He has scattered abroad his gifts to the poor, his righteousness endures forever; his horn will be lifted high in honor.

2 Corinthians 9:10 Now he that ministereth seed to the sower both minister bread for your food, and multiply your seed sown, and increase the fruits of your righteousness;)

God provides for the sower by providing bread for food and multiplying the sown seed to increase the fruits of righteousness.

1. Abundant Provision: How God meets all of our needs

2. The Fruit of Righteousness: The Blessings of Doing What is Right

1. Psalm 23:1 - "The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want."

2. Matthew 6:33 - "But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you."

2 Corinthians 9:11 Being enriched in every thing to all bountifulness, which causeth through us thanksgiving to God.

Paul encourages the Corinthians to be generous with their resources as it will bring thanks to God.

1. "The Blessings of Generosity"

2. "Stewardship: A Responsibility of the Faithful"

1. Proverbs 11:25, "A generous person will prosper; whoever refreshes others will be refreshed."

2. Luke 6:38, "Give, and it will be given to you. Good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap. For with the measure you use it will be measured back to you."

2 Corinthians 9:12 For the administration of this service not only supplieth the want of the saints, but is abundant also by many thanksgivings unto God;

The Corinthians are commended for their generous service to the saints, which has been blessed by God.

1. Generosity: A Mark of True Discipleship

2. The Blessings of Serving Others

1. Luke 6:38 - "Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you."

2. Matthew 25:40 - "The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'"

2 Corinthians 9:13 Whiles by the experiment of this ministration they glorify God for your professed subjection unto the gospel of Christ, and for your liberal distribution unto them, and unto all men;

Paul praises the Corinthians for their generous support of the ministry and all people.

1. The Power of Generosity: How We Can Bring Glory to God Through Our Giving

2. Recognizing the Value of Others: Understanding the Importance of Selfless Giving

1. Luke 6:38 - "Give, and it will be given to you. Good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap. For with the measure you use it will be measured back to you.??

2. Acts 20:35 - ?□n all things I have shown you that by working hard in this way we must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he himself said, ?□t is more blessed to give than to receive.?□□?

2 Corinthians 9:14 And by their prayer for you, which long after you for the exceeding grace of God in you.

Christians are encouraged to seek the grace of God through prayer.

1. The Power of Prayer: Seeking the Grace of God

2. Gratitude: Reaching Out to God in Prayer

1. James 5:16 - "The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working."

2. Philippians 4:6-7 - "Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God."

2 Corinthians 9:15 Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable gift.

The passage expresses gratitude to God for a gift that is beyond description.

1. The Power of Gratitude - How having an attitude of gratitude can open up new possibilities in life.

2. The Unspeakable Gift - The importance of recognizing and appreciating God's blessings.

1. Ephesians 1:3 - Praising God for his spiritual blessings in Christ.

2. Psalm 107:1 - O give thanks unto the Lord, for he is good: for his mercy endureth for ever.

2 Corinthians 10 is the tenth chapter of the Second Epistle of Paul to the Corinthians. In this chapter, Paul defends his apostolic authority and addresses false accusations made against him by some in the Corinthian church.

1st Paragraph: Paul begins by acknowledging that while he may appear meek and humble in person, he possesses authority from Christ to confront those who question his legitimacy (2 Corinthians 10:1-2). He assures the Corinthians that although he walks in the flesh, his weapons are not worldly but powerful through God for demolishing strongholds and arguments against the knowledge of God (2 Corinthians 10:3-5). Paul emphasizes that he is ready to take action against any disobedience once their obedience is complete.

2nd Paragraph: Paul addresses those who criticize him for boasting about his authority. He explains that his boasting is not based on human standards but on what God has assigned him (2 Corinthians 10:7). He asserts that it is not wise to compare or measure

oneself by others' standards as each person has a unique sphere of influence appointed by God. Paul defends his ministry, highlighting how he had planted churches and labored diligently among them (2 Corinthians 10:12-18).

3rd Paragraph: The chapter concludes with a warning to those who oppose him. Paul warns that when he arrives in Corinth, he will confront those who have been spreading false accusations against him. He asserts that it is not about external appearances or empty words but about demonstrating true power through Christ's presence within him (2 Corinthians 10:8-11). He urges them to examine themselves before making judgments about others and emphasizes that true commendation comes from the Lord.

In summary, Chapter ten of Second Corinthians focuses on defending Paul's apostolic authority and addressing false accusations made against him. He asserts his spiritual authority given by Christ and explains how his weapons are powerful for demolishing arguments against God's knowledge. Paul defends his boasting, emphasizing that his authority is from God and not based on human standards. He warns those who oppose him, assuring them that he will confront their false accusations when he arrives in Corinth. Paul emphasizes the importance of true power through Christ and urges them to examine themselves before making judgments about others. This chapter highlights the spiritual authority of Paul, the defense against false accusations, and the need for self-examination and reliance on God's power rather than human standards.

2 Corinthians 10:1 Now I Paul myself beseech you by the meekness and gentleness of Christ, who in presence am base among you, but being absent am bold toward you:

Paul encourages the Corinthians to be united in the meekness and gentleness of Christ, even though he himself is humble when present and bolder when absent.

1. The Power of Christian Humility

2. The Importance of Gentleness in Unity

1. Matthew 11:29 - "Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls."

2. Ephesians 4:2 - "With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love."

2 Corinthians 10:2 But I beseech you, that I may not be bold when I am present with that confidence, wherewith I think to be bold against some, which think of us as if we walked according to the flesh.

Paul begs the Corinthians not to judge him too harshly, as some people falsely believe he follows the ways of the world.

1. God's Ways vs. The World's Ways

2. Judging Others With Compassion

1. Matthew 7:1-5 - "Judge not, that you be not judged."

2. Romans 14:10 - "Why do you pass judgment on your brother? Or you, why do you despise your brother? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God."

2 Corinthians 10:3 For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh:

Believers are called to fight spiritual battles, not physical ones.

1. Be Brave: Fighting Spiritual Warfare

2. The Power of Prayer in Spiritual Warfare

1. Ephesians 6:10-18 - Put on the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

2. James 4:7 - Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

2 Corinthians 10:4 (For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;)

The passage speaks about the need to have spiritual weapons to battle against spiritual strongholds.

1. ?□irding Up with Spiritual Armor??

2. ?□od's Strength Helps Us Overcome Strongholds??

1. Ephesians 6:10-18 (Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might.)

2. 1 John 4:4 (Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world.)

2 Corinthians 10:5 Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;

The passage encourages us to bring every thought into obedience to Christ and to reject any that exalt themselves against the knowledge of God.

1. "The Power of Obedience: Bringing Every Thought into Captivity"

2. "Living in the Truth: Rejecting Imaginations and Every High Thing"

1. Philippians 4:8 - "Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things."

2. Psalm 19:14 - ?□et the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight, O Lord, my rock and my redeemer.??

2 Corinthians 10:6 And having in a readiness to revenge all disobedience, when your obedience is fulfilled.

Paul encourages the Corinthians to obey the commands of God fully and warns of the consequences of disobedience.

1. Be Careful to Obey God's Commands

2. The Consequences of Disobedience

1. Deuteronomy 28:1-2 "If you fully obey the Lord your God and carefully follow all his commands I give you today, the Lord your God will set you high above all the nations on earth. All these blessings will come on you and accompany you if you obey the Lord your

God."

2. Hebrews 2:2-3 "For since the message spoken through angels was binding, and every violation and disobedience received its just punishment, how shall we escape if we ignore so great a salvation?"

2 Corinthians 10:7 Do ye look on things after the outward appearance? If any man trust to himself that he is Christ's, let him of himself think this again, that, as he is Christ's, even so are we Christ's.

Paul encourages the Corinthians to remember that they, like him, are Christ's and should not judge by outward appearances.

1. Let us not judge by appearances, but instead trust in Christ.

2. We are all united in Christ, regardless of our differences.

1. Isaiah 11:3 - "And he shall judge among the nations, and shall rebuke many people: and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks: nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more."

2. James 2:1 - "My brethren, have not the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory, with respect of persons."

2 Corinthians 10:8 For though I should boast somewhat more of our authority, which the Lord hath given us for edification, and not for your destruction, I should not be ashamed:

Paul speaks of the authority given to him by the Lord to edify rather than destroy.

1. The Power of Love - How God's Authority through Love Can Transform Lives

2. The Authority of Forgiveness - Understanding God's Gift of Grace and Mercy

1. Romans 12:20-21 - "Therefore, if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him a drink; for in so doing you will heap coals of fire on his head. Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good."

2. John 13:34-35 - "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I

have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."

2 Corinthians 10:9 That I may not seem as if I would terrify you by letters.

Paul clarifies that his letters are not intended to frighten the Corinthians, but to encourage them.

1. The Power of Encouragement: How We Can Build Each Other Up

2. Letters of Love: Reaching Out to Others with Kindness

1. Philippians 4:8-9 - "Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable? f anything is excellent or praiseworthy? hink about such things. Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me? ut it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you."

2. Hebrews 10:24-25 - "And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another? nd all the more as you see the Day approaching."

2 Corinthians 10:10 For his letters, say they, are weighty and powerful; but his bodily presence is weak, and his speech contemptible.

Paul is criticized for the strength of his written words, but his physical presence and speech are deemed weak.

1. The Power of Words: How Our Words Can Make a Difference in the World

2. Finding Strength Through Weakness: Rely On God Not Our Own Strength

1. Proverbs 16:24 Pleasant words are as an honeycomb, sweet to the soul, and health to the bones.

2. Isaiah 40:29 He giveth power to the faint; and to them that have no might he increaseth strength.

2 Corinthians 10:11 Let such an one think this, that, such as we are in word by letters when we are absent, such will we be also in deed when we are present.

Paul encourages the Corinthians to consider what he says in his letters and reminds them that his words will reflect his actions when he is with them.

1. Embrace the Words of God with Open Hearts

2. Our Words and Deeds Should Reflect the Love of God

1. James 3:1-12 - Let not many of you become teachers, knowing that we shall receive a stricter judgement.

2. Psalm 19:14 - Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in thy sight, O Lord, my strength and my redeemer.

2 Corinthians 10:12 For we dare not make ourselves of the number, or compare ourselves with some that commend themselves: but they measuring themselves by themselves, and comparing themselves among themselves, are not wise.

Paul warns against comparing ourselves to others, as it is not wise to measure ourselves against one another.

1. The Danger of Comparison: Why Paul Warns Us Against It

2. Finding Contentment: Why We Should Not Measure Ourselves Against Others

1. Matthew 23:11-12 - ?□ut he that is greatest among you shall be your servant. And whosoever shall exalt himself shall be abased; and he that shall humble himself shall be exalted.??

2. Romans 12:3 - ?□or I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith.??

2 Corinthians 10:13 But we will not boast of things without our measure, but according to the measure of the rule which God hath distributed to us, a measure to reach even unto you.

Paul is reminding the Corinthians that they should not boast of things that are beyond their capabilities. Instead, they should strive for the goals that God has given them.

1. Recognizing and Achieving God's Purpose - 2 Corinthians 10:13

2. Knowing Your Limits and Reaching Your Potential- 2 Corinthians 10:13

1. Ephesians 2:10 - For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

2. Psalm 19:14 - Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight, O Lord, my rock and my redeemer.

2 Corinthians 10:14 For we stretch not ourselves beyond our measure, as though we reached not unto you: for we are come as far as to you also in preaching the gospel of Christ:

Paul and his companions preached the gospel of Christ to the Corinthians, not reaching beyond their measure.

1. Reaching Beyond: How to Stretch and Grow in Faith

2. Preaching the Gospel: Bringing the Good News to Others

1. Romans 10:14 - How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard?

2. Matthew 28:19-20 - Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.

2 Corinthians 10:15 Not boasting of things without our measure, that is, of other men's labours; but having hope, when your faith is increased, that we shall be enlarged by you according to our rule abundantly,

The apostle Paul encourages the Corinthians to increase their faith so that he and his

team may be able to help them even more.

1. Increase Your Faith, Increase Your Blessings

2. The Power of Hope Through Faith

1. Romans 10:17 - So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.

2. Ephesians 3:20 - Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us.

2 Corinthians 10:16 To preach the gospel in the regions beyond you, and not to boast in another man's line of things made ready to our hand.

Paul encourages Christians to spread the Gospel to those beyond their reach and not to take credit for the works of others.

1. The Power of Sharing the Gospel

2. Taking Credit for Others' Work

1. Matthew 28:19-20 (Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you)

2. Proverbs 16:18 (Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall)

2 Corinthians 10:17 But he that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord.

We should take pride in the Lord and not in ourselves.

1. The Lord is Worthy of Our Praise

2. The Lord is Our Source of Pride

1. Psalm 34:3 - "Glorify the Lord with me; let us exalt his name together."

2. James 4:10 - "Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up."

2 Corinthians 10:18 For not he that commendeth himself is approved, but whom the Lord commendeth.

It is not up to us to approve ourselves; it is up to the Lord to commend us.

1. Our Worth Is Found in the Lord

2. Our Approval Is Found in God's Eyes

1. Jeremiah 17:7-8 - Blessed is the man who trusts in the Lord, whose confidence is in him. He will be like a tree planted by the water that sends out its roots by the stream.

2. Proverbs 3:5-6 - Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.

2 Corinthians 11 is the eleventh chapter of the Second Epistle of Paul to the Corinthians. In this chapter, Paul defends his apostleship and exposes false teachers who have infiltrated the Corinthian church.

1st Paragraph: Paul expresses his concern that the Corinthian believers are easily swayed by false teachers who preach a different gospel and claim to be super-apostles (2 Corinthians 11:4). He warns them about being deceived by these individuals who disguise themselves as servants of righteousness but are actually deceitful workers (2 Corinthians 11:13-15). Paul highlights his own credentials as an apostle, boasting not out of pride but out of necessity to defend his authority. He recounts his sufferings, labors, imprisonments, beatings, and near-death experiences endured for the sake of spreading the true gospel.

2nd Paragraph: Paul addresses accusations made against him regarding financial matters. He declares that he did not burden the Corinthian believers financially during his time among them and asserts that he will continue to refrain from doing so (2 Corinthians 11:8-9). He points out that even though he did not take financial support from them directly, other churches provided for him while he ministered in Corinth. Paul expresses deep love and concern for the Corinthian believers despite their susceptibility to false teachings.

3rd Paragraph: The chapter concludes with a warning against those who seek to exploit and deceive them. Paul states that if anyone comes preaching a different Jesus or a different spirit or a different gospel than what they had received from him, they should not tolerate it (2 Corinthians 11:4). He encourages them to remain steadfast in their faith and discerning in their judgment. Despite facing opposition and slanderous accusations, Paul affirms his commitment to Christ's work and vows to continue preaching the truth.

In summary, Chapter eleven of Second Corinthians focuses on defending Paul's apostleship against false teachers and exposing their deceitful tactics. Paul warns the Corinthian believers about being easily deceived by those who preach a different gospel and claim to be super-apostles. He highlights his own sufferings and credentials as an apostle, emphasizing his commitment to spreading the true gospel. Paul addresses accusations regarding financial matters, assuring them that he did not burden them financially. He concludes with a warning against false teachings and encourages the believers to remain steadfast in their faith and discerning in their judgment. This chapter emphasizes the importance of discernment, defending the true gospel, and remaining faithful amidst opposition from false teachers.

2 Corinthians 11:1 Would to God ye could bear with me a little in my folly: and indeed bear with me.

Paul is asking the Corinthians to put up with him, even though he may seem foolish.

1. The Power of Forgiveness - How to put up with others, even when they make mistakes.

2. Embracing Humility - Learning to accept our own foolishness and the foolishness of others.

1. Luke 6:37 - "Judge not, and you will not be judged; condemn not, and you will not be condemned; forgive, and you will be forgiven;"

2. Romans 12:14-16 - "Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. Live in harmony with one another. Do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly. Never be wise in your own sight."

2 Corinthians 11:2 For I am jealous over you with godly jealousy: for I have espoused you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ.

Paul expresses his jealousy for the Corinthian believers, wanting them to remain faithful to Christ alone.

1. “Abiding Faithfulness: A Call to Remain Chaste for Christ”

2. “God’s Jealousy and Our Response of Loyalty to Christ”

1. Romans 12:2 - “And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.”

2. Ephesians 5:25-27 - “Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.”

2 Corinthians 11:3 But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.

Paul expresses his concern that the Corinthians' minds would be corrupted away from the simplicity of faith in Christ, as the serpent deceived Eve in the Garden of Eden.

1. Don't be Deceived: Guarding Against the Subtlety of Sin

2. The Simplicity of Faith in Christ: Standing Firm in Uncompromising Belief

1. Genesis 3:1-7 - The serpent deceives Eve in the Garden of Eden

2. James 1:14-15 - Do not be deceived by temptation

2 Corinthians 11:4 For if he that cometh preacheth another Jesus, whom we have not preached, or if ye receive another spirit, which ye have not received, or another gospel, which ye have not accepted, ye might well bear with him.

Paul warns the Corinthians against accepting false teachings from preachers, as they could be introducing a different Jesus, a different Spirit, or a different gospel than what was preached.

1. The Danger of False Teachings - 2 Corinthians 11:4

2. The Authority of Scripture - 2 Corinthians 11:4

1. Galatians 1:6-9 - Paul warns against listening to another gospel

2. 1 John 4:1 - Testing false prophets to see if they are from God

2 Corinthians 11:5 For I suppose I was not a whit behind the very chiefest apostles.

Paul was not inferior to the other apostles in any way.

1. Don't Minimize Your Worth - 2 Corinthians 11:5

2. Believe in Yourself - 2 Corinthians 11:5

1. Philippians 4:13 - I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.

2. Romans 12:3 - For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment.

2 Corinthians 11:6 But though I be rude in speech, yet not in knowledge; but we have been throughly made manifest among you in all things.

Paul states that although he may be unrefined in his speech, he is not lacking in knowledge. He has demonstrated his knowledge and understanding to the Corinthians.

1. The Power of Knowledge: How Knowing God's Word Changes Our Lives

2. Speech Matters: How Our Words Reflect Our Character

1. Proverbs 16:21 - The wise in heart are called discerning, and pleasant words promote instruction.

2. James 3:2-12 - For we all stumble in many ways. And if anyone does not stumble in what he says, he is a perfect man, able also to bridle his whole body.

2 Corinthians 11:7 Have I committed an offence in abasing myself that ye might be exalted, because I have preached to you the gospel of God freely?

Paul is questioning if he has committed an offence by humbling himself and preaching the gospel of God freely to the Corinthians.

1. The Power of Selflessness: What it Means to Humble Ourselves and Freely Preach the Gospel of God

2. Abasing Ourselves for the Exaltation of Others: The Example of Paul

1. Luke 6:38 - "Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you."

2. Philippians 2:3-4 - "Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others."

2 Corinthians 11:8 I robbed other churches, taking wages of them, to do you service.

Paul admits that he took wages from other churches in order to serve the Corinthians.

1. Serving Others in Love: The Example of Paul

2. How to Serve with Selflessness and Sacrifice

1. Matthew 20:28 - "Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many."

2. Philippians 2:7 - "But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men."

2 Corinthians 11:9 And when I was present with you, and wanted, I was chargeable to no man: for that which was lacking to me the brethren which came from Macedonia supplied: and in all things I have kept myself from being burdensome unto you, and so will I keep myself.

Paul kept himself from being a burden to the Corinthians and was supported by the Macedonians when he was in need.

1. The Power of Generosity: How God Uses the Generous Heart to Provide for His People

2. The Strength of Humble Service: How We Can Serve Without Becoming a Burden

1. Philippians 4:19 - And my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

2. Luke 14:12-14 - Then said he also to him that bade him, When thou makest a dinner or a supper, call not thy friends, nor thy brethren, neither thy kinsmen, nor thy rich neighbours; lest they also bid thee again, and a recompence be made thee. But when thou makest a feast, call the poor, the maimed, the lame, the blind: And thou shalt be blessed; for they cannot recompense thee: for thou shalt be recompensed at the resurrection of the just.

2 Corinthians 11:10 As the truth of Christ is in me, no man shall stop me of this boasting in the regions of Achaia.

Paul boasts that no man will be able to stop him from proclaiming the truth of Christ in the region of Achaia.

1. Do Not be Afraid to Speak the Truth of Christ

2. Stand Firm in the Face of Opposition

1. Romans 8:31 - "What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?"

2. Psalm 27:14 - "Wait for the Lord; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the Lord!"

2 Corinthians 11:11 Wherefore? because I love you not? God knoweth.

Paul expresses his love for the Corinthians and his concern for their spiritual well-being, questioning whether their lack of faith in him is due to a lack of love.

1. The Power of Love: Learning to Trust in God's Love

2. The Unbreakable Bond of Love: Growing in Faith Together

1. 1 John 4:19 - We love because He first loved us.

2. Romans 5:5 - And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us.

2 Corinthians 11:12 But what I do, that I will do, that I may cut off occasion from them which desire occasion; that wherein they glory, they may be found even as we.

The author is determined to do what they have set out to do, even if it means depriving those who seek an opportunity to criticize them of that chance.

1. "Be Steadfast in Your Commitments - 2 Corinthians 11:12"

2. "Overcoming Opposition - 2 Corinthians 11:12"

1. John 15:18-19 - "If the world hates you, keep in mind that it hated me first. If you belonged to the world, it would love you as its own. As it is, you do not belong to the world, but I have chosen you out of the world. That is why the world hates you."

2. Matthew 5:11-12 - "Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you."

2 Corinthians 11:13 For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ.

False apostles and deceitful workers pretend to be apostles of Christ.

1: We must be vigilant and discerning when evaluating those claiming to be apostles of Christ.

2: We should be wary of people who try to deceive us into believing they are apostles of Christ.

1: Acts 20:29-30 - For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock. Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them.

2: 1 John 4:1 - Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world.

2 Corinthians 11:14 And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light.

Satan disguises himself as an angel of light in order to deceive people.

1. The Deceptive Nature of Satan - how he misleads us and causes us to doubt God's truth.

2. Put On the Full Armor of God - the only way to fight the lies of the enemy is to clothe ourselves in the power of God.

1. Ephesians 6:11; Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

2. 2 Corinthians 10:3-5; For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh: (For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;) Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ.

2 Corinthians 11:15 Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works.

Paul reminds the Corinthians that if Satan can disguise himself as an angel of light, it is not surprising that his servants can appear as servants of righteousness. However, their ultimate end will be determined by their deeds.

1. The Danger of False Teaching: How to Recognize False Prophets and Discern the Truth

2. The End of All Deeds: Reaping What You Sow and the Judgement of God

1. John 8:44 “You belong to your father, the devil, and you want to carry out your father’s desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies.”

2. 1 John 4:1 “Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world.”

2 Corinthians 11:16 I say again, Let no man think me a fool; if otherwise, yet as a fool receive me, that I may boast myself a little.

Paul asks the Corinthians not to consider him a fool, and then states that if they do, he will accept it so that he may be able to boast a little.

1. The Necessity of Humility in Leadership

2. Understanding Pride and Boasting in the Bible

1. Proverbs 11:2 - When pride comes, then comes disgrace, but with humility comes wisdom.

2. James 4:10 - Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you.

2 Corinthians 11:17 That which I speak, I speak it not after the Lord, but as it were foolishly, in this confidence of boasting.

Paul claims that the words he speaks are not from the Lord, but rather come from a place of boasting.

1. The Danger of Boasting - Proverbs 27:1-2

2. The Power of Humility - James 4:6-7

1. Proverbs 27:1-2 - "Do not boast about tomorrow, for you do not know what a day may bring. Let another praise you, and not your own mouth; someone else, and not your own lips."

2. James 4:6-7 - "But He gives more grace. Therefore it says, "God resists the proud, but

gives grace to the humble." Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you."

2 Corinthians 11:18 Seeing that many glory after the flesh, I will glory also.

Paul says he will boast in his suffering and weaknesses, even though many boast in their physical accomplishments.

1. The Power of Weakness: Learning to Boast in Our Suffering

2. Learning to Embrace the Cross: Boasting in Weakness

1. Philippians 3:7-8, “But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ. Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord.”

2. Isaiah 45:3, “I will give you hidden treasures, riches stored in secret places, so that you may know that I am the Lord, the God of Israel, who summons you by name.”

2 Corinthians 11:19 For ye suffer fools gladly, seeing ye yourselves are wise.

Paul warns the Corinthians to be careful of false teachers who will pretend to be wise, as they are quick to accept them.

1. "Fools Bearing False Gifts: Ignoring the Warning Signs of False Teachers"

2. "Seeing Through the Deception: Knowing the Signs of False Teachers"

1. Proverbs 14:15 - "The simple believes everything, but the prudent gives thought to his steps."

2. 2 Peter 2:1-2 - "But false prophets also arose among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Master who bought them, bringing upon themselves swift destruction. And many will follow their sensuality, and because of them the way of truth will be blasphemed."

2 Corinthians 11:20 For ye suffer, if a man bring you into bondage, if a man devour you, if a man take of you, if a man exalt himself, if a man smite you on the face.

The Apostle Paul warns the Corinthians that they will suffer if they allow themselves to be taken advantage of or mistreated.

1. Protecting Yourselves From Manipulation and Abuse

2. Standing Against Injustice and Oppression

1. James 1:19-20 - Know this, my beloved brothers: let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger; for the anger of man does not produce the righteousness of God.

2. Proverbs 18:14 - A man's spirit will endure sickness, but a crushed spirit who can bear?

2 Corinthians 11:21 I speak as concerning reproach, as though we had been weak. Howbeit whereinsoever any is bold, (I speak foolishly,) I am bold also.

Paul claims that he speaks with boldness even when he appears weak.

1. God is our Strength in Weakness

2. Boldness in the Face of Weakness

1. Philippians 4:13 - I can do all things through Christ which strengthens me.

2. 1 Corinthians 1:25 - For the foolishness of God is wiser than men; and the weakness of God is stronger than men.

2 Corinthians 11:22 Are they Hebrews? so am I. Are they Israelites? so am I. Are they the seed of Abraham? so am I.

Paul proudly proclaimed his Jewish heritage and pedigree.

1: We should have pride in our heritage and be proud of who we are.

2: We should use our heritage to build bridges and foster relationships with others.

1: Galatians 3:28-29 - There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

2: Acts 17:26-27 - And he made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined allotted periods and the boundaries of their dwelling place.

2 Corinthians 11:23 Are they ministers of Christ? (I speak as a fool) I am more; in labours more abundant, in stripes above measure, in prisons more frequent, in deaths oft.

Paul boasts of his own hard labors and sufferings for the Gospel, far surpassing those of the false teachers.

1. The Labor of Love: The Cost of Serving Jesus

2. Serving Christ with Joy and Perseverance

1. Philippians 4:13 - I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.

2. Romans 8:35-37 - Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

2 Corinthians 11:24 Of the Jews five times received I forty stripes save one.

Paul recounts his experience of being flogged by the Jews five times, receiving forty lashes each time, except for one.

1. Endurance Through Suffering: Examining the Example of Paul

2. Finding Strength in Weakness: Lessons from Paul’s Experience of Flogging

1. Romans 8:18 - "For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us."

2. 1 Peter 4:12-13 - "Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice insofar

as you share Christ’s sufferings, that you may also rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed."

2 Corinthians 11:25 Thrice was I beaten with rods, once was I stoned, thrice I suffered shipwreck, a night and a day I have been in the deep;

Paul recounts how he has suffered greatly for the sake of the gospel.

1. The Cost of Discipleship: Bearing the Cross with Paul

2. Persevering in Adversity: How Paul Endured Difficulties

1. Matthew 16:24-26; Philippians 3:10 - Counting the Cost and Finding Comfort in the Cross

2. Hebrews 11:36-38; James 1:2-4 - The Faith of Perseverance in the Face of Trials and Tribulations

2 Corinthians 11:26 In journeyings often, in perils of waters, in perils of robbers, in perils by mine own countrymen, in perils by the heathen, in perils in the city, in perils in the wilderness, in perils in the sea, in perils among false brethren;

Paul suffered many perils and hardships on his mission trips for the gospel.

1. God's Faithfulness in Difficult Circumstances

2. The Power of Perseverance in the Face of Adversity

1. Romans 8:35-39 - Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?

2. Hebrews 11:32-38 - Examples of faith in the face of great difficulty.

2 Corinthians 11:27 In weariness and painfulness, in watchings often, in hunger and thirst, in fastings often, in cold and nakedness.

Paul endured great suffering in his ministry, including weariness, painfulness, watchings,

hunger, thirst, fastings, cold, and nakedness.

1. The Suffering Servant: Paul's Example of Commitment and Courage

2. Significance of Sacrifice: Paul's Selfless Ministry

1. Philippians 3:8-11 - Paul's dedication to knowing Christ and being found in Him despite the cost

2. Hebrews 12:1-3 - The need to persevere through hardship by fixing our eyes on Jesus

2 Corinthians 11:28 Beside those things that are without, that which cometh upon me daily, the care of all the churches.

Paul was overwhelmed by the responsibility of caring for all the churches.

1. The Greatness of Responsibility: Paul's Example of Being Responsible for All the Churches

2. Faithful Service: What We Can Learn from Paul's Dedication to All the Churches

1. 1 Corinthians 4:2 - Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful.

2. Matthew 25:21 - His lord said unto him, Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord.

2 Corinthians 11:29 Who is weak, and I am not weak? who is offended, and I burn not?

Paul demonstrates his commitment to the Corinthians by highlighting his willingness to suffer like them.

1. Embrace the Suffering: An Examination of Paul's Commitment to the Corinthians

2. Paul's Example: The Call to Sacrifice for Others

1. Romans 12:15 - Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn.

2. Galatians 6:2 - Bear one another’s burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.

2 Corinthians 11:30 If I must needs glory, I will glory of the things which concern mine infirmities.

The Apostle Paul is willing to boast about his weaknesses in order to demonstrate God's strength.

1. "The Strength of Weakness"

2. "God's Power Revealed in Our Weakness"

1. Isaiah 40:29-31 - He gives power to the faint, and to him who has no might he increases strength.

2. 1 Corinthians 1:25 - For the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.

2 Corinthians 11:31 The God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which is blessed for evermore, knoweth that I lie not.

Paul reminded his readers that God knows the truth of his words and that He is blessed forevermore.

1. God's Truth Is Always Righteous - 2 Corinthians 11:31

2. Blessed Forevermore - 2 Corinthians 11:31

1. Romans 3:4 - “Let God be true though every one were a liar.”

2. 1 John 5:20 - “And we know that the Son of God has come and has given us understanding, so that we may know him who is true; and we are in him who is true, in his Son Jesus Christ. He is the true God and eternal life.”

2 Corinthians 11:32 In Damascus the governor under Aretas the king kept the city of the Damascenes with a garrison, desirous to apprehend me:

Paul was in Damascus and the governor of the city, under King Aretas, was trying to capture him.

1. Staying Faithful Despite the Challenges We Face

2. The Power of Faithful Perseverance

1. Hebrews 11:24-27 - By faith Moses, when he was come to years, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter; Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season; Esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt: for he had respect unto the recompence of the reward.

2. Romans 8:31 - What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us?

2 Corinthians 11:33 And through a window in a basket was I let down by the wall, and escaped his hands.

Paul recounts how he escaped the hands of his enemies by being lowered from a wall through a window in a basket.

1. God's Protection: How the Lord Guards Us from Our Enemies

2. The Power of Faith: Overcoming Challenges with Trust in God

1. 2 Corinthians 11:33

2. Psalm 18:2-3, "The Lord is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer, my God, my rock, in whom I take refuge, my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold and my refuge, my savior; you save me from violence."

2 Corinthians 12 is the twelfth chapter of the Second Epistle of Paul to the Corinthians. In this chapter, Paul shares about his extraordinary spiritual experiences, including a vision of paradise, and discusses his thorn in the flesh.

1st Paragraph: Paul begins by recounting a remarkable experience where he was caught up to the third heaven and heard inexpressible things that are not lawful for a man to utter (2 Corinthians 12:2-4). He humbly acknowledges that boasting about such revelations is not profitable but proceeds to share this account as an affirmation of his apostolic authority. Paul mentions a thorn in his flesh given by God to keep him from becoming conceited due to these extraordinary experiences.

2nd Paragraph: Paul describes how he pleaded with the Lord three times for this thorn to be removed from him (2 Corinthians 12:8). However, instead of removing it, God reassures him that His grace is sufficient and His power is made perfect in weakness (2 Corinthians 12:9). Paul recognizes that through his weaknesses, Christ's strength shines forth. He declares that he will boast all the more gladly about his weaknesses so that Christ's power may rest upon him.

3rd Paragraph: The chapter concludes with Paul asserting his willingness to endure hardships for Christ's sake. He shares how he has been insulted, persecuted, and faced various trials throughout his ministry (2 Corinthians 12:10). Yet, despite these challenges, he remains steadfast in serving Christ. He expresses confidence in God's strength working through him and affirms that when he is weak, then he is strong.

In summary, Chapter twelve of Second Corinthians focuses on Paul's extraordinary spiritual experiences and discusses his thorn in the flesh. Paul recounts being caught up to paradise and hearing divine revelations but refrains from boasting excessively. He shares about a thorn given by God as a humbling reminder and how he pleaded for its removal. Instead, God reassures him that His grace is sufficient and His power is made perfect in weakness. Paul embraces his weaknesses, boasting gladly about them to magnify Christ's strength. He concludes by affirming his willingness to endure hardships for the sake of Christ and expressing confidence in God's strength working through him. This chapter highlights the paradox of finding strength in weakness and emphasizes the sufficiency of God's grace amidst challenges faced by believers.

2 Corinthians 12:1 It is not expedient for me doubtless to glory. I will come to visions and revelations of the Lord.

Paul explains that he will share his experiences of having visions and revelations from God.

1. The Power of the Lord: Experiencing the Miraculous Through Visions and Revelations

2. Finding Strength in Weakness: How to Rely on the Lord's Power

1. Isaiah 40:31 - "But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint."

2. Hebrews 11:1 - "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen."

2 Corinthians 12:2 I knew a man in Christ above fourteen years ago, (whether in the body, I cannot tell; or whether out of the body, I cannot tell: God knoweth;) such an one caught up to the third heaven.

Paul recounts a man in Christ who was taken up to the third heaven fourteen years prior.

1.The Power of God's Presence: Experiencing the Third Heaven

2.God Knows What We Cannot: Trust in His Wisdom

1. Psalm 139:7-10 "Where shall I go from Your Spirit? Or where shall I flee from Your presence? If I ascend into heaven, You are there; If I make my bed in hell, behold, You are there. If I take the wings of the morning, And dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea, Even there Your hand shall lead me, And Your right hand shall hold me."

2. Isaiah 55:8-9 "For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are your ways My ways," says the Lord. "For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways, And My thoughts than your thoughts."

2 Corinthians 12:3 And I knew such a man, (whether in the body, or out of the body, I cannot tell: God knoweth;)

Paul recounts an experience of a man who was either in or out of the body, and God knows the truth.

1. ?□od's Knowledge?? Exploring the power of God's omniscience and how it is greater than our own.

2. ?□he Unknown Path?? Examining the journey of faith and trusting in the unknown.

1. Romans 11:33-36 - Exploring the depths of God's knowledge and wisdom.

2. Hebrews 4:13 - Examining the power of God's Word and how it reveals God's truth.

2 Corinthians 12:4 How that he was caught up into paradise, and heard unspeakable words, which it is not lawful for a man to utter.

Paul recounts an experience he had of being caught up into paradise where he heard words that were too amazing to put into words.

1. The Glories of Heaven: Experiencing God's Unspeakable Words

2. Overcoming the Challenges of Life: Paul's Experience of Paradise

1. Romans 8:18-25 - Suffering and Glory

2. Revelation 21:1-4 - The New Jerusalem

2 Corinthians 12:5 Of such an one will I glory: yet of myself I will not glory, but in mine infirmities.

Paul decides to glory in his weaknesses, instead of in himself.

1. Learning to Embrace Weaknesses - How to find strength in our weaknesses and use them to glorify God.

2. The Power of Humility - How to be humble and trust in God, no matter our weaknesses.

1. Philippians 4:13 - "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me."

2. Isaiah 40:28-31 - "Hast thou not known? hast thou not heard, that the everlasting God, the Lord, the Creator of the ends of the earth, fainteth not, neither is weary? there is no searching of his understanding. He giveth power to the faint; and to them that have no might he increaseth strength. Even the youths shall faint and be weary, and the young men shall utterly fall: But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint."

2 Corinthians 12:6 For though I would desire to glory, I shall not be a fool; for I will say the truth: but now I forbear, lest any man should think of me above that which he seeth me to be, or that he heareth of me.

Paul expresses his desire to glory but chooses to remain humble so as not to be viewed above his station.

1. The Benefits of Humility

2. The Importance of Remaining Humble

1. Philippians 2:3-4 "Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others."

2. James 4:10 "Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up."

2 Corinthians 12:7 And lest I should be exalted above measure through the abundance of the revelations, there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, the messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I should be exalted above measure.

Paul was given a "thorn in the flesh" from Satan to keep him from being too proud of the revelations he had received.

1. Pride comes before a fall: Lessons from Paul's Thorn in the Flesh.

2. Overcoming Temptation: Reflections on Paul's Struggle with a Thorn in the Flesh.

1. Proverbs 16:18 - Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall.

2. James 4:7-8 - Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you.

2 Corinthians 12:8 For this thing I besought the Lord thrice, that it might depart from me.

Paul pleaded with the Lord three times for deliverance from a difficulty he was facing.

1. God's Strength in our Weakness - 2 Corinthians 12:8

2. The Power of Persistent Prayer - 2 Corinthians 12:8

1. Romans 5:3-5 - Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope.

2. James 5:13 - Is any one of you in trouble? He should pray. Is anyone happy? Let him sing songs of praise.

2 Corinthians 12:9 And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

Paul was assured that God's grace was sufficient for his needs, and he chose to glory in his weaknesses so that the power of Christ may rest upon him.

1. Finding Strength In Weakness - How God's Grace Is Sufficient In Times Of Need

2. Glorifying God Through Hardship - Rejoicing In Weaknesses To Experience The Power Of Christ

1. Philippians 4:13 - I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me

2. Romans 8:28 - And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.

2 Corinthians 12:10 Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong.

Paul was able to be strong in his faith despite facing difficulties in life, and he took pleasure in them because of his love for Christ.

1. The Strength of a Believer in Adversity

2. Rejoicing in Suffering for Christ's Sake

1. James 1:2-4 - Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

2. Matthew 5:11-12 - ?□lessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

2 Corinthians 12:11 I am become a fool in glorying; ye have compelled me: for I ought to have been commended of you: for in nothing am I behind the very chiefest apostles, though I be nothing.

Paul asserts that he is not behind the greatest apostles, even though he is nothing.

1. The Power of Humility: How Paul's Example Shows us the Strength of Being Humble

2. The Strength of Nothingness: How Paul's Example Shows us that Faith and Humility are More Valuable than Anything Else

1. Philippians 2:3-8 - Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves.

2. 1 Corinthians 4:7-13 - What do you have that you did not receive? If then you received it, why do you boast as if you did not receive it?

2 Corinthians 12:12 Truly the signs of an apostle were wrought among you in all patience, in signs, and wonders, and mighty deeds.

Paul displays signs of an apostle through patience, signs, wonders, and mighty deeds in the Corinthian church.

1. Patience is a Sign of an Apostle

2. Signs, Wonders, and Mighty Deeds in the Church

1. Hebrews 13:7 - Remember your leaders, those who spoke to you the word of God. Consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith.

2. 1 Corinthians 2:4-5 - My speech and my message were not in plausible words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, that your faith might not rest in the wisdom of men but in the power of God.

2 Corinthians 12:13 For what is it wherein ye were inferior to other churches, except it be that I myself was not burdensome to you? forgive me this wrong.

Paul humbly requested the Corinthians to forgive him for not being a burden to them in comparison to other churches.

1. Learn to Forgive: Understanding the Power of Forgiveness in Our Lives

2. The Importance of Being Humble: Why Humility Is Vital

1. Matthew 6:14-15 - ?□or if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you, but if you do not forgive others their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.??

2. Philippians 2:3 - ?□o nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves.??

2 Corinthians 12:14 Behold, the third time I am ready to come to you; and I will not be burdensome to you: for I seek not yours, but you: for the children ought not to lay up for the parents, but the parents for the children.

The passage emphasizes that parents should provide for their children instead of the contrary.

1. "Who is Responsible for Our Children?"

2. "The Blessing of Providing for Our Children"

1. Ephesians 6:4 - "And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord."

2. Proverbs 17:6 - "Children?□ children are the crown of old men; and the glory of children are their fathers."

2 Corinthians 12:15 And I will very gladly spend and be spent for you; though the more abundantly I love you, the less I be loved.

Paul expresses his willingness to sacrifice himself for the Corinthians, despite their lack of reciprocal love for him.

1. The Power of Unconditional Love: Exploring Paul's Bold Sacrifice in 2 Corinthians 12:15

2. Learning to Love Unconditionally: The Challenge of Paul's Message in 2 Corinthians 12:15

1. Romans 5:8 - But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

2. John 15:13 - Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one? life for one? friends.

2 Corinthians 12:16 But be it so, I did not burden you: nevertheless, being crafty, I caught you with guile.

Paul craftily won the Corinthians over to his side without burdening them.

1. The Power of Persuasion: How to Win People Over Without Making Them Feel Pressured

2. The Craftiness of Paul and the Corinthians: How to Use Guile to Achieve Positive Results

1. Proverbs 16:21 - The wise in heart are called discerning, and pleasant words promote instruction.

2. Matthew 10:16 - Behold, I am sending you out as sheep in the midst of wolves, so be wise as serpents and innocent as doves.

2 Corinthians 12:17 Did I make a gain of you by any of them whom I sent unto you?

Paul asks the Corinthians if he made a gain out of any of the people that he sent to them.

1. The Power of Selflessness: Choosing to Serve Others Without Expectation of Gain

2. Reevaluating Our Motives: Examining Our Hearts Behind Our Actions

1. Matthew 6:2 - ?□herefore, when you do a charitable deed, do not sound a trumpet before you as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may have glory from men. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward.??

2. Philippians 2:3-4 - ?□et nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others.??

2 Corinthians 12:18 I desired Titus, and with him I sent a brother. Did Titus make a gain of you? walked we not in the same spirit? walked we not in the same steps?

Paul sent Titus and a brother to Corinth to ensure that the Corinthians were following the same path.

1. Walking in the Same Spirit - Examining What it Means to Follow God

2. Living in Community - The Benefits of Unity in Christ

1. Galatians 5:25 - If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit.

2. Romans 12:3-5 - For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another.

2 Corinthians 12:19 Again, think ye that we excuse ourselves unto you? we speak before God in Christ: but we do all things, dearly beloved, for your edifying.

Paul implores the Corinthians to remember that his words are spoken before God and that he works for their edification.

1. The Power of Our Words: Speaking Before God

2. Edifying the Body of Christ: Living a Life of Service

1. James 3:3-12 - The Power of Our Words

2. Philippians 2:3-11 - Edifying the Body of Christ

2 Corinthians 12:20 For I fear, lest, when I come, I shall not find you such as I would, and that I shall be found unto you such as ye would not: lest there be debates, envyings, wraths, strifes, backbitings, whisperings, swellings, tumults:

Paul is concerned that when he visits the Corinthians, they will not welcome him as he hoped, and there may be strife among them.

1. The Danger of Strife - Romans 12:18

2. The Blessings of Unity - Psalm 133:1

1. Romans 15:5 - May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus.

2. James 3:16 - For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there will be disorder and every vile practice.

2 Corinthians 12:21 And lest, when I come again, my God will humble me among you, and that I shall bewail many which have sinned already, and have not repented of the uncleanness and fornication and lasciviousness which they have committed.

Paul expresses his concern that when he visits again, God may humble him due to the sin of the church members who have not repented from their immoral behavior.

1. The Power of Repentance - Turning away from sin to receive God's grace and mercy.

2. The Need for Humility - Recognizing our smallness before God and submitting to His will.

1. Romans 3:23-24 - For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.

2. James 4:6-7 - But he gives us more grace. That is why Scripture says: ?God opposes the proud but shows favor to the humble.??Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

2 Corinthians 13 is the thirteenth and final chapter of the Second Epistle of Paul to the Corinthians. In this chapter, Paul gives his final exhortations to the Corinthian believers, warns them of his impending visit, and encourages them to examine themselves.

1st Paragraph: Paul begins by asserting his authority as an apostle and reminding the Corinthians that he will not hesitate to exercise discipline when he arrives (2 Corinthians 13:1-2). He challenges them to examine themselves and test whether they are truly in the faith. He urges them to recognize that Jesus Christ is in them unless they fail the test. Paul expresses his hope that they will pass this test and encourages their growth in righteousness.

2nd Paragraph: Paul acknowledges that although he may seem weak in their eyes, he prays that God will grant him strength when he comes so that he can exercise discipline if necessary (2 Corinthians 13:3-4). He emphasizes that his desire is for their edification rather than destruction. He urges them to do what is right even if it means appearing weak in worldly terms.

3rd Paragraph: The chapter concludes with a series of exhortations. Paul encourages unity among believers, urging them to aim for restoration, comfort one another, be of one mind, live in peace, and experience God's love and peace (2 Corinthians 13:11). He advises them to greet one another with a holy kiss as a sign of affectionate fellowship. Finally, he pronounces a benediction invoking God's grace upon them all.

In summary, Chapter thirteen of Second Corinthians contains Paul's final exhortations and warnings before his visit to Corinth. He asserts his authority as an apostle and warns about exercising discipline if necessary. Paul challenges the believers to examine themselves and test their faith while encouraging their growth in righteousness. He emphasizes unity among believers and advises on how they should interact with one another in love and peace. The chapter concludes with a benediction invoking God's grace upon them. This chapter underscores the importance of self-examination, unity, and living in accordance with God's principles as believers await Paul's visit.

2 Corinthians 13:1 This is the third time I am coming to you. In the mouth of two or three witnesses shall every word be established.

Paul visits the Corinthians for the third time in order to strengthen his word through the testimony of two or three witnesses.

1. God's Call: Strengthening our Testimony

2. The Power of Establishing God's Word

1. Matthew 18:16 - "But if he will not hear thee, then take with thee one or two more, that in the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established."

2. Hebrews 10:24-25 - "And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching."

2 Corinthians 13:2 I told you before, and foretell you, as if I were present, the second time; and being absent now I write to them which heretofore have sinned, and to all other, that, if I come again, I will not spare:

Paul warns the Corinthians that if he returns, he will not show mercy to those who have sinned against him previously.

1. The Mercy of God: A Call to Repentance

2. The Consequences of Unrepentant Sin

1. Hebrews 4:16 - Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.

2. James 5:20 - Let him know, that he which converteth the sinner from the error of his way shall save a soul from death, and shall hide a multitude of sins.

2 Corinthians 13:3 Since ye seek a proof of Christ speaking in me, which to you-ward is not weak, but is mighty in you.

Paul is encouraging the Corinthians to seek proof of Christ's presence within him, stressing the power of this evidence in their lives.

1. Seek Evidence of Christ's Presence in Your Life

2. Be Encouraged by the Power of Christ in You

1. Hebrews 11:1 - Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.

2. 2 Peter 1:17 - For he received honor and glory from God the Father when the voice came to him from the Majestic Glory, saying, ?□his is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.??

2 Corinthians 13:4 For though he was crucified through weakness, yet he liveth by the power of God. For we also are weak in him, but we shall live with him by the power of God toward you.

Jesus was crucified out of weakness, but He rose again through the power of God. We too are weak, but we will live through Him with the power of God.

1. God's Power is Greater than Our Weakness

2. The Power of Resurrection and Life

1. Romans 8:11, "But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you."

2. 1 Corinthians 15:57, "But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ."

2 Corinthians 13:5 Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates?

The passage encourages readers to self-examine and prove that Jesus Christ is in them, lest they be reprobates.

1. "The Self-Examination of Faith"

2. "The Assurance of Knowing Jesus Christ"

1. Romans 8:9-11 - "But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his. And if Christ be in you, the body is dead because of sin; but the Spirit is life because of righteousness. But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you."

2. Luke 9:23-24 - "And he said to them all, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me. For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: but whosoever will lose his life for my sake, the same shall save it."

2 Corinthians 13:6 But I trust that ye shall know that we are not reprobates.

Paul encourages the Corinthians to recognize that he and his companions are not rejected by God.

1. "The Power of Trust in God"

2. "Not Reprobates: Living in God's Favor"

1. Romans 8:38-39 - "For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord."

2. Ephesians 2:4-5 - "But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ? y grace you have been saved."

2 Corinthians 13:7 Now I pray to God that ye do no evil; not that we should appear approved, but that ye should do that which is honest, though we be as reprobates.

Paul prays to God that the Corinthians will do what is right, even though he and his companions may not be seen as approved.

1. Doing the Right Thing, Even When it May Not Be Popular

2. The Importance of Integrity Despite Our Imperfections

1. 1 Peter 2:12 ? eeping your conduct among the Gentiles honorable, so that when they

speak against you as evildoers, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day of visitation.??

2. James 4:17 ?□o whoever knows the right thing to do and fails to do it, for him it is sin.??

2 Corinthians 13:8 For we can do nothing against the truth, but for the truth.

Paul encourages the Corinthians to be true to the truth as it is the only thing that can withstand any opposition.

1. ?□tanding Firm in the Truth??

2. ?□he Unchanging Power of Truth??

1. Isaiah 40:8 - ?□he grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever.??

2. Proverbs 12:19 - ?□ruthful lips endure forever, but a lying tongue is but for a moment.??

2 Corinthians 13:9 For we are glad, when we are weak, and ye are strong: and this also we wish, even your perfection.

The apostle Paul desires for the Corinthians to be perfect in their faith.

1. Perfecting Faith through Weakness

2. Rejoice in Weakness, Pursue Perfection

1. Romans 8:28 - And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.

2. Matthew 5:48 - Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect.

2 Corinthians 13:10 Therefore I write these things being absent, lest being present I should use sharpness, according to the power which the Lord hath given me to edification, and not to destruction.

Paul writes to the Corinthians in order to edify them, and to avoid having to be sharp with them in person, using the power given to him by the Lord.

1. The Power of Edification: How Paul Used His Power to Build Up the Church

2. The Strength of Love: How Paul Avoided Using His Power to Tear Down the Church

1. Galatians 6:1-2 - "Brothers, if anyone is caught in any transgression, you who are spiritual should restore him in a spirit of gentleness. Keep watch on yourself, lest you too be tempted. Bear one another?□ burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.??

2. Romans 15:14 - "I myself am satisfied about you, my brothers, that you yourselves are full of goodness, filled with all knowledge and able to instruct one another."

2 Corinthians 13:11 Finally, brethren, farewell. Be perfect, be of good comfort, be of one mind, live in peace; and the God of love and peace shall be with you.

1. God's Perfection and Comfort: Exploring 2 Corinthians 13:11

2. How to Live in Peace: A Look at 2 Corinthians 13:11

1. Philippians 4:7-9 - And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

2. Romans 15:5-6 - Now may the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

2 Corinthians 13:12 Greet one another with an holy kiss.

Paul calls for the believers to greet each other with a holy kiss.

1. A Kiss of Unity: Exploring the Significance of Paul's Greeting

2. The Power of a Holy Kiss: Showing Love and Respect in the Church

1. Ephesians 5:21 - Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.

2. 1 Peter 5:14 - Greet one another with a kiss of love.

2 Corinthians 13:13 All the saints salute you.

Paul sends greetings to the Corinthians from all the saints.

1. A Greeting of Peace and Unity: The Strength of the Church.

2. The Power of Belonging: Encouragement Through Fellowship.

1. Colossians 3:15 - Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace.

2. Ephesians 4:2-3 - Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.

2 Corinthians 13:14 The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Ghost, be with you all. Amen.

Paul wishes grace, love, and communion with the Holy Spirit be with the people of Corinth.

1. The Power of the Trinity: How to Receive the Grace, Love, and Communion of the Holy Spirit

2. The Blessing of Paul's Benediction: How to Receive the Blessing of Grace, Love, and Communion

1. Romans 5:5 - "And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us."

2. John 15:26 - ?□ut when the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth, who proceeds from the Father, he will bear witness about me.??

Galatians 1 is the first chapter of the Epistle of Paul to the Galatians. In this chapter, Paul establishes his apostolic authority and addresses the issue of false teachings that have infiltrated the Galatian churches.

1st Paragraph: Paul begins by emphasizing his divine calling as an apostle, not appointed by man but through Jesus Christ and God the Father (Galatians 1:1). He expresses astonishment at how quickly the Galatian believers have turned away from the true gospel to a distorted version preached by false teachers. Paul asserts that there is only one gospel, and anyone who preaches a different gospel should be accursed (Galatians 1:6-9). He emphasizes that he received his message directly from Christ through revelation.

2nd Paragraph: Paul defends his conversion and ministry by recounting his former life as a zealous persecutor of Christians. He highlights how God called him in His grace and revealed His Son to him so that he could preach among the Gentiles (Galatians 1:13-16). Paul emphasizes that he did not consult with any human authority but went immediately into Arabia before returning to Damascus. He then visited Jerusalem briefly to meet with Peter and James, but he did not receive any additional instructions or teachings from them.

3rd Paragraph: The chapter concludes with Paul affirming his independence from human approval or validation. He asserts that he is not trying to please people but rather God, who has called him for a specific purpose (Galatians 1:10). Paul reiterates that he received his gospel directly from Christ and was not influenced or taught by others. He emphasizes that his message is consistent throughout all regions, indicating its divine origin.

In summary, Chapter one of Galatians focuses on establishing Paul's apostolic authority and addressing false teachings in the Galatian churches. Paul emphasizes receiving his calling and gospel directly from Jesus Christ, not through human authority. He expresses astonishment at the believers' quick departure from the true gospel to a distorted version preached by false teachers. Paul defends his conversion and ministry, highlighting his independence from human validation and asserting that his message is consistent throughout all regions. This chapter highlights the importance of adhering to the true gospel and recognizing Paul's divine calling as an apostle.

Galatians 1:1 Paul, an apostle, (not of men, neither by man, but by Jesus Christ, and God the Father, who raised him from the dead;)

Paul introduces himself as an apostle called not by any man but by Jesus Christ and God the Father.

1: We are all called by God to serve His purpose.

2: The life of Paul serves as a reminder of our own calling by God.

1: Matthew 4:19 - And he saith unto them, Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.

2: 1 Corinthians 1:9 - God is faithful, by whom ye were called unto the fellowship of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

Galatians 1:2 And all the brethren which are with me, unto the churches of Galatia:

Paul sends greetings to the churches of Galatia from himself and his companions.

1: Paul's Greeting of Love and Unity to the Churches of Galatia

2: The Power of Community and Fellowship in the Church

1: Romans 12:10 - Love one another with brotherly affection; outdo one another in showing honor.

2: 1 Thessalonians 5:11 - Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing.

Galatians 1:3 Grace be to you and peace from God the Father, and from our Lord Jesus Christ,

Paul's greeting to the Galatians includes grace and peace from God the Father and Jesus Christ.

1. The Peace of God in Difficult Times

2. The Grace of God in Daily Life

1. Philippians 4:6-7 - Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

2. Ephesians 2:8-9 - For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— not by works, so that no one can boast.

Galatians 1:4 Who gave himself for our sins, that he might deliver us from this present evil world, according to the will of God and our Father:

Jesus gave himself to save us from the world and its evil ways, according to God's will.

1: Jesus sacrificed himself to save us from sin and evil.

2: We can be saved from the world's sinful ways through Jesus' sacrifice.

1: Ephesians 2:8-9: "For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast."

2: Matthew 11:28-30: "Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

Galatians 1:5 To whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

This passage is a doxology of praise to God for His glorious work of salvation.

1. God's Saving Grace: A Reason to Give Him Glory

2. The Unconditional Love of God: A Basis of Thanksgiving

1. Ephesians 2:8-9 - For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— not by works, so that no one can boast.

2. Romans 5:8 - But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Galatians 1:6 I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel:

Paul expresses his surprise that the Galatians have quickly abandoned the gospel of Christ for another gospel.

1. "The Danger of False Gospels"

2. "The Joy of Embracing the Grace of Christ"

1. 1 Corinthians 15:1-4 - Paul's preaching of the gospel of Jesus Christ

2. Romans 11:5-6 - God's kindness and severity in salvation

Galatians 1:7 Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ.

Paul warns the Galatians against false teachers who are trying to pervert the gospel of Christ.

1. Be Careful Who You Listen To

2. Don't Be Led Astray By False Teachings

1. Romans 16:17-18 - Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them. For they that are such serve not our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly; and by good words and fair speeches deceive the hearts of the simple.

2. 2 Timothy 4:3-4 - For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.

Galatians 1:8 But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed.

Paul warns the Galatian church against listening to any other gospel than the one he has preached.

1. The Power of the Gospel: Staying True to God's Word

2. False Teaching and the Danger of Heresy

1. 1 Corinthians 15:1-4 - Paul's gospel of salvation through Christ's death and resurrection.

2. 2 Timothy 2:15 - Studying Scripture and avoiding false teaching.

Galatians 1:9 As we said before, so say I now again, If any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed.

Paul urges the Galatians to reject any other gospel than what they have received.

1. Reject False Teachings - Galatians 1:9

2. Embrace the True Gospel - Galatians 1:9

1. Deuteronomy 13:1-5 - Warnings against false prophets.

2. Romans 16:17-18 - Exhortation to watch out for false teachers.

Galatians 1:10 For do I now persuade men, or God? or do I seek to please men? for if I yet pleased men, I should not be the servant of Christ.

Paul questions whether he is trying to please men or God.

1. Be sure to please God, not men.

2. Live a life of obedience to God, not men.

1. Colossians 3:23-24 - Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men,

knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ.

2. Proverbs 3:5-6 - Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.

Galatians 1:11 But I certify you, brethren, that the gospel which was preached of me is not after man.

The gospel preached by Paul is not from a man.

1: Rely on God’s Word, Not Man’s

2: We Are All Called to Preach the Gospel

1: 2 Timothy 3:16-17 - “All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works.”

2: Colossians 1:23 - “If ye continue in the faith grounded and settled, and be not moved away from the hope of the gospel, which ye have heard, and which was preached to every creature which is under heaven; whereof I Paul am made a minister.”

Galatians 1:12 For I neither received it of man, neither was I taught it, but by the revelation of Jesus Christ.

Paul was given the gospel of Jesus Christ through divine revelation, not through any human teaching or instruction.

1: The Uniqueness of the Gospel of Jesus Christ

2: Divine Revelation is the Source of True Knowledge

1: Ephesians 3:3-5 - How the mystery of Christ, which was not made known to the people in other generations, has now been revealed to His holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit.

2: John 14:26 - But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name,

will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.

Galatians 1:13 For ye have heard of my conversation in time past in the Jews' religion, how that beyond measure I persecuted the church of God, and wasted it:

Paul recounts his life before his conversion to Christianity, in which he persecuted the church of God.

1. The Power of Conversion: Paul's Transformation from Persecutor to Preacher

2. The Mercy of God: Forgiveness and Redemption for All

1. Luke 15:11-32, The Parable of the Prodigal Son

2. Romans 5:8, But God demonstrates His own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Galatians 1:14 And profited in the Jews' religion above many my equals in mine own nation, being more exceedingly zealous of the traditions of my fathers.

Paul experienced great success in his observance of the Jewish customs and laws, and was particularly devoted to the traditions of his ancestors.

1. The importance of honoring family traditions

2. Staying devoted to our faith journey

1. Deuteronomy 6:4-9

2. Colossians 3:17-21

Galatians 1:15 But when it pleased God, who separated me from my mother's womb, and called me by his grace,

God's grace is the source of our calling.

1. God Calls Us By His Grace - A Study of Galatians 1:15

2. Our Separation From God and How Grace Reunites Us - An Examination of Galatians 1:15

1. Romans 8:28 - And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.

2. Ephesians 2:4-5 - But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved.

Galatians 1:16 To reveal his Son in me, that I might preach him among the heathen; immediately I conferred not with flesh and blood:

Paul was divinely called to preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ among the Gentiles.

1. The Call of God: Responding to God's Will

2. The Power of the Gospel: Preaching the Good News of Jesus Christ

1. Jeremiah 1:5 "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations."

2. Acts 10:34-35 “So Peter opened his mouth and said: “Truly I understand that God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him.”

Galatians 1:17 Neither went I up to Jerusalem to them which were apostles before me; but I went into Arabia, and returned again unto Damascus.

Paul reveals that he did not go to Jerusalem to meet with the apostles, but instead went to Arabia and returned to Damascus.

1. We must learn from Paul's example to follow God's will, even when it may not be popular or convenient.

2. We can trust God to provide guidance and direction, even when our plans are

thwarted.

1. Jeremiah 29:11 - For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope.

2. Matthew 6:33 - But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.

Galatians 1:18 Then after three years I went up to Jerusalem to see Peter, and abode with him fifteen days.

Paul visited Jerusalem to visit Peter and spent fifteen days with him.

1. We can learn from Paul's example of spending time with other believers.

2. God can use our relationships with other believers to further His kingdom work.

1. Acts 9:26-27 - And when Saul had come to Jerusalem, he tried to join the disciples; but they were all afraid of him, and did not believe that he was a disciple. But Barnabas took him and brought him to the apostles.

2. 1 Thessalonians 5:11 - Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing.

Galatians 1:19 But other of the apostles saw I none, save James the Lord's brother.

Paul recounts his experience of the gospel, saying he saw none of the apostles except James, the Lord's brother.

1. A Look at the Gospel: Examining Paul's Experience

2. James, the Lord's Brother: A Unique Role in the Early Church

1. Romans 1:16-17 - For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith, as it is written, "The righteous shall live by faith."

2. 1 Corinthians 15:7-8 - Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me.

Galatians 1:20 Now the things which I write unto you, behold, before God, I lie not.

Paul expresses his honesty and truthfulness in his writing, declaring that he does not lie to the Galatians before God.

1: The Importance of Being Truthful

2: The Power of Integrity

1: Proverbs 12:22 - Lying lips are an abomination to the Lord, but those who act faithfully are his delight.

2: Ephesians 4:25 - Therefore, having put away falsehood, let each one of you speak the truth with his neighbor, for we are members one of another.

Galatians 1:21 Afterwards I came into the regions of Syria and Cilicia;

Paul traveled to Syria and Cilicia after his conversion.

1. Following God's Plan: Paul's Journey After His Conversion

2. Refining Our Faith: Learning and Growing Through Difficult Times

1. Acts 9:19-21 - Paul's journey from Damascus to Jerusalem

2. 2 Corinthians 11:25-27 - Paul's suffering and endurance for the sake of the gospel

Galatians 1:22 And was unknown by face unto the churches of Judaea which were in Christ:

Paul the Apostle was unknown by face to the churches of Judaea that were in Christ.

1. The importance of boldness in spreading the Gospel

2. The power of the Holy Spirit in our lives

1. Acts 9:15-16 - "But the Lord said unto him, Go thy way: for he is a chosen vessel unto me, to bear my name before the Gentiles, and kings, and the children of Israel: For I will shew him how great things he must suffer for my name's sake."

2. Philippians 1:27-28 - "Only let your conversation be as it becometh the gospel of Christ: that whether I come and see you, or else be absent, I may hear of your affairs, that ye stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel."

Galatians 1:23 But they had heard only, That he which persecuted us in times past now preacheth the faith which once he destroyed.

The Galatians heard about the conversion of Saul, who had persecuted them in the past, and that he was now preaching a faith he had once destroyed.

1. God's Amazing Grace: The Conversion of Saul

2. Redemption Through Faith: Remembering Saul's Story

1. Romans 5:8 - But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

2. Isaiah 55:7 - Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the Lord, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.

Galatians 1:24 And they glorified God in me.

The people glorified God because of Paul's ministry.

1. Paul's Life as an Example of Glorifying God

2. How to Glorify God in Everyday Life

1. Colossians 3:17, "And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him."

2. 1 Peter 4:11, "Whoever speaks, is to do so as one who is speaking the utterances of God; whoever serves is to do so as one who is serving by the strength which God supplies; so that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belongs the glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen."

Galatians 2 is the second chapter of the Epistle of Paul to the Galatians. In this chapter, Paul recounts his interactions with the apostles in Jerusalem and defends his authority and message.

1st Paragraph: Paul begins by describing a visit to Jerusalem fourteen years after his conversion, where he privately met with influential leaders such as Peter, James, and John. He shares that he presented to them the gospel he had been preaching among the Gentiles, seeking their affirmation and unity (Galatians 2:1-2). The apostles acknowledged that God had entrusted Paul with the mission to preach to the Gentiles while they focused on ministering to Jews (Galatians 2:7-9). This meeting affirmed Paul's independence in preaching the gospel directly received from Christ.

2nd Paragraph: Paul then recounts a confrontation with Peter in Antioch. When certain Jewish Christians arrived from James, Peter withdrew from eating with Gentile believers out of fear of criticism from these Judaizers (Galatians 2:11-12). This behavior led other Jewish Christians, including Barnabas, to follow suit. In response, Paul publicly rebuked Peter for his hypocrisy and inconsistency in living according to the truth of the gospel (Galatians 2:14).

3rd Paragraph: The chapter concludes with Paul emphasizing that justification comes through faith in Christ alone and not by observing Jewish laws or customs. He affirms that no one can be justified by works of law but only through faith in Jesus Christ (Galatians 2:16). He highlights how believers have died to legalistic practices and now live by faith in Christ who loved them and gave Himself for them (Galatians 2:19-20). Paul concludes by asserting that if righteousness could be obtained through keeping laws or rituals, then Christ's death would have been unnecessary.

In summary, Chapter two of Galatians focuses on Paul's interactions with the apostles in Jerusalem and his defense of his authority and message. Paul recounts a visit to Jerusalem where he presented the gospel he had been preaching among the Gentiles, receiving affirmation from the apostles. He emphasizes that God had entrusted him with the mission to preach to the Gentiles while they focused on ministering to Jews. Paul then recounts a confrontation with Peter in Antioch, where he publicly rebuked him for his hypocrisy regarding Jewish customs. The chapter concludes with Paul affirming that justification comes through faith in Christ alone and not by observing Jewish laws or

customs, emphasizing that believers are justified by faith in Jesus Christ who gave Himself for them. This chapter highlights the importance of unity, justification by faith, and living according to the truth of the gospel rather than legalistic practices.

Galatians 2:1 Then fourteen years after I went up again to Jerusalem with Barnabas, and took Titus with me also.

Paul visits Jerusalem to discuss the gospel with the apostles.

1: We should be willing to share the gospel with others, no matter the cost.

2: We should always be open to learning and growing in our faith.

1: Acts 18:23-21 - Paul visits the synagogue to preach the gospel and faces opposition from the Jews.

2: Matthew 28:18-20 - Jesus commands us to go and make disciples of all nations.

Galatians 2:2 And I went up by revelation, and communicated unto them that gospel which I preach among the Gentiles, but privately to them which were of reputation, lest by any means I should run, or had run, in vain.

Paul traveled to Jerusalem by divine revelation, and privately shared the Gospel he preached to the Gentiles with those of reputation.

1. Do not be afraid to share your faith, even if it is privately.

2. God will provide the courage and resources to fulfill His will.

1. Matthew 28:19-20 - Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen.

2. Isaiah 41:10 - Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness.

Galatians 2:3 But neither Titus, who was with me, being a Greek, was compelled to be circumcised:

Paul traveled to Jerusalem with Titus, a Greek Christian, to solidify the understanding between the Gentiles and the Jews.

1: We should not let our differences divide us, but rather strive to work together in unity.

2: We should not judge others by their differences, but rather be open to learning from each other.

1: Romans 12:18 - ?□f it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.??

2: Colossians 3:14 - ?□bove all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds us all together in perfect harmony.??

Galatians 2:4 And that because of false brethren unawares brought in, who came in privily to spy out our liberty which we have in Christ Jesus, that they might bring us into bondage:

Paul warns against false brethren who are trying to bring believers into bondage, rather than allow them to enjoy the liberty they have in Christ.

1: Jesus Saves from Bondage: Paul's Warning to the Galatians

2: Stand Firm in the Freedom of Christ

1: Romans 8:1-2 ?□here is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death.??

2: John 8:36 ?□o if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.??

Galatians 2:5 To whom we gave place by subjection, no, not for an hour; that the truth of the gospel might continue with you.

The truth of the gospel should be kept despite any pressures to give in to different opinions or beliefs.

1. Living by Faith: Standing Firm in the Truth of the Gospel

2. Embracing the Gospel: Refusing to Compromise

1. Romans 1:16-17 - For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.

2. John 8:31-32 - So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, ?□f you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.??

Galatians 2:6 But of these who seemed to be somewhat, (whatsoever they were, it maketh no matter to me: God accepteth no man's person:) for they who seemed to be somewhat in conference added nothing to me:

Paul acknowledges the status of those who seemed important in the eyes of men, but God does not accept anyone based on their station in life.

1. We are all equal in the eyes of God

2. God shows no favoritism

1. Romans 2:11 - For there is no partiality with God.

2. Colossians 3:25 - But he who does wrong will be repaid for what he has done, and there is no partiality.

Galatians 2:7 But contrariwise, when they saw that the gospel of the uncircumcision was committed unto me, as the gospel of the circumcision was unto Peter;

Paul sought to defend his gospel of justification by faith before the apostles.

1: We are justified by faith and not by works of the law.

2: We are all equal in Christ, regardless of our circumstances or backgrounds.

1: Ephesians 2:8-9 (For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast.)

2: Romans 10:11-13 (For the scripture saith, Whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed. For there is no difference between the Jew and the Greek: for the same Lord over all is rich unto all that call upon him. For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.)

Galatians 2:8 (For he that wrought effectually in Peter to the apostleship of the circumcision, the same was mighty in me toward the Gentiles:)

Paul emphasizes unity among believers despite their differences in background.

1: God's love unites us all, regardless of our backgrounds.

2: God's grace is sufficient for all believers, no matter who they are.

1: Colossians 3:11 - "Where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcision nor uncircumcision, Barbarian, Scythian, bond nor free: but Christ is all, and in all."

2: Ephesians 2:14??6 - "For he is our peace, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition between us; Having abolished in his flesh the enmity, even the law of commandments contained in ordinances; for to make in himself of twain one new man, so making peace; And that he might reconcile both unto God in one body by the cross, having slain the enmity thereby."

Galatians 2:9 And when James, Cephas, and John, who seemed to be pillars, perceived the grace that was given unto me, they gave to me and Barnabas the right hands of fellowship; that we should go unto the heathen, and they unto the circumcision.

James, Cephas, and John, three respected members within the church, recognized the grace that was given to Paul and Barnabas and gave them the right hands of fellowship in order to go to the gentiles and for them to go to the Jews.

1. The Importance of Unity in the Church

2. Recognizing the Grace of God and Sharing it with Others

1. Ephesians 4:1-6

2. Philippians 2:1-4

Galatians 2:10 Only they would that we should remember the poor; the same which I also was forward to do.

Paul reminds the Galatians to remember the poor.

1: We should remember the poor and be generous with them.

2: We should show compassion and generosity to those in need.

1: James 2:14-17 - Faith without works is dead.

2: Matthew 25:31-46 - Jesus talks about the judgement of the nations.

Galatians 2:11 But when Peter was come to Antioch, I withstood him to the face, because he was to be blamed.

Paul confronted Peter for his hypocritical behavior.

1. Building a Foundation for a Life of Integrity

2. Accepting Accountability for our Actions

1. Proverbs 10:9 - He who walks in integrity walks securely, But he who perverts his ways will become known.

2. Matthew 5:37 - Let your "Yes" be "Yes," and your "No," "No." For whatever is more than these is from the evil one.

Galatians 2:12 For before that certain came from James, he did eat with the Gentiles: but when they were come, he withdrew and separated himself, fearing them which were of the circumcision.

Peter had been eating with Gentiles until certain arrival from James caused him to withdraw and separate himself out of fear of those from the circumcision.

1. Fear Should Not Lead Us To Separation - Galatians 2:12

2. The Strength of Unity - Galatians 2:12

1. Ephesians 2:14-16 - For he is our peace, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition between us; Having abolished in his flesh the enmity, even the law of commandments contained in ordinances; for to make in himself of twain one new man, so making peace; And that he might reconcile both unto God in one body by the cross, having slain the enmity thereby.

2. Psalm 133:1 - Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!

Galatians 2:13 And the other Jews dissembled likewise with him; insomuch that Barnabas also was carried away with their dissimulation.

Paul rebuked Peter for hypocrisy in his actions towards Gentiles.

1. The Danger of Hypocrisy: Examining our Actions for True Faith

2. Barnabas: An Example of Following False Doctrine

1. Matthew 23:27-28 - ?□oe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you are like whitewashed tombs, which outwardly appear beautiful, but within are full of dead people?□ bones and all uncleanness. So you also outwardly appear righteous to others, but within you are full of hypocrisy and lawlessness.??

2. Proverbs 26:24-26 - ?□hoever hates disguises himself with his lips and harbors deceit in his heart; when he speaks graciously, believe him not, for there are seven abominations in his heart; though his hatred be covered with deception, his wickedness will be exposed in the assembly.??

Galatians 2:14 But when I saw that they walked not uprightly according to the truth of the gospel, I said unto Peter before them all, If thou, being a Jew, livest after the manner of Gentiles, and not as do the Jews, why compellest thou the Gentiles to live as do the

Jews?

Paul rebuked Peter for compelling Gentiles to follow Jewish customs, even though Peter himself did not abide by them.

1. Living Uprightly According to the Gospel of Jesus Christ

2. The Danger of Imposing Culture on Others

1. Romans 2:1-3 - Therefore thou art inexcusable, O man, whosoever thou art that judgest: for wherein thou judgest another, thou condemnest thyself; for thou that judgest doest the same things.

2. 1 Corinthians 9:19-23 - For though I be free from all men, yet have I made myself servant unto all, that I might gain the more.

Galatians 2:15 We who are Jews by nature, and not sinners of the Gentiles,

Paul admonishes the Galatians against legalism in the passage.

1. The Power of Grace in our Lives

2. Overcoming Legalism through Faith

1. Ephesians 2:8-9 - For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God.

2. Romans 3:20 - For by works of the law no human being will be justified in his sight, since through the law comes knowledge of sin.

Galatians 2:16 Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the law: for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified.

Paul teaches that salvation does not come through following the law, but through faith in Jesus Christ alone.

1. Justified by Faith: The Truth Behind Galatians 2:16

2. Salvation Through Jesus: How Faith Leads to Justification

1. Romans 3:20-24 - For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God,

2. Ephesians 2:8-9 - For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.

Galatians 2:17 But if, while we seek to be justified by Christ, we ourselves also are found sinners, is therefore Christ the minister of sin? God forbid.

Paul is asking if following Christ means that one is a sinner, and he answers that it is not so.

1. The Strength of the Cross: How Jesus Overcomes Our Sins

2. A New Life in Christ: How to Live According to the Gospel

1. Romans 8:1-2 - "There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death."

2. 1 John 1:9 - "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

Galatians 2:18 For if I build again the things which I destroyed, I make myself a transgressor.

Paul warns against going back to practices which were destroyed because it would make one a transgressor.

1. Don't rebuild what God has destroyed - Galatians 2:18

2. Obey God and stay away from sin - Romans 6:12-13

1. Romans 6:12-13: "Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body, that you should obey it in its lusts. And do not present your members as instruments of unrighteousness to sin, but present yourselves to God as being alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God."

2. Matthew 5:17-18: "Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill. For assuredly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, one jot or one tittle will by no means pass from the law till all is fulfilled."

Galatians 2:19 For I through the law am dead to the law, that I might live unto God.

Paul explains that he has died to the law in order to live for God.

1. The Necessity of Dying to Live

2. Overcoming the Law through Faith

1. Romans 6:4-11 - We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.

2. Galatians 5:1-6 - It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery.

Galatians 2:20 I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.

This passage speaks of Paul's transformation through the power of faith in Jesus Christ.

1. "Living the Crucified Life: The Power of Faith in Jesus"

2. "Living a Life of Sacrifice: The Love of the Son of God"

1. Romans 6:4-5 - "We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life."

2. Ephesians 4:22-24 - "Put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness."

Galatians 2:21 I do not frustrate the grace of God: for if righteousness come by the law, then Christ is dead in vain.

The grace of God should not be frustrated; if righteousness comes from observing the law, then Jesus' death was in vain.

1) The power of God's grace and the futility of legalism.

2) The significance of Jesus' death and the importance of trusting in grace.

1) Ephesians 2:5-9 - God's grace given through faith, not works.

2) Romans 5:1-5 - Justified by grace through faith in Jesus.

Galatians 3 is the third chapter of the Epistle of Paul to the Galatians. In this chapter, Paul addresses the issue of legalism and emphasizes salvation through faith in Christ.

1st Paragraph: Paul begins by challenging the Galatian believers, questioning how they could be so foolish to abandon the truth after starting their journey in faith (Galatians 3:1-5). He reminds them that they received the Holy Spirit not by observing works of law but through hearing and believing in the message of faith. Paul cites Abraham as an example, highlighting that he was justified by faith and not by works. He emphasizes that those who rely on works are under a curse because no one can perfectly keep all aspects of the law.

2nd Paragraph: Paul continues his argument by explaining that Christ redeemed believers from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for them (Galatians 3:13-14). He emphasizes that it is through faith in Christ that Gentiles are included in God's promise to Abraham and receive blessings. The promise made to Abraham was fulfilled in Jesus Christ, who brings justification and salvation to all who believe. Paul further asserts that salvation does not come through adherence to Jewish laws but through faith alone.

3rd Paragraph: The chapter concludes with Paul explaining why God gave laws. He states that laws were added because of transgressions until Christ came (Galatians 3:19). However, now that faith has come, believers are no longer under strict observance of

those laws. They are all considered children of God through faith in Christ Jesus and have been baptized into Him. There is no distinction between Jew or Gentile, slave or free, male or female—everyone is united as one in Christ.

In summary, Chapter three of Galatians addresses legalism and emphasizes salvation through faith rather than observance of Jewish laws. Paul challenges the Galatian believers to remember that they received the Holy Spirit through faith and not by works of law. He highlights the example of Abraham, who was justified by faith. Paul explains that Christ's sacrifice on the cross redeemed believers from the curse of the law, and it is through faith in Him that both Jews and Gentiles receive blessings. He concludes by stating that laws were temporary and added because of transgressions until Christ came, but now believers are justified and united in Christ through faith. This chapter emphasizes the importance of faith in Christ for salvation and freedom from legalistic practices.

Galatians 3:1 O foolish Galatians, who hath bewitched you, that ye should not obey the truth, before whose eyes Jesus Christ hath been evidently set forth, crucified among you?

Paul rebukes the Galatians for not obeying the truth of Jesus Christ, whom they had seen crucified.

1. Obeying Truth: The Crucified Christ

2. The Galatians' Folly: Who Has Bewitched You?

1. Romans 3:21-25 - But now the righteousness of God without the law is manifested, being witnessed by the law and the prophets;

2. 1 Corinthians 2:2-5 - For I determined not to know any thing among you, save Jesus Christ, and him crucified.

Galatians 3:2 This only would I learn of you, Received ye the Spirit by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith?

The Galatians were called to consider if their faith had come through works of the law or through the hearing of faith.

1) The Power of Hearing Faith

2) The Gospel of Grace: Works of the Law vs. Faith

1) Romans 10:17 - Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God

2) Ephesians 2:8-9 - For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, so that no one may boast.

Galatians 3:3 Are ye so foolish? having begun in the Spirit, are ye now made perfect by the flesh?

Paul is asking the Galatians if they are so foolish as to think that they can be spiritually perfect by relying on their own efforts instead of the power of the Holy Spirit.

1. “The Power of the Holy Spirit: Growing in Faith through the Strength of Jesus”

2. “Living in the Spirit: Trusting in God’s Power”

1. Philippians 2:13 - “For it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose.”

2. Ephesians 2:8 - “For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God.”

Galatians 3:4 Have ye suffered so many things in vain? if it be yet in vain.

This passage from Galatians 3:4 asks if the faith of the believers has been in vain if their suffering has been for nothing.

1. The Power of Faith in our Trials

2. Not Losing Heart in Difficult Times

1. Romans 5:3-5 - Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; 4 perseverance, character; and character, hope. 5 And hope does not put us to shame, because God’s love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.

2. James 1:2-4 - Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, 3 because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. 4 Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.

Galatians 3:5 He therefore that ministereth to you the Spirit, and worketh miracles among you, doeth he it by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith?

Paul questions whether the Spirit and miracles come from the law or the hearing of faith.

1. The Power of Faith: How Belief Can Transform Our Lives

2. The Role of the Law in Our Lives Today

1. Hebrews 11:1, "Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen."

2. Romans 3:20-21, "For by works of the law no human being will be justified in his sight, since through the law comes knowledge of sin."

Galatians 3:6 Even as Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness.

Abraham was credited with righteousness because of his faith in God.

1.The power of faith: learning from Abraham's example.

2.Having faith in God: a pathway to righteousness.

1.Romans 4:3-4 For what does the Scripture say? “Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness.”

2.James 2:23 And the Scripture was fulfilled that says, “Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness”—and he was called a friend of God.

Galatians 3:7 Know ye therefore that they which are of faith, the same are the children of Abraham.

Abraham's faith brings us salvation and makes us his children.

1. God's faithfulness through Abraham brings us salvation.

2. Through faith in Abraham, we become children of God.

1. Romans 4:16-17 Therefore it is of faith, that it might be by grace; to the end the promise might be sure to all the seed; not to that only which is of the law, but to that also which is of the faith of Abraham; who is the father of us all.

2. James 2:23-24 And the scripture was fulfilled which saith, Abraham believed God, and it was imputed unto him for righteousness: and he was called the Friend of God. Ye see then how that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only.

Galatians 3:8 And the scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the heathen through faith, preached before the gospel unto Abraham, saying, In thee shall all nations be blessed.

The scripture foresaw that God would justify the heathen through faith and preached the gospel to Abraham, declaring that all nations would be blessed through him.

1. The Power of Faith in God's Plan of Salvation

2. The Promise of Blessing for All Nations in Abraham

1. Genesis 12:2-3, And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing: And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.

2. Ephesians 2:11-13, Wherefore remember, that ye being in time past Gentiles in the flesh, who are called Uncircumcision by that which is called the Circumcision in the flesh made by hands; That at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world: But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ.

Galatians 3:9 So then they which be of faith are blessed with faithful Abraham.

God blesses those who have faith in Him, just as He blessed Abraham.

1: Faith brings blessings.

2: Abraham’s faith was rewarded with blessings.

1: Hebrews 11:8-10 - “By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to the place which he would receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going. By faith he dwelt in the land of promise as in a foreign country, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise; for he waited for the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God.”

2: Romans 4:20-21 - “He did not waver at the promise of God through unbelief, but was strengthened in faith, giving glory to God, and being fully convinced that what He had promised He was also able to perform.”

Galatians 3:10 For as many as are of the works of the law are under the curse: for it is written, Cursed is every one that continueth not in all things which are written in the book of the law to do them.

The passage states that those who rely on works of the law are under a curse.

1. Trust in the Lord, Not Your Own Works

2. The Curse of Relying on Works

1. Romans 4:13-17

2. James 2:14-26

Galatians 3:11 But that no man is justified by the law in the sight of God, it is evident: for, The just shall live by faith.

Justification can only be attained through faith in God, not the law.

1: Justification through Faith - Galatians 3:11

2: Living by Faith - Galatians 3:11

1: Romans 1:17 - "For in the gospel the righteousness of God is revealed—a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: “The righteous will live by faith.”

2: Hebrews 10:38 - "But my righteous one will live by faith. And I take no pleasure in the one who shrinks back."

Galatians 3:12 And the law is not of faith: but, The man that doeth them shall live in them.

The law does not bring salvation through faith, but instead those who obey it will receive life.

1. The Power of Obedience: Understanding the Life-Giving Effects of Keeping the Law

2. The Consequences of Disobedience: Learning to Respect and Follow the Law

1. Romans 10:5-8 - For Moses writes about the righteousness that is based on the law, that the person who does the commandments shall live by them.

2. James 2:10-13 - For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become accountable for all of it.

Galatians 3:13 Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree:

Christ redeemed us from the law's curse by becoming a curse for us.

1. "The Redemption of Christ: A Blessing for All"

2. "The Sacrifice of Jesus: Bearing Our Curse"

1. Ephesians 1:7 - In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace.

2. Isaiah 53:4-5 - Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed.

Galatians 3:14 That the blessing of Abraham might come on the Gentiles through Jesus Christ; that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.

The blessing of Abraham is made available to the Gentiles through Jesus Christ, and the promise of the Spirit is received through faith.

1. How to Receive the Blessing of Abraham Through Jesus Christ

2. The Promise of the Spirit Through Faith

1. Romans 4:13-16 - For the promise to Abraham and his offspring that he would be heir of the world did not come through the law but through the righteousness of faith.

2. Ephesians 2:8-9 - For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.

Galatians 3:15 Brethren, I speak after the manner of men; Though it be but a man's covenant, yet if it be confirmed, no man disannulleth, or addeth thereto.

This passage speaks of the validity of a covenant, illustrating that it is binding and cannot be annulled or altered.

1. The Unshakable Covenant of God - Exploring the eternal and irrevocable nature of God's covenant with humanity.

2. The Strength of an Agreement - Examining why human agreements are just as binding as those from God.

1. Jeremiah 32:40 - "And I will make an everlasting covenant with them, that I will not turn away from them, to do them good; but I will put my fear in their hearts, that they shall not depart from me."

2. Hebrews 13:20 - "Now the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant."

Galatians 3:16 Now to Abraham and his seed were the promises made. He saith not, And to seeds, as of many; but as of one, And to thy seed, which is Christ.

The promise was made to Abraham and his seed, which is Christ.

1. God's Promise Fulfilled Through Jesus Christ

2. The Significance of Abraham's Covenant With God

1. Romans 4:13-17

2. Genesis 15:1-6

Galatians 3:17 And this I say, that the covenant, that was confirmed before of God in Christ, the law, which was four hundred and thirty years after, cannot disannul, that it should make the promise of none effect.

The covenant made by God in Christ is irreversible, even when the law was established four hundred and thirty years later.

1. The Power and Unchangeability of God's Covenant

2. The Covenant of God is Irrevocable

1. Hebrews 13:20-21 - Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, equip you with everything good that you may do his will, working in us that which is pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.

2. Isaiah 55:3 - Incline your ear, and come to me; hear, that your soul may live; and I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David.

Galatians 3:18 For if the inheritance be of the law, it is no more of promise: but God gave it to Abraham by promise.

This passage explains that if the inheritance was given through the law, then it would not

be a promise from God. Instead, God gave it to Abraham through a promise.

1. God's promises are trustworthy and reliable.

2. The law does not replace the power of God's promises.

1. Genesis 22:15-18 - God's promise to Abraham of a great nation.

2. Romans 4:13-17 - The promise of justification by faith, not by the works of the law.

Galatians 3:19 Wherefore then serveth the law? It was added because of transgressions, till the seed should come to whom the promise was made; and it was ordained by angels in the hand of a mediator.

The law was added to restrain transgressions until the arrival of the promised seed. It was given by angels through a mediator.

1. The Gift of the Law: God's Provision for Sin

2. The Promise Fulfilled: Jesus, Our Mediator

1. Romans 8:3-4 - For what the law was powerless to do in that it was weakened by the flesh, God did by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh to be a sin offering. And so he condemned sin in the flesh.

2. Hebrews 10:1 - For the law, since it has only a shadow of the good things to come and not the true form of these realities, can never, by the same sacrifices that are continually offered year after year, make perfect those who draw near.

Galatians 3:20 Now a mediator is not a mediator of one, but God is one.

This verse in Galatians explains that God is the only mediator between people.

1. "The Power of Unity: God is the Only Mediator"

2. "The Unique Role of God: The Only Mediator"

1. Romans 5:6-11

2. 1 Timothy 2:5-6

Galatians 3:21 Is the law then against the promises of God? God forbid: for if there had been a law given which could have given life, verily righteousness should have been by the law.

The law is not contrary to God's promises; if it were, it would have provided life and righteousness.

1. The Law and the Promise: A Study of Galatians 3:21

2. Understanding Righteousness and Life through God's Promises

1. Romans 10:4, For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes.

2. Galatians 2:16, Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the law: for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified.

Galatians 3:22 But the scripture hath concluded all under sin, that the promise by faith of Jesus Christ might be given to them that believe.

The scripture has declared that all people are under the power of sin, so that the promise of salvation through faith in Jesus Christ can be given to those who believe.

1. The Power of Belief: Exploring the Promise of Jesus Christ

2. Overcoming Sin: Finding Freedom through Faith in Jesus Christ

1. Romans 3:23, "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God"

2. Ephesians 2:8-9, "For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your

own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast."

Galatians 3:23 But before faith came, we were kept under the law, shut up unto the faith which should afterwards be revealed.

Before faith, people were bound by the law, but faith has been revealed as the path to salvation.

1. Pursuing Faith: Releasing Ourselves from the Shackles of the Law

2. Embracing Faith: The Key to Salvation

1. Romans 10:17 - "So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ."

2. Hebrews 11:1 - "Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen."

Galatians 3:24 Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith.

The law was given to point people to Christ, so that they could be justified by faith.

1: The Law Leads to Justification Through Faith

2: The Purpose of the Law: Pointing to Christ

1: Romans 10:4 - “For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth.”

2: Isaiah 53:11 - “He shall see of the travail of his soul, and shall be satisfied: by his knowledge shall my righteous servant justify many; for he shall bear their iniquities.”

Galatians 3:25 But after that faith is come, we are no longer under a schoolmaster.

Faith in Jesus Christ leads to freedom from the law that was given to Moses.

1. The Freedom of Faith in Jesus

2. The Power of Trusting in God's Promise

1. John 8:32 - "And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."

2. Romans 8:2 - "For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death."

Galatians 3:26 For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus.

All people are God's children through faith in Jesus Christ.

1. The Love of the Father: Understanding Our Identity in Christ

2. The Beauty of Belonging: Our Solidarity in the Family of God

1. John 1:12-13 - But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God.

2. Ephesians 2:19-20 - So now you Gentiles are no longer strangers and foreigners. You are citizens along with all of God’s holy people. You are members of God’s family.

Galatians 3:27 For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ.

Believers in Christ are identified as those who have been baptized into Him and have put on Him.

1. Putting on Christ: Understanding What it Means to Follow Jesus

2. Baptism: A Symbol of Becoming United with Christ

1. Romans 6:3-4 - "Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life."

2. Colossians 2:11-12 - "In him also you were circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ, having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through faith in the powerful working of God, who raised him from the dead."

Galatians 3:28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus.

In Christ Jesus, there is no distinction between people based on their race, social status, or gender.

1. "Unity in Christ: Rejecting the Divisions of Society"

2. "The Equality of All in Christ"

1. Romans 10:12-13 - “For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; for the same Lord is Lord of all, bestowing his riches on all who call on him. For ‘everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.’”

2. Colossians 3:11 - “Here there is not Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free; but Christ is all, and in all.”

Galatians 3:29 And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.

Believers in Christ are descendants of Abraham and heirs to the promise God made to him.

1. The Promises of God: How We Are All Connected

2. Embracing Our Heritage Through Faith in Christ

1. Romans 4:13-17 For the promise to Abraham and his offspring that he would be heir of the world did not come through the law but through the righteousness of faith.

2. Acts 3:25-26 You are the sons of the prophets and of the covenant that God made with your fathers, saying to Abraham, 'And in your offspring shall all the families of the earth

be blessed.

Galatians 4 is the fourth chapter of the Epistle of Paul to the Galatians. In this chapter, Paul uses the analogy of an heir and a slave to illustrate the believers' freedom in Christ and warns against returning to legalistic practices.

1st Paragraph: Paul begins by explaining that before Christ's coming, believers were like children under guardians and managers, bound by the law (Galatians 4:1-3). He compares this period to being enslaved under elemental principles of the world. However, when the fullness of time came, God sent His Son, born of a woman and born under the law, to redeem those under the law. Through this redemption, believers receive adoption as sons and daughters of God.

2nd Paragraph: Paul continues by addressing their former pagan practices. He reminds them that they were once enslaved to idols but now have come to know God through Christ (Galatians 4:8-9). He expresses his concern that they are turning back to weak and worthless principles by observing certain days, months, seasons, and years. He fears that his labor among them may have been in vain.

3rd Paragraph: The chapter concludes with an allegory comparing Hagar and Sarah from the Old Testament. Hagar represents Mount Sinai where Moses received the law while Sarah represents Jerusalem above as a symbol of freedom (Galatians 4:21-26). Paul explains that those who rely on works of law are like children born according to flesh through Hagar—children who will not inherit with Isaac. However, believers are children of promise like Isaac—born through faith in Christ—and are free from bondage.

In summary, Chapter four of Galatians uses analogies and allegories to emphasize believers' freedom in Christ and warn against returning to legalistic practices. Paul explains how believers were once bound by laws as children under guardians but have now received adoption as sons and daughters of God through Christ's redemption. He expresses concern about their inclination to return to pagan practices and observance of certain days, months, seasons, and years. Paul uses the allegory of Hagar and Sarah to illustrate the distinction between those who rely on works of law (Hagar) and those who are children of promise through faith in Christ (Sarah). This chapter highlights the believers' liberation from legalism and their identity as children of promise through faith in Christ Jesus.

Galatians 4:1 Now I say, That the heir, as long as he is a child, differeth nothing from a servant, though he be lord of all;

Heir and servant have the same status until the heir reaches maturity.

1: We can learn from the example of the heir and servant in Galatians that God has a plan for our lives, and that all of us are growing and changing in faith and maturity.

2: In Galatians 4:1, Paul reminds us that, as children of God, we are in the same position as a servant until we reach spiritual maturity.

1: Luke 2:52 - "And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and man."

2: 2 Corinthians 3:18 - "But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord."

Galatians 4:2 But is under tutors and governors until the time appointed of the father.

People are subject to authority figures until the appointed time of God.

1. Obeying Authority as a Path to God's Timing

2. Trusting God's Timing for Your Life

1. Ephesians 6:1-3 - “Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. ‘Honor your father and mother’—which is the first commandment with a promise— ‘so that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth.’”

2. Romans 12:1-2 - “Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.”

Galatians 4:3 Even so we, when we were children, were in bondage under the elements of the world:

Paul encourages the Galatians to remember their spiritual infancy and how they were enslaved to their worldly desires.

1: Remember your spiritual infancy and turn away from worldly desires.

2: Rely on the Lord to free you from the bondage of the world.

1: Romans 6:16-17 - Do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its evil desires. Do not offer any part of yourself to sin as an instrument of wickedness, but rather offer yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life; and offer every part of yourself to him as an instrument of righteousness.

2: Proverbs 29:18 - Where there is no vision, the people perish: but he that keepeth the law, happy is he.

Galatians 4:4 But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law,

God's perfect timing led to the sending of his Son, Jesus Christ.

1: God's Perfect Timing - Understanding God's Timing in our Lives

2: What Does it Mean that Jesus Was Made of a Woman?

1: Ephesians 1:11 - In him we were also chosen, having been predestined according to the plan of him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will.

2: Romans 8: 28 - And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.

Galatians 4:5 To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons.

God sent His Son to redeem humanity, so that they can become adopted children of God.

1. Adopted into God's Family: The Joy of Being Redeemed

2. A New Identity: Freed from the Law and Becoming Children of God

1. Romans 8:14-17 - For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God

2. John 1:12 - But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God

Galatians 4:6 And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father.

God has sent His Holy Spirit to live in the hearts of His children so that they can cry out to Him, calling Him "Abba Father".

1. "Crying Out to God: Learning to Call Him 'Abba Father'"

2. "The Comfort of the Holy Spirit: Knowing God as Abba Father"

1. Romans 8:15-17 - For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, “Abba! Father!”

2. Isaiah 41:10 - Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.

Galatians 4:7 Wherefore thou art no more a servant, but a son; and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ.

God has freed us from servitude and has made us sons and heirs of His kingdom through Christ.

1. "The Freedom of Sonship: God's Gift Through Christ"

2. "Heirs of God's Kingdom: An Inheritance of Grace"

1. John 1:12 - But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God.

2. Romans 8:17 - And if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.

Galatians 4:8 Howbeit then, when ye knew not God, ye did service unto them which by

nature are no gods.

Paul warns the Galatians against reverting to their former life of idolatry.

1. The Dangers of Idolatry - Galatians 4:8

2. The Consequences of Ignorance - Galatians 4:8

1. Romans 1:18-23 - The wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men.

2. Jeremiah 10:3-5 - For the customs of the people are vain: for one cutteth a tree out of the forest, the work of the hands of the workman, with the axe.

Galatians 4:9 But now, after that ye have known God, or rather are known of God, how turn ye again to the weak and beggarly elements, whereunto ye desire again to be in bondage?

Paul is questioning the Galatians about why they would turn away from the knowledge and freedom of God and revert to their former ways of slavery and bondage.

1. The Power of Choice: The Freedom of Following God

2. Breaking Free from the Chains of Bondage

1. Romans 6:17-18 - But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you. Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness.

2. Matthew 11:28-30 - Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.

Galatians 4:10 Ye observe days, and months, and times, and years.

Paul encourages the Galatians to be careful not to rely on observing special days and holidays as a way of earning God's favor.

1. Relying on Works for Salvation is Counterproductive

2. The Power of Faith Alone

1. Romans 10:9-11 (For if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. For the scripture saith, Whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed.)

2. Ephesians 2:8-9 (For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast.)

Galatians 4:11 I am afraid of you, lest I have bestowed upon you labour in vain.

Paul is worried that he has wasted his effort in preaching the Gospel to the Galatians.

1. The Value of Perseverance - Understanding the importance of remaining faithful in our service to God.

2. The Power of the Gospel - Exploring how the power of the Gospel can touch people's lives.

1. Romans 8:38-39 - "For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord."

2. Psalm 127:1 - "Unless the Lord builds the house, those who build it labor in vain."

Galatians 4:12 Brethren, I beseech you, be as I am; for I am as ye are: ye have not injured me at all.

Paul urges the Galatians to imitate him, reassuring them that he has not done them any wrong.

1. The Power of Imitation: Imitating Paul as a Model of Faith

2. The Importance of Forgiveness: Letting Go of Past Hurts

1. Romans 12:2 - "Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind."

2. Colossians 3:13 - "Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you."

Galatians 4:13 Ye know how through infirmity of the flesh I preached the gospel unto you at the first.

Paul talks about how he initially preached the Gospel to the Galatians despite his physical weakness.

1. Overcoming Physical Weaknesses to Do God's Work

2. The Courage to Follow Jesus Despite Adversity

1. Philippians 4:13 - "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me."

2. 2 Corinthians 12:9-10 - "And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me."

Galatians 4:14 And my temptation which was in my flesh ye despised not, nor rejected; but received me as an angel of God, even as Christ Jesus.

Paul praises the Galatians for their acceptance of him, even despite his difficulty and temptation.

1: We should have the same openness and acceptance of others as the Galatians had for Paul.

2: We should not be quick to judge or reject someone, despite their weaknesses or temptations.

1: Romans 15:7 - Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.

2: James 2:1 - My brothers and sisters, do not show favoritism as you hold on to the faith in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ.

Galatians 4:15 Where is then the blessedness ye spake of? for I bear you record, that, if it had been possible, ye would have plucked out your own eyes, and have given them to me.

Paul's exhortation to the Galatians to demonstrate their love and loyalty for him.

1. Loyalty in Christian Love: Making Sacrificial Decisions for the Benefit of Others.

2. The Call to Self-Sacrifice: Moving Beyond Words to Actions.

1. Philippians 2:7-8 - but made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: and being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.

2. Romans 12:1-2 - I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

Galatians 4:16 Am I therefore become your enemy, because I tell you the truth?

Paul questions the Galatians if he has become their enemy because he spoke truthfully to them.

1. Speak truthfully even if it may not be what people want to hear.

2. We should not be afraid to speak the truth even if it causes us to appear as an enemy.

1. Proverbs 12:17-19 - He who speaks truth tells what is right, But a false witness, deceit.

2. Colossians 3:9-10 - Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old self with its practices, and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator.

Galatians 4:17 They zealously affect you, but not well; yea, they would exclude you, that ye might affect them.

Paul warns the Galatians against false teachers who were manipulating them for their own gain.

1: Guard your heart against false teachers who seek to manipulate you.

2: Follow the example of Paul and stand firm in the truth of God's Word.

1: Ephesians 4:14, “That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive.”

2: Jeremiah 17:9, “The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?”

Galatians 4:18 But it is good to be zealously affected always in a good thing, and not only when I am present with you.

Paul encourages the church in Galatia to be zealous in their faith always.

1. Living a Life of Zealous Faith

2. Remaining Faithful in Good Works

1. Matthew 24:12-13 - Jesus' warning that faithfulness will be rewarded.

2. Hebrews 10:22-25 - The importance of staying faithful to God's promises.

Galatians 4:19 My little children, of whom I travail in birth again until Christ be formed in you,

Paul expresses his desire for the Galatians to have Christ formed in their hearts.

1: We should all strive to have Christ formed in our hearts.

2: We should never forget the love Paul had for the Galatians.

1: Ephesians 4:20-24 - That we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ—from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.

2: Romans 12:2 - And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

Galatians 4:20 I desire to be present with you now, and to change my voice; for I stand in doubt of you.

Paul expresses his desire to be with the Galatians and speak with them in person, for he is unsure of their faithfulness.

1. The Doubts of Paul: How to Reassure Our Brothers and Sisters in Christ

2. The Need for Face-to-Face Communication: A Lesson from Paul to the Galatians

1. Hebrews 10:22-25 - Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.

2. 1 Thessalonians 2:7-8 - But we were gentle among you, just as a nursing mother cherishes her own children. So, affectionately longing for you, we were well pleased to impart to you not only the gospel of God, but also our own lives, because you had become dear to us.

Galatians 4:21 Tell me, ye that desire to be under the law, do ye not hear the law?

The passage speaks of the importance of listening to and following the law of God.

1. "Hear the Law and Follow it: A Study in Galatians 4:21"

2. "Living Life According to God's Commands"

1. Deuteronomy 30:11-14 - For this commandment that I command you today is not too hard for you, neither is it far off.

2. Psalm 119:4-5 - You have commanded your precepts to be kept diligently. Oh that my ways may be steadfast in keeping your statutes!

Galatians 4:22 For it is written, that Abraham had two sons, the one by a bondmaid, the other by a freewoman.

The passage from Galatians 4:22 the story of Abraham having two sons, one from a bondmaid and one from a freewoman.

1. God's Plan for Our Lives: The Story of Abraham

2. Covenant and Blessing: The Message of Abraham's Sons

1. Genesis 16:1-16

2. Hebrews 11:8-12

Galatians 4:23 But he who was of the bondwoman was born after the flesh; but he of the freewoman was by promise.

God's promises always come to pass, even if it is not in the way we expect.

1. God's Promises: Trusting in the Unexpected

2. The Power of God's Word: Believing Beyond the Flesh

1. Romans 8:28 - And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.

2. Isaiah 55:11 - So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return

unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it.

Galatians 4:24 Which things are an allegory: for these are the two covenants; the one from the mount Sinai, which gendereth to bondage, which is Agar.

The two covenants in the passage are allegorically represented as Agar, the mother of Ishmael, and the covenant from Mount Sinai which gendereth to bondage.

1. The Allegorical Meaning of the Two Covenants in Galatians 4:24

2. Understanding the Bondage of the Covenant from Mount Sinai

1. Hebrews 8:6-7 "But now hath he obtained a more excellent ministry, by how much also he is the mediator of a better covenant, which was established upon better promises. For if that first covenant had been faultless, then should no place have been sought for the second."

2. Galatians 5:1 "Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage."

Galatians 4:25 For this Agar is mount Sinai in Arabia, and answereth to Jerusalem which now is, and is in bondage with her children.

Agar is an example of the bondage of Jerusalem and her children.

1: We can learn from the example of Agar to be freed from the bondage of sin in our lives.

2: We can find freedom through the promise that God made to Abraham and Sarah through their son Isaac.

1: Genesis 17:19 – God promised Abraham and Sarah that they would have a son through whom God would fulfill his promise.

2: Galatians 5:1 – For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.

Galatians 4:26 But Jerusalem which is above is free, which is the mother of us all.

Paul is exhorting the Galatians to remember that the heavenly Jerusalem, which is free, is the mother of all believers.

1. Embracing Freedom in the Heavenly Jerusalem

2. The Love of the Heavenly Jerusalem as a Spiritual Mother

1. Isaiah 54:1 - "Sing, O barren, you who have not borne! Break forth into singing, and cry aloud, you who have not labored with child! For more are the children of the desolate than the children of the married woman," says the Lord.

2. Romans 8:15 - For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, "Abba, Father."

Galatians 4:27 For it is written, Rejoice, thou barren that bearest not; break forth and cry, thou that travailest not: for the desolate hath many more children than she which hath an husband.

Paul encourages those who are barren to rejoice as they will have a greater number of children than those with husbands.

1. "God's Abundant Blessing: Rejoicing in His Provision."

2. "The Joy of Parenting: A Blessing for All."

1. Isaiah 54:1 - "Sing, O barren, thou that didst not bear; break forth into singing, and cry aloud, thou that didst not travail with child: for more are the children of the desolate than the children of the married wife, saith the Lord."

2. Psalm 127:3 - "Lo, children are an heritage of the Lord: and the fruit of the womb is his reward."

Galatians 4:28 Now we, brethren, as Isaac was, are the children of promise.

Believers in Jesus Christ are the children of promise, just as Isaac was.

1. "All Things Are Possible Through Faith in Christ"

2. "The Power of the Promises of God"

1. Hebrews 11:11-12 - By faith, Sarah was enabled to conceive a child even though she was past the age of childbearing, because she considered Him faithful who had promised.

2. Romans 8:16-17 - The Spirit of God testifies together with our spirit that we are God's children, and if we are children, then we are heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ.

Galatians 4:29 But as then he that was born after the flesh persecuted him that was born after the Spirit, even so it is now.

In the book of Galatians, Paul talks about how those who are born after the Spirit were persecuted by those born after the flesh, and this is still true today.

1. Persecution of the Righteous: How to Respond Biblically

2. The Power of the Gospel: Standing Firm in the Face of Persecution

1. Matthew 5:10-12 - Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake

2. 1 Peter 4:12-14 - Rejoice in suffering for the sake of Christ

Galatians 4:30 Nevertheless what saith the scripture? Cast out the bondwoman and her son: for the son of the bondwoman shall not be heir with the son of the freewoman.

The scripture instructs to cast out the bondwoman and her son, as the son of the bondwoman cannot be a co-heir with the son of the freewoman.

1. The Importance of Good Works: Reaping What We Sow

2. God's Plan for Our Lives: Releasing What's Not Meant For Us

1. Romans 8:17 (And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so

be that we suffer with him,)

2. John 8:36 (If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed.)

Galatians 4:31 So then, brethren, we are not children of the bondwoman, but of the free.

The passage in Galatians 4:31 explains that believers are not children of the bondwoman, but of the free.

1. Freedom from Bondage: Redefining the Meaning of Liberty

2. The Power of Redemption: Letting Go of our Shackles

1. Romans 8:21 - So that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the glorious freedom of the children of God.

2. Isaiah 61:1 - The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is on me, because the Lord has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners.

Galatians 5 is the fifth chapter of the Epistle of Paul to the Galatians. In this chapter, Paul discusses the freedom believers have in Christ and contrasts it with the bondage of legalism.

1st Paragraph: Paul begins by emphasizing that believers are called to freedom in Christ and should not submit again to a yoke of slavery (Galatians 5:1). He warns against circumcision as a means of justification, stating that those who seek justification through law are severed from Christ and have fallen from grace. Instead, he emphasizes that faith working through love is what counts.

2nd Paragraph: Paul explains that although they were called to freedom, they must not use their freedom as an opportunity for indulging in sinful desires (Galatians 5:13). Instead, he encourages them to serve one another through love. He highlights that love fulfills the entire law and warns against actions such as hatred, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, selfish ambition, dissensions, and envy.

3rd Paragraph: The chapter concludes with Paul contrasting the works of the flesh with the fruit of the Spirit. He lists various acts associated with a life controlled by fleshly

desires such as sexual immorality, impurity, idolatry, sorcery, drunkenness, and more (Galatians 5:19-21). In contrast to these works of darkness are the fruit produced by walking in step with the Spirit—love, joy peace patience kindness goodness faithfulness gentleness self-control.

In summary,

Chapter five of Galatians emphasizes believers' freedom in Christ while warning against falling back into legalistic practices. Paul cautions against seeking justification through circumcision or adherence to laws since it severs one from Christ's grace. Instead, he encourages living by faith working through love.

Paul also emphasizes using their freedom responsibly by serving one another in love rather than indulging in sinful desires. He highlights the importance of love in fulfilling the entire law and warns against engaging in works of the flesh such as hatred, jealousy, and selfish ambition.

The chapter concludes with Paul contrasting the works of the flesh with the fruit of the Spirit. He lists various acts associated with a life controlled by fleshly desires while emphasizing that those who belong to Christ have crucified their sinful nature. Instead, they should bear fruit through walking in step with the Spirit—displaying qualities such as love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. This chapter underscores believers' call to live by faith in Christ and be guided by the transforming power of His Spirit rather than being bound by legalistic practices or indulging in sinful desires.

Galatians 5:1 Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage.

Christians are urged to remain free in Christ and not be bound by the constraints of the law.

1. "Breaking Free: The Power of Christ's Liberty"

2. "Living Life in Abundance: The Joy of Being Freed from Bondage"

1. John 8:36 - "So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed."

2. Isaiah 61:1 - "The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me to bring good news to the afflicted; he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and freedom to the prisoners."

Galatians 5:2 Behold, I Paul say unto you, that if ye be circumcised, Christ shall profit you

nothing.

Paul warns against relying on circumcision as a means to gain salvation.

1. Trust in Christ Alone for Salvation

2. The False Security of Circumcision

1. Ephesians 2:8-9 - For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God.

2. Romans 3:21-24 - But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it— the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction: for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.

Galatians 5:3 For I testify again to every man that is circumcised, that he is a debtor to do the whole law.

Paul reminds the Galatians that they are obligated to keep the entire law if they have circumcised themselves.

1: We need to fully abide by the law and not take a pick and choose approach.

2: We cannot rely on a single action to save us, but rather need to live a life in full obedience to God.

1: James 2:10-11 - For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become accountable for all of it.

2: Romans 3:20 - For by works of the law no human being will be justified in his sight, since through the law comes knowledge of sin.

Galatians 5:4 Christ is become of no effect unto you, whosoever of you are justified by the law; ye are fallen from grace.

Christians are not justified through the law, but through grace.

1. The Power of Grace: Understanding the Difference between Legalism and Faith

2. Restoring Our Faith: Overcoming the Temptation of Legalism

1. Romans 3:20-24 - For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God.

2. Ephesians 2:8-10 - For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.

Galatians 5:5 For we through the Spirit wait for the hope of righteousness by faith.

The Spirit helps us endure waiting for righteousness by faith.

1. The Power of the Holy Spirit to Endure

2. The Hope of Righteousness by Faith

1. Romans 15:13 - May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.

2. Galatians 3:11 - Now it is evident that no one is justified before God by the law, for “The righteous shall live by faith.”

Galatians 5:6 For in Jesus Christ neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision; but faith which worketh by love.

Paul emphasizes that it is faith, not outward practices such as circumcision, that matter in the eyes of God.

1. Living in Faith: What Does it Mean to Live in Faith?

2. The Power of Love: What Does it Mean to Live in Love?

1. John 3:16-17 - For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that

whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

2. 1 Corinthians 13:13 - And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity.

Galatians 5:7 Ye did run well; who did hinder you that ye should not obey the truth?

Paul is questioning the Galatians for not following the truth even though they started off running well.

1. Don't give up on the truth; keep running the race. 2. Don't be hindered by others opinions; follow the truth.

1. Hebrews 12:1 - "Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles." 2. Philippians 3:14 - "I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus."

Galatians 5:8 This persuasion cometh not of him that calleth you.

This passage emphasizes that our faith is not dependent on the opinion of others but rather on our relationship with God.

1: Our faith in God must come from within, not from outside sources.

2: We must trust in God's love and guidance rather than the opinions of others.

1: Jeremiah 17:7-8 "But blessed is the one who trusts in the Lord, whose confidence is in him. They will be like a tree planted by the water that sends out its roots by the stream. It does not fear when heat comes; its leaves are always green. It has no worries in a year of drought and never fails to bear fruit."

2: Romans 10:17 "So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ."

Galatians 5:9 A little leaven leaveneth the whole lump.

This verse is a reminder that small influences can have a large effect.

1: We need to be mindful of the little things in life, for they can have a large impact on our lives and those around us.

2: We should be careful to not let even the smallest act of sin affect us, as it can spread quickly and corrupt our lives.

1: Matthew 16:6 - “Take heed and beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and of the Sadducees.”

2: 1 Corinthians 5:6 - “Your glorying is not good. Know ye not that a little leaven leaveneth the whole lump?”

Galatians 5:10 I have confidence in you through the Lord, that ye will be none otherwise minded: but he that troubleth you shall bear his judgment, whosoever he be.

Paul expresses his confidence in the Galatians and warns against those who would lead them astray.

1. The Power of Confidence in the Lord

2. The Judgment of False Teachers

1. Matthew 7:15-20 - "Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves."

2. Hebrews 13:17 - "Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you."

Galatians 5:11 And I, brethren, if I yet preach circumcision, why do I yet suffer persecution? then is the offence of the cross ceased.

Paul questions why he still suffers persecution if he preaches circumcision, implying the offense of the cross has ceased.

1. The Offense of the Cross: How Jesus Changed Everything

2. Paul's Persecution: Following Jesus Despite the Cost

1. Romans 10:14-15 How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher?

2. Ephesians 2:14-16 For he is our peace, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition between us; Having abolished in his flesh the enmity, even the law of commandments contained in ordinances; for to make in himself of twain one new man, so making peace.

Galatians 5:12 I would they were even cut off which trouble you.

Paul expresses his wish that those who are troubling the Galatians be cut off.

1. We Must Not Let Troublemakers Destroy Our Faith

2. Don't Allow Unbelievers to Weaken Our Faith

1. Romans 16:17-18 - “I urge you, brothers and sisters, to watch out for those who cause divisions and put obstacles in your way that are contrary to the teaching you have learned. Keep away from them. For such people are not serving our Lord Christ, but their own appetites. By smooth talk and flattery they deceive the minds of naive people.”

2. James 4:7 - "Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you."

Galatians 5:13 For, brethren, ye have been called unto liberty; only use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another.

We should use our freedom as an opportunity to serve one another with love.

1. The Power of Love: Serving One Another with Freedom

2. Using Our Liberty to Love Others

1. 1 Corinthians 13:4-8 - Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does

not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

2. Romans 12:10 - Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor.

Galatians 5:14 For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this; Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.

The law of God can be fulfilled by loving one's neighbor.

1. The Power of Love: How to Fulfill the Law of God

2. The Love Commandment: A Biblical View of Loving Our Neighbors

1. John 13:34-35 - A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another.

2. Romans 13:8-10 - Owe no man any thing, but to love one another: for he that loveth another hath fulfilled the law.

Galatians 5:15 But if ye bite and devour one another, take heed that ye be not consumed one of another.

This passage warns against the destructive power of unkind words and actions, urging readers to be mindful of their words and actions in order to prevent conflict.

1. "A Gentle Answer: The Power of Kindness"

2. "Biting and Devouring: The Destruction of Conflict"

1. Matthew 5:44 - "But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you."

2. Proverbs 15:1 - "A soft answer turneth away wrath: but grievous words stir up anger."

Galatians 5:16 This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh.

Live according to the Spirit, not the desires of the flesh.

1. The Power of the Spirit: How to Live for God

2. Overcoming Temptation: How to Live in the Spirit

1. Romans 8:5-8 - For those who live according to the Spirit, the Spirit gives life.

2. Ephesians 5:18 - Be filled with the Spirit as you sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs.

Galatians 5:17 For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would.

Paul warns the Galatians that the flesh and the Spirit are in opposition to each other and that they should not be led astray by their own desires.

1. How to Live in Harmony with the Spirit

2. The Power of the Flesh and Its Consequences

1. Romans 8:1-4 - Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit who gives life has set you free from the law of sin and death.

2. James 4:7 - Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

Galatians 5:18 But if ye be led of the Spirit, ye are not under the law.

Believers are not bound by the law but are instead to be led by the Spirit.

1. Living in the Freedom of the Holy Spirit

2. Receiving Direction from God Through His Spirit

1. Romans 8:2-4 “For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death. For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do. By sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.”

2. John 16:13 “When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come.”

Galatians 5:19 Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness,

The works of the flesh are manifest, with examples of Adultery, Fornication, Uncleanness, and Lasciviousness.

1. “The Power of Discipline: Overcoming Temptation”

2. “Our Actions Matter: The Consequences of Sin”

1. Romans 6:12-14 “Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof. Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God. For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace.”

2. James 1:14-15 “But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death.”

Galatians 5:20 Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies,

This passage speaks against the evils of idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, and heresies.

1. "The Danger of Idolatry and Other Vices"

2. "The Power of Love: Avoiding Hate and Strife"

1. Ephesians 4:31-32 - "Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice: And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you."

2. Romans 12:17-19 - "Recompense to no man evil for evil. Provide things honest in the sight of all men. If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men. Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord."

Galatians 5:21 Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.

Sinful behavior, such as envy, murder, drunkenness, and revelry, will not be tolerated in the Kingdom of God.

1. The Danger of Sin and its Consequences

2. The Path to Righteousness and Holiness

1. Romans 6:23 - For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

2. 1 Corinthians 6:9-10 - Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who practice homosexuality, nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God.

Galatians 5:22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith,

The Fruit of the Spirit is an essential part of living a Christian life.

1: The Importance of the Fruit of the Spirit

2: Growing in the Fruit of the Spirit

1: Rom 12:9-10 - Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves.

2: James 3:17-18 - But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere.

Galatians 5:23 Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.

Paul encourages Christians to practice meekness and temperance, which will lead to a life that is in harmony with God's laws.

1. "The Power of Meekness and Temperance"

2. "Living in Harmony with God's Law"

1. Matthew 5:5 - "Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth".

2. 1 Peter 4:7 - "The end of all things is at hand; therefore be self-controlled and sober-minded for the sake of your prayers".

Galatians 5:24 And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts.

Believers in Christ have put to death their sinful desires.

1. The Power of Crucifying the Flesh

2. The Necessity of Denying Ourselves

1. Romans 6:11-12 - In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus. Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its evil desires.

2. Matthew 16:24-26 - Then Jesus said to His disciples, “If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it. For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?

Galatians 5:25 If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.

In Galatians 5:25, Paul encourages Christians to live in the Spirit and to walk in the Spirit.

1. Living in the Spirit: The Importance of Being Led by the Holy Spirit

2. Walking in the Spirit: Practicing Faithful Obedience to God

1. Romans 8:14 - For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God.

2. Galatians 5:16 - But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh.

Galatians 5:26 Let us not be desirous of vain glory, provoking one another, envying one another.

We should not be driven by a desire for recognition, and should not cause strife or jealousy among one another.

1. The Danger of Vain Glory

2. Overcoming Envy in Community

1. James 3:14-16 - But if you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast and be false to the truth.

2. Matthew 6:1-4 - “Beware of practicing your righteousness before other people in order to be seen by them, for then you will have no reward from your Father who is in heaven.

Galatians 6 is the sixth and final chapter of the Epistle of Paul to the Galatians. In this

chapter, Paul provides practical instructions for living as believers and encourages them to bear one another's burdens.

1st Paragraph: Paul begins by urging believers to restore a fellow believer who has been caught in a transgression, doing so with gentleness and considering their own vulnerability (Galatians 6:1). He emphasizes the importance of bearing one another's burdens, thus fulfilling the law of Christ. Paul encourages each person to carry their own load while also being willing to help others in need.

2nd Paragraph: Paul addresses the issue of personal pride and warns against self-deception. He advises believers not to think too highly of themselves but instead examine their own actions and motives (Galatians 6:3-4). Each person should take responsibility for their work without comparing themselves with others. Those who receive instruction in God's word should share all good things with those who teach them.

3rd Paragraph: The chapter concludes with Paul emphasizing that believers will reap what they sow. He explains that sowing to please the flesh leads to corruption, but sowing to please the Spirit leads to eternal life (Galatians 6:7-8). Therefore, he encourages them not to grow weary in doing good but rather persist in doing what is right. Finally, he highlights that boasting should be limited only in the cross of Christ, through which believers have been crucified to the world and it to them.

In summary,

Chapter six of Galatians provides practical instructions for living as believers within a community. Paul urges believers to restore those who have fallen into transgression gently and bear one another's burdens. He cautions against prideful comparisons and advises each person to examine their own actions rather than seeking validation from others.

Paul emphasizes personal responsibility while also encouraging generosity towards those who teach God's word. He highlights the principle of sowing and reaping, urging believers to sow to please the Spirit rather than indulging in fleshly desires. Paul concludes by encouraging perseverance in doing good and boasting only in the cross of Christ, which has brought freedom from worldly attachments.

This chapter underscores the importance of community, personal responsibility, humility, and perseverance in living out one's faith while relying on the transforming power of Christ's sacrifice.

Galatians 6:1 Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted.

This passage encourages Christians to restore those who have made mistakes with kindness and understanding, being mindful of their own weaknesses.

1. Grace and Compassion for All: The Power of Restoring Our Brothers and Sisters

2. Knowing Our Own Weaknesses: Practicing Forgiveness and Humility

1. James 5:19-20 - My brethren, if any of you do err from the truth, and one convert him; Let him know, that he which converteth the sinner from the error of his way shall save a soul from death, and shall hide a multitude of sins.

2. Luke 6:37 - Judge not, and ye shall not be judged: condemn not, and ye shall not be condemned: forgive, and ye shall be forgiven.

Galatians 6:2 Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ.

Christians should support each other in their burdens and strive to fulfill the law of Jesus Christ.

1. "Carrying Each Other's Burdens: An Essential Part of Being a Christian"

2. "Fulfilling the Law of Christ: A Call to Community"

1. Matthew 11:28-30 - "Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

2. 1 Corinthians 12:26 - "If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together."

Galatians 6:3 For if a man think himself to be something, when he is nothing, he deceiveth himself.

This verse calls us to be humble and not overestimate ourselves, as it leads to self-deception.

1: We must be humble and not overestimate our own importance.

2: We must be aware of the danger of self-deception and stay grounded in our faith.

1: Proverbs 16:18 - Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall.

2: Philippians 2:3-4 - Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves.

Galatians 6:4 But let every man prove his own work, and then shall he have rejoicing in himself alone, and not in another.

Be sure to evaluate your own work and celebrate your own successes.

1. Celebrating Ourselves and Our Achievements

2. Taking Responsibility for Ourselves and Our Work

1. Philippians 4:13 - "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me."

2. Ephesians 5:15-16 - "See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, Redeeming the time, because the days are evil."

Galatians 6:5 For every man shall bear his own burden.

This passage teaches us the importance of taking responsibility for our own actions and not relying on others to carry our burdens for us.

1. ?□earing Our Own Burdens??

2. ?□iving with Responsibility??

1. Matthew 11:28-30 - ?□ome to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.??

2. Philippians 4:13 - ?□ can do all things through him who strengthens me.??

Galatians 6:6 Let him that is taught in the word communicate unto him that teacheth in

all good things.

Believers should be generous with those who teach them the Word of God.

1. The Power of Generosity in the Church

2. Recognizing and Appreciating Those Who Teach Us the Word of God

1. Proverbs 11:25 - A generous person will be blessed, for he gives some of his food to the poor.

2. Acts 20:35 - In everything I did, I showed you that by this kind of hard work we must help the weak, remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said: ?t is more blessed to give than to receive.??

Galatians 6:7 Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.

God will not be mocked and we will reap what we sow.

1: We must take responsibility for our actions and understand that God will not be mocked.

2: We must act with wisdom in all that we do, and remember that God will reward us accordingly.

1: Proverbs 22:8 - "Whoever sows injustice will reap calamity, and the rod of his fury will fail."

2: Ecclesiastes 11:4 - "Whoever watches the wind will not plant; whoever looks at the clouds will not reap."

Galatians 6:8 For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting.

We will reap the consequences of the choices we make, either life everlasting if we sow to the Spirit, or corruption if we sow to the flesh.

1. The Power of Choice: The Impact of Our Choices on Our Eternal Destiny

2. Reaping What We Sow: The Consequences of Our Actions

1. Romans 8:1-17 - The Power of Life in the Spirit

2. James 1:14-15 - The Danger of Being Led by Our Passions

Galatians 6:9 And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.

We should persist in doing what is right, for in due time we will receive the rewards if we don't become discouraged.

1: Don't Give Up - Galatians 6:9

2: Persevere - Galatians 6:9

1: Hebrews 10:35-36 - Therefore do not cast away your confidence, which has great reward. For you have need of endurance, so that after you have done the will of God, you may receive the promise.

2: James 1:12 - Blessed is the man who endures temptation; for when he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him.

Galatians 6:10 As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith.

We should use every opportunity we have to do good for all people, especially those who believe in Jesus.

1. "Opportunities to Do Good" - exploring how we can use our time, energy, and resources to do good to others.

2. "The Household of Faith" - focusing on the importance of helping and encouraging our

brothers and sisters in Christ.

1. Matthew 25:35-40 - Jesus' parable of the Sheep and the Goats, emphasizing the importance of helping the needy.

2. 1 Peter 4:8-11 - Peter's exhortation to use our spiritual gifts to serve others.

Galatians 6:11 Ye see how large a letter I have written unto you with mine own hand.

Paul wrote a lengthy letter to the Galatian church to encourage them to stand firm in their faith.

1. Remain Firm in Your Faith: A Message from Paul to the Galatians

2. The Power of Encouragement: Paul's Letter to the Galatians

1. 1 Thessalonians 5:11 - Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.

2. Hebrews 10:23-25 - Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds.

Galatians 6:12 As many as desire to make a fair shew in the flesh, they constrain you to be circumcised; only lest they should suffer persecution for the cross of Christ.

The passage speaks of those who try to pressure believers to be circumcised in order to avoid persecution for the cross of Christ.

1: We must remain strong and resolute in our faith, even if it means suffering persecution for the cross of Christ.

2: We must stand firm and not be swayed by those who try to pressure us into changing our beliefs.

1: Romans 8:31-39 - If God is for us, who can be against us?

2: Colossians 2:8-15 - Do not let anyone judge you by what you eat or drink, or with regard to a religious festival, a New Moon celebration or a Sabbath day.

Galatians 6:13 For neither they themselves who are circumcised keep the law; but desire to have you circumcised, that they may glory in your flesh.

Some people want to convince others to be circumcised, not because they follow the law, but because they want to take credit for the other person's actions.

1. Don't be fooled by those who only want glory for themselves.

2. Beware of those who claim to be righteous but do not follow God's laws.

1. Philippians 2:3 Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit.

2. James 1:22-25 But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.

Galatians 6:14 But God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world.

Paul emphasizes the importance of the cross of Jesus Christ, emphasizing that it is the only way to true glory.

1. "The Power of the Cross: Transforming Our Lives"

2. "The Cross: Our Source of Life and Hope"

1. Ephesians 2:13-16 - For he himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility. He has abolished the law with its commandments and ordinances, that he might create in himself one new humanity in place of the two, thus making peace, and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross.

2. Colossians 2:13-15 - And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross. He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him.

Galatians 6:15 For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision, but a new creature.

In Christ Jesus, neither circumcision nor uncircumcision is of any value, but a new creation is.

1. The Power of a New Creation: How to Live a Life Transformed by Jesus

2. The Unimportance of Circumcision: Exploring the True Meaning of Salvation in Christ

1. 2 Corinthians 5:17 - Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!

2. Romans 8:1-2 - Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit who gives life has set you free from the law of sin and death.

Galatians 6:16 And as many as walk according to this rule, peace be on them, and mercy, and upon the Israel of God.

This passage reminds us that peace and mercy are available to those who follow God's rule.

1. "Living in the Peace and Mercy of God"

2. "Walking According to God's Rule"

1. Romans 12:2 - "Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect."

2. Proverbs 3:5-6 - "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths."

Galatians 6:17 From henceforth let no man trouble me: for I bear in my body the marks of the Lord Jesus.

Paul was proud to bear the marks of the Lord Jesus, and he asked that no one should trouble him because of it.

1. The Marks of Jesus: A Call to Stand Firm in Our Faith

2. The Power of Bearing the Marks of Jesus: An Invitation to Live a Life of Holiness

1. Philippians 1:27-30 - Whatever happens, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ.

2. Romans 8:17 - And if children, then heirs? eirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.

Galatians 6:18 Brethren, the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Amen.

Paul sends a message of grace and blessing to the brethren in Galatia.

1. Giving Thanks to God for His Abounding Grace

2. The Power of a Blessing

1. Ephesians 1:7 - In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace.

2. Colossians 3:16 - Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God.

Ephesians 1 is the first chapter of the Epistle of Paul to the Ephesians. In this chapter, Paul praises God for His blessings and spiritual riches bestowed upon believers through Christ.

1st Paragraph: Paul begins by expressing his gratitude and praise to God for choosing believers in Christ before the foundation of the world (Ephesians 1:3-4). He emphasizes that God predestined them for adoption as His children through Jesus Christ's work of redemption. Paul highlights how believers have been lavished with grace, forgiveness, and wisdom according to God's plan, revealing His glorious purpose.

2nd Paragraph: Paul continues by emphasizing that in Christ, believers have obtained an inheritance. They have been sealed with the Holy Spirit as a guarantee of their future redemption (Ephesians 1:11-14). He prays that they may come to know the hope of their calling and understand the immeasurable greatness of God's power at work in them. Paul exalts Christ as being seated above all powers and authorities, with everything placed under His feet.

3rd Paragraph: The chapter concludes with Paul highlighting how believers are part of Christ's body, which is the Church (Ephesians 1:22-23). He emphasizes that Christ is the head over all things for the benefit of His body—the Church. This unity in Christ brings about spiritual growth and maturity among believers who are nourished by Him.

In summary,

Chapter one of Ephesians praises God for His blessings bestowed upon believers through Jesus Christ. It highlights how believers were chosen before time began and predestined for adoption as children of God through Jesus' redemptive work. They receive lavish grace, forgiveness, wisdom according to God's plan.

Paul further emphasizes that in Christ, believers obtain an inheritance and are sealed with the Holy Spirit as a guarantee. He prays for them to grasp the hope of their calling and comprehend God's immeasurable power at work in them. Christ is exalted as the head over all things, and believers are united as His body—the Church.

This chapter reveals the richness of God's grace, His redemptive plan through Christ, and the unity and spiritual growth experienced by believers as part of Christ's body.

Ephesians 1:1 Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, to the saints which are at Ephesus, and to the faithful in Christ Jesus:

Paul writes a letter to the saints in Ephesus and to the faithful in Christ Jesus.

1. How to Live as Saints and Faithful Followers of Christ.

2. The Joy of Being in Relationship with God through Jesus Christ.

1. Hebrews 10:22 - let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.

2. Romans 8:38-39 - For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Ephesians 1:2 Grace be to you, and peace, from God our Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ.

God's grace and peace are available to all who believe in Him.

1: Abundant Grace and Peace in God

2: Experiencing God's Amazing Grace and Peace

1: Romans 5:1-2 - Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand.

2: Romans 16:20 - The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet. The grace of our Lord Jesus be with you.

Ephesians 1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ:

God the Father has blessed us with all spiritual blessings in Christ.

1. The Blessings of Believing in Jesus

2. The Joy of Being a Child of God

1. John 3:16 – “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.”

2. Romans 8:15-17 – “For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father. The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God: And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together.”

Ephesians 1:4 According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love:

God chose us to be holy and without blame before Him in love since before the

foundation of the world.

1. God's Love for Us Is Unconditional and Eternal

2. The Importance of Living a Life of Holiness and Blamelessness Before God

1. Romans 8:38-39 - “For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

2. 1 Peter 1:15-16 - “But as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, since it is written, ‘You shall be holy, for I am holy.’”

Ephesians 1:5 Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will,

God predestined believers to receive the adoption of children in Jesus Christ, according to His good will.

1. The Power of God's Predestination

2. The Goodness of God's Will

1. Romans 8:29-30 - For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.

2. James 1:17-18 - Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. Of his own will he brought us forth by the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures.

Ephesians 1:6 To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved.

God's grace and love have made us accepted and worthy of praise.

1. "God's Love: The Gift of Acceptance"

2. “Grace: The Foundation of Our Worth”

1. John 3:16 - For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

2. Romans 5:8 - But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Ephesians 1:7 In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace;

The passage speaks of redemption and forgiveness of sins through Jesus' blood and the riches of His grace.

1. The Riches of Grace: Understanding God's Redemptive Love

2. The Power of Jesus' Blood: Forgiveness from Sin

1. Romans 3:23-25 - All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, but are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.

2. Colossians 1:14 - In Christ we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins.

Ephesians 1:8 Wherein he hath abounded toward us in all wisdom and prudence;

God's grace has been poured out upon us, filled with wisdom and insight.

1. Exploring God's Abundant Grace

2. Receiving Wisdom and Insight from God

1. Psalm 119:98-105 - You, through Your commandments, make me wiser than my enemies; For they are ever with me.

2. James 1:5 - If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him.

Ephesians 1:9 Having made known unto us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure which he hath purposed in himself:

The mystery of God's will is that it is according to His good pleasure.

1. The Pleasure of Knowing God's Will

2. Embracing God's Will with Joy

1. Romans 12:2 - Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

2. James 4:15 - Instead you ought to say, “If the Lord wills, we will live and do this or that.”

Ephesians 1:10 That in the dispensation of the fulness of times he might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth; even in him:

God will gather all things together in Christ during the time when all will be complete.

1. Understanding the Lord's Timing: Eph 1:10

2. All Things Gathered Together in Christ: Eph 1:10

1. Colossians 1:20: And, having made peace through the blood of his cross, by him to reconcile all things unto himself; by him, I say, whether they be things in earth, or things in heaven.

2. Revelation 21:5: And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new.

Ephesians 1:11 In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will:

Believers have obtained an inheritance from God, who works all things according to his own will.

1. God's Sovereign Grace: Understanding Predestination

2. The Power of God's Will: Our Inheritance in Christ

1. Romans 8:28-30 - And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.

2. Romans 9:14-16 - What then shall we say? Is God unjust? Not at all! For he says to Moses, “I will have mercy on whom I have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I have compassion.”

Ephesians 1:12 That we should be to the praise of his glory, who first trusted in Christ.

This passage states that those who trust in Christ will be praised for His glory.

1. "Trusting in Christ Brings Glory to God"

2. "Living a Life that Glorifies God"

1. Isaiah 43:7 - "everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made.”

2. 1 Peter 4:11 - “Whoever speaks, is to do so as one who is speaking the utterances of God; whoever serves is to do so as one who is serving by the strength which God supplies; so that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belongs the glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.”

Ephesians 1:13 In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise,

After hearing the truth of the gospel, believers in Jesus Christ were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise.

1. "The Promise of the Holy Spirit: God's Seal of Approval"

2. "The Power of the Gospel: Receiving the Holy Spirit"

1. Romans 8:15-17 - For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, "Abba! Father!"

2. Acts 19:1-6 - And it happened that while Apollos was at Corinth, Paul passed through the inland country and came to Ephesus. There he found some disciples. And he said to them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?" And they said, "No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit."

Ephesians 1:14 Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory.

The passage reveals that God's glory is given through the redemption of the purchased possession.

1. God's Glory is Unmeasurable - Ephesians 1:14

2. The Power of Redemption - Ephesians 1:14

1. Romans 8:23 - And not only they, but ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body.

2. Psalm 145:10 - All thy works shall praise thee, O LORD; and thy saints shall bless thee.

Ephesians 1:15 Wherefore I also, after I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus, and love unto all the saints,

Paul praises the Ephesians for their faith in the Lord Jesus and love for the saints.

1. The Power of Faith and Love - Exploring the impact of faith in the Lord Jesus and love for the saints on our lives.

2. Living Out the Path of Christ - Practicing the example of faith and love set by Jesus Christ in our daily lives.

1. John 15:12-13 - Jesus commands us to love one another, just as He has loved us.

2. 1 Corinthians 13:1-13 - Paul speaks of the importance of love in our lives.

Ephesians 1:16 Cease not to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers;

Paul gives thanks to God for the believers of Ephesus, and prays for them.

1. Rejoicing in God's Work in Our Lives - Ephesians 1:16

2. Expressing Gratitude to God - Ephesians 1:16

1. Colossians 1:3-12 - Paul's prayer of thanksgiving for the Colossians.

2. 1 Thessalonians 5:18 - Paul's exhortation to give thanks in all circumstances.

Ephesians 1:17 That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him:

The Father of glory desires to give us wisdom and revelation of Him.

1. The Father of Glory Wants to Give Us Wisdom

2. Receiving Revelation Through Knowing God

1. James 1:5-6 – If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him.

2. Psalm 111:10 – The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom; A good understanding have all those who do His commandments.

Ephesians 1:18 The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints,

Paul encourages the Ephesians to open their spiritual eyes so they can understand the hope and glory found in their calling as God's chosen people.

1. "The Power of an Open Mind: Seeing the Hope and Glory of Our Calling"

2. "Living in the Riches of God's Inheritance: A Reflection on Our Glorious Calling"

1. Colossians 3:1-4 - "If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory."

2. Isaiah 55:6-8 - "Seek the Lord while he may be found; call upon him while he is near; let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him return to the Lord, that he may have compassion on him, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the Lord."

Ephesians 1:19 And what is the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power,

God's power is demonstrated to those who believe in Him, according to His mighty power.

1. The Power of Faith: How Believing in God Can Change Your Life

2. Unlocking the Potential of God's Mighty Power

1. Romans 8:11 - And if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you.

2. John 14:12 - Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father.

Ephesians 1:20 Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places,

God raised Jesus from the dead and gave him a position of power and authority in the heavenly realm.

1: Jesus is alive and is seated at the right hand of God in the highest place of authority.

2: As Christians, we can be assured of the power of Jesus' resurrection and the authority of his position in the heavenly realm.

1: Philippians 2:9-11 - Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

2: Colossians 3:1-2 - Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things.

Ephesians 1:21 Far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come:

The power of God is far greater than any other power in the world.

1. The Sovereignty and Supremacy of God

2. The Unfathomable Power of God

1. Isaiah 40:28-31

2. Revelation 19:11-16

Ephesians 1:22 And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church,

The Church is under the authority of Jesus Christ.

1. Jesus is Our Head: Knowing and Accepting His Authority

2. The Church: Embracing Our Shared Responsibility

1. Colossians 1:18 - "And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence."

2. 1 Peter 5:2-3 - "Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind; Neither as being lords over God's heritage, but being ensamples to the flock."

Ephesians 1:23 Which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all.

This passage speaks of the Church as the body of Christ, filled with his fulness.

1. The Church is the Body of Christ: A Call to Love and Serve the Church

2. The Church: Filled with the Fulfillment of Christ

1. Romans 12:5 “so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another.”

2. Colossians 1:19 “For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell.”

Ephesians 2 is the second chapter of the Epistle of Paul to the Ephesians. In this chapter, Paul explains the transformative power of God's grace and salvation through faith in Christ.

1st Paragraph: Paul begins by describing the spiritual state of believers before their salvation. He highlights that they were dead in their trespasses and sins, following the ways of this world and being influenced by Satan (Ephesians 2:1-3). However, God, who is rich in mercy and love, made them alive together with Christ even when they were dead in their sins. It is by grace that believers have been saved through faith.

2nd Paragraph: Paul continues by emphasizing that salvation is a gift from God and not something earned through works (Ephesians 2:8-9). He clarifies that believers are not saved by their own efforts but rather as a result of God's gracious act. This eliminates any boasting or self-righteousness. Instead, believers are created anew in Christ Jesus for good works which God prepared beforehand for them to walk in.

3rd Paragraph: The chapter concludes with Paul addressing the issue of Gentile believers who were once excluded from Israel's covenant relationship with God (Ephesians 2:11-22). He explains how Christ has broken down the dividing wall between Jews and Gentiles, reconciling both groups into one new humanity. Through His sacrifice on the cross, Jesus has brought peace and unity among all believers. They are now fellow citizens with saints and members of God's household built upon apostles and prophets with Christ as its cornerstone.

In summary,

Chapter two of Ephesians highlights how God's grace transforms believers from spiritual death to life through faith in Christ Jesus. Before salvation, they were enslaved to sin but have been made alive together with Christ because of His mercy and love.

Paul emphasizes that salvation is a gift of God's grace, not earned through works. Believers are created anew in Christ for good works that God has prepared for them. Furthermore, Paul addresses the reconciliation between Jews and Gentiles through Christ's sacrifice, breaking down the barriers and establishing peace and unity among all believers.

This chapter underscores the power of God's grace in salvation, the importance of faith over works, and the unifying work of Christ in bringing diverse believers together as one body in Him.

Ephesians 2:1 And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins;

God's grace is available for all who accept it, even those who have made mistakes.

1. God's Grace: A Gift for All

2. A Path of Redemption: Accepting God's Grace

1. Romans 6:23 - For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

2. Titus 3:5-7 - He saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

Ephesians 2:2 Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience:

The passage tells us how in the past, people followed the ways of the world, as dictated by the prince of the power of the air.

1. "The Power of the Air: Living Beyond the Ways of the World"

2. "Breaking Free of the Prince of the Power of the Air"

1. Romans 12:2 - "And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God."

2. Galatians 5:16-17 - "This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh. For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would."

Ephesians 2:3 Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others.

We were all once living in sinful desires, fulfilling our own desires and facing God's wrath.

1. God's mercy and grace in the face of our sinful nature

2. The importance of repentance and faith in Jesus

1. Romans 3:23-24 - For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus.

2. 1 John 1:9 - If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Ephesians 2:4 But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us,

God's great love and mercy bring us salvation.

1. "God's Mercy and Love: Our Salvation"

2. "Great is the Love of the Lord"

1. Romans 5:8 - But God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

2. 1 John 4:19 - We love because he first loved us.

Ephesians 2:5 Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;)

God saved us through his grace, even when we were dead in our sins.

1. God's Amazing Grace: How God's Unconditional Love Saved Us from Our Sins

2. The Life-Giving Power of Grace: Experiencing a New Life in Christ

1. Romans 6:23 ???or the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.??

2. Titus 3:5 ???e saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit.??

Ephesians 2:6 And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus:

We are all brought together in Christ and given a seat in heaven.

1. The Power of Coming Together in Christ

2. Seated in Heavenly Places in Christ

1. Colossians 3:1-3 ?f then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.??

2. Romans 8:38-39 ?□or I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.??

Ephesians 2:7 That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus.

God's grace is shown to us through His kindness in Christ Jesus.

1. God's Amazing Grace: Reflecting on God's Kindness towards Us

2. The Exceeding Riches of God's Grace: Celebrating God's Unending Love for Us

1. Romans 5:8 ?□ut God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.??

2. Titus 3:5-7 ?□e saved us, not because of the righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He washed away our sins, giving us a new birth and new life through the Holy Spirit. He generously poured out the Spirit upon us through Jesus Christ our Savior.??

Ephesians 2:8 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:

Salvation is a gift of God that is given to believers through grace and faith.

1. The Power of Grace: How Faith in God Brings Salvation

2. The Unworthiness of Man: Receiving God's Gift of Salvation

1. Titus 3:5 - Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;

2. Romans 10:9 - That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.

Ephesians 2:9 Not of works, lest any man should boast.

God's salvation is not dependent on our works, so that no one can boast about it.

1: Our works can never save us, as only God's grace can provide salvation.

2: Pride will not save us, as we must trust in the Lord's goodness for our salvation.

1: Romans 3:20-24 - No one will be declared righteous in God's sight by observing the law; rather, through the law we become conscious of our sin.

2: Titus 3:5-7 - He saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit.

Ephesians 2:10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.

We are God's workmanship, created to do the good works He has prepared for us.

1. Walking in the Good Works Prepared for Us

2. Understanding Our Calling as God's Workmanship

1. John 15:16 - "You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit? ruit that will last? nd so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you."

2. Romans 12:2 - "Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect."

Ephesians 2:11 Wherefore remember, that ye being in time past Gentiles in the flesh, who are called Uncircumcision by that which is called the Circumcision in the flesh made by hands;

Paul reminds the Ephesians that they used to be Gentiles, and that they were called uncircumcised by those who were circumcised in the flesh.

1. The Power of Remembrance

2. The Importance of Circumcision

1. Deuteronomy 30:19 - "I call heaven and earth to record this day against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing: therefore choose life, that both thou and thy seed may live."

2. Romans 3:1-2 - "What advantage then hath the Jew? or what profit is there of circumcision? Much every way: chiefly, because that unto them were committed the oracles of God."

Ephesians 2:12 That at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world:

We were once without hope and without God, but God has made us a part of His family.

1: God's Unfailing Love and Redemption

2: The Power of Hope in Christ

1: Romans 5:8 ?□ut God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.??

2: Isaiah 40:31 ?□ut those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.??

Ephesians 2:13 But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ.

God has made us close to Him through the sacrifice of Jesus.

1: What is the Cost of Reconciliation?

2: The Power of the Cross: How Jesus Unites Us to God

1: Romans 5:8-9 - But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

2: Colossians 1:20-22 - And through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.

Ephesians 2:14 For he is our peace, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition between us;

The passage emphasizes that Jesus is our peace and has broken down the wall of division between us.

1. Unity Through Jesus

2. The Power of Jesus to Overcome Division

1. Romans 5:1-2 - Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God.

2. Colossians 3:14-15 - And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful.

Ephesians 2:15 Having abolished in his flesh the enmity, even the law of commandments contained in ordinances; for to make in himself of twain one new man, so making peace;

Jesus abolished the law of commandments and made peace between Jews and Gentiles by creating one new man.

1: Jesus broke down the walls of hostility and division between racial and ethnic groups by creating one new man.

2: Jesus brought peace by abolishing the law of commandments and unifying all people under a new covenant.

1: Galatians 3:26-28 - For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus. For as

many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus.

2: Colossians 3:11 - Where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcision nor uncircumcision, Barbarian, Scythian, bond nor free: but Christ is all, and in all.

Ephesians 2:16 And that he might reconcile both unto God in one body by the cross, having slain the enmity thereby:

Christ reconciled both Jews and Gentiles to God in one body through His death on the cross, ending hostility between them.

1. The Power of Reconciliation: How Christ's Death on the Cross Transcended Cultural and Religious Divides

2. Unity in Diversity: How Christ's Love Unites All People

1. Colossians 1:20-22 - Through Christ, God reconciled all things to himself, both in heaven and on earth.

2. Romans 5:8-11 - God showed his love for us through Christ's death on the cross while we were still sinners.

Ephesians 2:17 And came and preached peace to you which were afar off, and to them that were nigh.

Christ came to preach peace to those who were far away and to those who were close.

1. The Call of Christ to Reach the Lost

2. Reaching Out to Our Neighbors in Love

1. Matthew 28:18-20 - "Then Jesus came to them and said, ?□ll authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.??

2. Romans 10:14-15 - "How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? And how can anyone preach unless they are sent? As it is written: ?□ow beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!??

Ephesians 2:18 For through him we both have access by one Spirit unto the Father.

The passage speaks of how through Jesus, we have access to God the Father.

1. The Power of Jesus: Access to God Through His Death and Resurrection

2. The Gateway to Heaven: Jesus as the One Who Unlocks the Door

1. Romans 5:1-2 - Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God.

2. Hebrews 10:19-20 - Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus, by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain, that is, through his flesh.

Ephesians 2:19 Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God;

Believers in Christ are now part of the family of God and fellow citizens with the saints.

1. The Blessings of Belonging: A Study of Ephesians 2:19

2. Our Identity in the Family of God: A Study of Ephesians 2:19

1. Galatians 6:10 - So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith.

2. 1 Peter 2:9-10 - But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

Ephesians 2:20 And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone;

The foundation of the Christian faith is built upon the apostles and prophets, with Jesus Christ as the chief cornerstone.

1: We must build our lives on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Jesus Christ as the cornerstone.

2: Jesus Christ is the cornerstone of our faith, and we must build our lives on the foundation of the apostles and prophets.

1: Matthew 7:24-25 - Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock: And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock.

2: 1 Corinthians 3:11 - For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ.

Ephesians 2:21 In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord:

The building of the church is joined together in unity and grows to become a holy temple in the Lord.

1. The Power of Unity in the Church

2. Building the House of the Lord

1. John 17:21-23, Jesus praying for unity amongst believers

2. 1 Peter 2:5, Building with living stones to be a spiritual house

Ephesians 2:22 In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit.

Believers are built together as a dwelling place for God through the Spirit.

1. Building a House for God: How the Spirit Unites Believers

2. The Power of the Spirit in Our Lives

1. 1 Corinthians 3:16-17 - Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?

2. Romans 8:9-11 - But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.

Ephesians 3 is the third chapter of the Epistle of Paul to the Ephesians. In this chapter, Paul reveals the mystery of God's plan for Gentiles to be included in the body of Christ and prays for the believers' spiritual growth and understanding.

1st Paragraph: Paul begins by explaining that he was entrusted with a divine revelation regarding God's plan for Gentiles (Ephesians 3:2-6). He emphasizes that this mystery, which was not fully known in previous generations, is now revealed through the Spirit to His holy apostles and prophets. The mystery is that Gentiles are fellow heirs, members of the same body, and partakers of God's promises in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

2nd Paragraph: Paul expresses his awe at the immeasurable greatness of God's power at work within believers (Ephesians 3:20-21). He acknowledges that God is able to do far more abundantly than all they could ask or think according to His power. Paul glorifies God as being worthy of praise throughout all generations.

3rd Paragraph: The chapter concludes with Paul praying for spiritual strength and understanding among believers (Ephesians 3:14-19). He asks that they may be strengthened by God's Spirit in their inner being so that Christ may dwell in their hearts through faith. Paul desires for them to comprehend the breadth, length, height, and depth of Christ's love—an immeasurable love surpassing knowledge. He prays for them to be filled with all the fullness of God.

In summary,

Chapter three of Ephesians reveals how Gentiles are included in God's plan through Jesus Christ—a mystery unveiled by divine revelation. Paul marvels at the greatness of God's power and praises Him as being able to exceed all expectations.

He also offers a prayer for believers' spiritual growth and understanding. Paul asks for their inner strength, the indwelling of Christ in their hearts, and a deep comprehension of Christ's boundless love. He desires that they be filled with the fullness of God.

This chapter highlights the inclusiveness of God's plan for Gentiles, the surpassing power

of God, and Paul's prayer for believers' spiritual growth and understanding. It emphasizes the unity and love found in Christ Jesus as believers partake in His promises through faith.

Ephesians 3:1 For this cause I Paul, the prisoner of Jesus Christ for you Gentiles,

Paul writes that he is a prisoner of Jesus Christ for the Gentiles.

1. The Sacrifices We Make for Others: Examining Paul's Example

2. Jesus is Worth It All: Paul's Obedience to Christ

1. Philippians 2:5-11

2. Colossians 1:24-29

Ephesians 3:2 If ye have heard of the dispensation of the grace of God which is given me to you-ward:

Paul explains the dispensation of grace which God has given to the Ephesians.

1. The Grace of God: A Gift for All

2. Understanding the Dispensation of Grace

1. Romans 5:17 - For if by one man's offence death reigned by one; much more they which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ.

2. Titus 2:11-12 - For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world.

Ephesians 3:3 How that by revelation he made known unto me the mystery; (as I wrote afore in few words,

God revealed a mystery to Paul.

1. The Mystery of God Revealed to Paul

2. Embracing the Mystery of God

1. Ephesians 1:9 - Making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure which he hath purposed in himself.

2. Romans 11:25 - For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery, lest ye should be wise in your own conceits; that blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in.

Ephesians 3:4 Whereby, when ye read, ye may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ)

This passage reveals God's mysterious plan for the salvation of the world through Jesus Christ.

1: "God's Mysterious Plan of Salvation"

2: "Understanding the Mystery of Christ"

1: John 3:16-17 “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.”

2: Romans 10:9-10 “Because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved.”

Ephesians 3:5 Which in other ages was not made known unto the sons of men, as it is now revealed unto his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit;

In the past, God's plan for salvation was not revealed to mankind, but it has been revealed to his apostles and prophets by the Spirit.

1. The Power of the Holy Spirit: Understanding God's Plan of Salvation

2. Overcoming the Unknown: God's Plan of Salvation Revealed

1. John 16:13 - "When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth."

2. Romans 8:14-16 - "For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, “Abba! Father!” The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God."

Ephesians 3:6 That the Gentiles should be fellowheirs, and of the same body, and partakers of his promise in Christ by the gospel:

This passage speaks of the unity of all believers in Christ, both Jews and Gentiles, to be joint-heirs to His promise.

1: "The Promise of Unity in Christ"

2: "The Inheritance of the Gospel"

1: John 17:20-21 - "I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in me through their word, that they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me.”

2: Galatians 3:26-28 -"For in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith. For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus."

Ephesians 3:7 Whereof I was made a minister, according to the gift of the grace of God given unto me by the effectual working of his power.

Paul was appointed as a minister of the Gospel by the power of God's grace.

1. God's Grace Empowers Us to Serve

2. The Gift of Ministry: Answering God's Call

1. Romans 12:1-8 - Offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God.

2. Acts 20:17-38 - Paul's farewell address to the Ephesian elders.

Ephesians 3:8 Unto me, who am less than the least of all saints, is this grace given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ;

The grace of preaching to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ has been given to Paul, who is less than the least of all saints.

1. The Unsearchable Riches of Christ: Discovering the Treasures of His Grace

2. Grace Given to the Least: How God Uses the Most Unlikely People

1. Romans 11:33-36 - "Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways! For who has known the mind of the Lord, or who has been his counselor? Or who has given a gift to him that he might be repaid? For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be glory forever. Amen."

2. 1 Corinthians 1:27-29 - "But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, so that no human being might boast in the presence of God."

Ephesians 3:9 And to make all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God, who created all things by Jesus Christ:

The mystery of God's fellowship hidden in creation has been revealed through Jesus Christ.

1: Jesus Christ: The Revealer of God's Mystery

2: The Fellowship of the Mystery: What Does it Mean for Us?

1: Colossians 1:15-17 He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. 16

For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. 17 And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together.

2: Romans 11:33-36 Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways! 34 “For who has known the mind of the Lord, or who has been his counselor?” 35 “Or who has given a gift to him that he might be repaid?” 36 For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be glory forever. Amen.

Ephesians 3:10 To the intent that now unto the principalities and powers in heavenly places might be known by the church the manifold wisdom of God,

This passage explains that God's wisdom is manifested through the church to the principalities and powers in the heavenly places.

1. How We Demonstrate God's Wisdom Through the Church

2. The Power of the Church to Showcase God's Wisdom

1. Proverbs 8:12-13 - "I wisdom dwell with prudence, and find out knowledge of witty inventions. The fear of the Lord is to hate evil: pride, and arrogancy, and the evil way, and the froward mouth, do I hate."

2. Romans 11:33-36 - "O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! how unsearchable are his judgments, and his ways past finding out! For who hath known the mind of the Lord? or who hath been his counsellor? Or who hath first given to him, and it shall be recompensed unto him again? For of him, and through him, and to him, are all things: to whom be glory for ever. Amen."

Ephesians 3:11 According to the eternal purpose which he purposed in Christ Jesus our Lord:

God has a purpose for us that was established in Christ Jesus.

1. The Power of Purpose: God's Plan for Our Lives

2. God's Eternal Purpose Found in Christ Jesus

1. Matthew 6:33 - But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

2. Romans 8:28 - And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.

Ephesians 3:12 In whom we have boldness and access with confidence by the faith of him.

We can confidently approach God with faith in Him.

1. Faith Gives Us Courage to Approach God

2. Access to God Through Faith

1. Hebrews 4:16 - Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

2. Romans 5:1-2 - Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God.

Ephesians 3:13 Wherefore I desire that ye faint not at my tribulations for you, which is your glory.

Paul encourages the Ephesians to be strong in their faith despite suffering.

1: Don't Give Up - Paul's Encouragement to the Ephesians

2: Standing Firm in Difficult Times

1: Romans 8:37-39 - No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.

2: Hebrews 10:35-36 - So do not throw away your confidence; it will be richly rewarded.

Ephesians 3:14 For this cause I bow my knees unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,

Paul expresses his devotion to the Father of Jesus and requests grace and strength for the Ephesian church.

1. "Devotion to the Father: The Foundation of Christian Life"

2. "The Power of Prayer: Finding Grace and Strength in Difficult Times"

1. Matthew 6:9-13 - The Lord's Prayer

2. Philippians 4:6-7 - Do Not Be Anxious

Ephesians 3:15 Of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named,

The whole family of God, both in heaven and on earth, is called by His name.

1. The Family of God: Unity in Diversity

2. The Name of the Lord: A Blessing and a Command

1. Deuteronomy 28:10 - And all people of the earth shall see that thou art called by the name of the Lord; and they shall be afraid of thee.

2. Acts 4:12 - Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.

Ephesians 3:16 That he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man;

The power of God's Spirit strengthens our inner man.

1. The Strength of the Spirit in Us

2. How to Access God's Power

1. Romans 8:11 - "And if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you."

2. Galatians 5:16 - "This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh."

Ephesians 3:17 That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love,

The passage speaks of creating an environment of faith and love in our hearts.

1: Rooted and Grounded in Love - A on the importance of faith and love in our lives.

2: Dwelling in Christ - A on having Christ as the foundation of our lives.

1: Romans 5:5 - "And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us."

2: 1 John 4:8 - "He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love."

Ephesians 3:18 May be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height;

The passage speaks of the believer's need to understand the enormity of God's love.

1: God's Love is Immeasurable

2: Our Need to Understand God's Love

1: John 3:16 - "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."

2: Romans 8:38-39 - "For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in

Christ Jesus our Lord."

Ephesians 3:19 And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God.

The passage speaks of knowing the love of Christ, which surpasses all knowledge, so that believers may be filled with the fulness of God.

1. The Incredible Love of Christ: Experiencing the Riches of His Grace

2. Living in the Filled-to-Overflowing Life: Experiencing God's Abundance

1. Romans 5:8 - But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

2. Ephesians 1:7-8 - In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace which He made to abound toward us in all wisdom and prudence.

Ephesians 3:20 Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us,

God is able to do far more than we could ever ask for or imagine, due to the power that works within us.

1. The Power of God: Our Capacity to Reach Beyond Our Expectations

2. The Abundance of God: Going Beyond Our Imaginations

1. Philippians 4:13 - "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me."

2. Isaiah 40:29 - "He giveth power to the faint; and to them that have no might he increaseth strength."

Ephesians 3:21 Unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen.

God's glory should be celebrated in the church by Jesus throughout all eternity.

1: Let us praise God for His everlasting glory and reign over us.

2: Rejoice in the Lord always, for His glory is infinite and His love endures forever.

1: Psalm 145:1-3 - "I will extol you, my God and King, and bless your name forever and ever. Every day I will bless you and praise your name forever and ever. Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised, and his greatness is unsearchable."

2: Isaiah 6:3 - “And one called to another and said: ‘Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory!’”

Ephesians 4 is the fourth chapter of the Epistle of Paul to the Ephesians. In this chapter, Paul emphasizes the unity and maturity of believers in Christ, urging them to live worthy of their calling.

1st Paragraph: Paul begins by urging believers to walk in a manner worthy of their calling, with humility, gentleness, patience, and love (Ephesians 4:1-3). He emphasizes the importance of maintaining unity in the Spirit and peace among one another. Paul highlights that there is one body, one Spirit, one hope, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, and one God and Father over all.

2nd Paragraph: Paul explains that Christ has given various gifts to equip believers for works of service and for building up the body of Christ (Ephesians 4:11-13). These gifts include apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, and teachers. The purpose is to attain unity in faith and knowledge concerning Christ while growing into maturity. By speaking truth in love and functioning as a unified body under Christ's headship, believers are encouraged to grow together.

3rd Paragraph: The chapter concludes with practical instructions for Christian living (Ephesians 4:17-32). Paul urges believers not to live as they did before knowing Christ but rather put off their old self characterized by deceitful desires. Instead they should be renewed in their minds and put on the new self created after God's likeness—marked by righteousness and holiness.

Paul encourages honest communication among believers while avoiding unwholesome talk or bitterness. He emphasizes kindness, forgiveness as modeled by God's forgiveness through Jesus' sacrifice. Believers are urged to imitate God's love demonstrated through sacrificial acts rather than engaging in sinful behavior.

In summary,

Chapter four of Ephesians highlights the importance of living a life worthy of our calling as followers of Christ. Paul emphasizes unity in the Spirit and peace among believers, acknowledging the diverse gifts given by Christ to equip them for service and growth.

He encourages believers to embrace their role in building up the body of Christ while attaining unity in faith and knowledge. Paul provides practical instructions for Christian living, urging them to put off their old self, be renewed in their minds, and put on the new self created after God's likeness.

This chapter underscores the significance of unity, maturity, and living a transformed life characterized by righteousness, kindness, forgiveness, and love. It calls believers to embrace their unique roles within the body of Christ while pursuing growth and displaying Christ-like character in their interactions with others.

Ephesians 4:1 I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called,

Live a life worthy of your calling.

1: Live a life of purpose and meaning, for God has called us all to a greater purpose.

2: Let us strive to live our lives in a way that is pleasing to God, for we are called to do so.

1: Philippians 2:12-13 - “Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.”

2: Colossians 1:10 - “So as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God.”

Ephesians 4:2 With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love;

We should be humble and patient with each other, having love for one another.

1. The Power of Kindness and Patience in Relationships

2. Cultivating a Heart of Love and Humility

1. 1 Corinthians 13:1-7

2. Colossians 3:12-14

Ephesians 4:3 Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

Unity among believers is essential for living in peace.

1: Unity in the Church: The Power of Love

2: The Importance of Unity in a Broken World

1: John 17:21-23 “That they all may be one, as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me. And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one: I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know that thou hast sent me, and hast loved them, as thou hast loved me.”

2: Galatians 3:28 “There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus.”

Ephesians 4:4 There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling;

One : We are all called to be part of the same body of believers and share in one hope.

Second : Living in harmony as one body requires us to be unified in the Spirit.

First : 1 Corinthians 12:12-13 - "For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and all were made to drink of one Spirit."

Second : Colossians 3:14-15 - "And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful."

Ephesians 4:5 One Lord, one faith, one baptism,

The passage emphasizes the importance of unity in the Lord, faith, and baptism.

1: The Unity of the Lord: How to Celebrate Our Oneness

2: The Faith of Baptism: A Foundation for a Unified Future

1: John 17:20-23 - Jesus' prayer for unity among believers

2: Philippians 2:1-4 - Paul's call for unity because of the humility of Christ

Ephesians 4:6 One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.

There is only one God and He is the Father of all, above all, through all, and in all.

1. The Unifying Power of One God

2. The Omnipresence of God

1. Ephesians 4:1-5

2. Romans 11:36

Ephesians 4:7 But unto every one of us is given grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ.

God has given everyone grace in varying amounts, according to the gift of Christ.

1. The boundless grace of Christ: our hope in times of trouble.

2. The gifts of Christ: unlocking the power of grace in our lives.

1. 1 Corinthians 12:7-10 - The grace of the Spirit manifests in diverse ways.

2. Romans 5:15-17 - Grace abounds to us by the gift of Christ.

Ephesians 4:8 Wherefore he saith, When he ascended up on high, he led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men.

In Ephesians 4:8, Paul speaks of Jesus ascending to heaven and giving gifts to mankind.

1. The Captive Capturer: Jesus' Triumphant Ascension and Gift Giving

2. The Gift of Life: Appreciating the Gifts God Has Given Us

1. Philippians 2:8-11 - Jesus humbled himself, becoming obedient to death, even death on a cross. Therefore God has highly exalted him and given him the name that is above every name.

2. Romans 5:15-17 - But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if many died through one man's trespass, much more have the grace of God and the free gift by the grace of that one man Jesus Christ abounded for many.

Ephesians 4:9 (Now that he ascended, what is it but that he also descended first into the lower parts of the earth?

This passage from Ephesians 4:9 speaks of Jesus' descent to the lower parts of the earth.

1. Jesus Christ's Descent and Triumph: A Meaningful Example for Our Lives

2. The Significance of Jesus' Descent for His Followers

1. Romans 10:9 - "That if you confess with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved."

2. Philippians 2:8-10 - "And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death— even death on a cross! Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name."

Ephesians 4:10 He that descended is the same also that ascended up far above all

heavens, that he might fill all things.)

The passage talks about how Christ descended and ascended to fill all things.

1. The Ascension of Christ and Our Need to Follow Him

2. The Greatness of Christ and Our Response

1. John 14:1-3 “Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also.”

2. Philippians 2:5-8 “Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.”

Ephesians 4:11 And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers;

The passage explains that Jesus gave some people gifts of apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers.

1. The Power of the Gifts of Jesus

2. Living a Life of Service to God

1. Romans 12:6-8 - Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, whether prophecy, let us prophesy according to the proportion of faith; Or ministry, let us wait on our ministering: or he that teacheth, on teaching; Or he that exhorteth, on exhortation: he that giveth, let him do it with simplicity; he that ruleth, with diligence; he that sheweth mercy, with cheerfulness.

2. 1 Corinthians 12:4-11 - Now there are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. And there are differences of administrations, but the same Lord. And there are diversities of operations, but it is the same God which worketh all in all. But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal. For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom; to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit; To another faith by the

same Spirit; to another the gifts of healing by the same Spirit; To another the working of miracles; to another prophecy; to another discerning of spirits; to another divers kinds of tongues; to another the interpretation of tongues: But all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as he will.

Ephesians 4:12 For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:

This passage from Ephesians 4:12 talks about how God calls us to perfect the saints, do the work of ministry, and edify the body of Christ.

1. "The Call to Service: Perfecting the Saints and Edifying the Body of Christ"

2. "God's Work of Ministry and the Body of Christ"

1. Romans 12:3-8 - For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; if service, in our serving; the one who teaches, in his teaching; the one who exhorts, in his exhortation; the one who contributes, in generosity; the one who leads, with zeal; the one who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness.

2. James 1:27 - Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unstained from the world.

Ephesians 4:13 Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ:

The passage emphasizes the importance of unity among believers in the faith and knowledge of Jesus Christ.

1. "The Unifying Power of Faith and Knowledge in Christ"

2. "Achieving Perfection Through Unity in Christ"

1. Colossians 2:2-3 - That their hearts might be comforted, being knit together in love, and unto all riches of the full assurance of understanding, to the acknowledgement of the

mystery of God, and of the Father, and of Christ; In whom are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.

2. Ephesians 4:3 - Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

Ephesians 4:14 That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive;

We should no longer be easily led astray by the clever and manipulative lies of men.

1. Don't be deceived by clever and manipulative lies.

2. Stand firm in your faith and stay true to God's teachings.

1. Proverbs 3:5-6 - Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.

2. 1 Corinthians 16:13 - Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith; be courageous; be strong.

Ephesians 4:15 But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ:

Christians should speak the truth in love so that they can grow closer to Christ who is the head of the Church.

1. The Power of Speaking the Truth in Love

2. Growing Closer to Christ Through Truth and Love

1. Proverbs 12:17 - He that speaketh truth sheweth forth righteousness: but a false witness deceit.

2. John 15:17 - These things I command you, that ye love one another.

Ephesians 4:16 From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love.

The whole body of believers works together to build up each other in love.

1. Unity: The Strength of the Church

2. Working Together in Love

1. 1 Corinthians 12:12-27

2. Colossians 3:12-17

Ephesians 4:17 This I say therefore, and testify in the Lord, that ye henceforth walk not as other Gentiles walk, in the vanity of their mind,

Paul encourages Christians to not live like the Gentiles, who are driven by their own desires and vain thoughts.

1. Living in the Light of the Lord: How to Follow the Path of Righteousness

2. The Vanity of Our Thoughts: Avoiding the Temptation of Sin

1. Philippians 4:8-9 - "Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things. Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me—put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you."

2. Colossians 3:2 - "Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things."

Ephesians 4:18 Having the understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart:

People can become disconnected from God when they fail to understand Him due to a lack of knowledge and a hardened heart.

1. The Danger of Ignorance and Hardened Hearts

2. Reconnecting with God through Understanding and Compassion

1. Jeremiah 17:9-10 - "The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it? I the Lord search the heart, I try the reins, even to give every man according to his ways, and according to the fruit of his doings."

2. Romans 10:13-15 - "For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!"

Ephesians 4:19 Who being past feeling have given themselves over unto lasciviousness, to work all uncleanness with greediness.

Those who have hardened their hearts and no longer feel emotion have given themselves over to immoral and debased behavior, driven by greed.

1. The Danger of Hardening Our Hearts - Ephesians 4:19

2. Greed: The Destroyer of Moral Integrity - Ephesians 4:19

1. Proverbs 28:14 - “Blessed is the one who fears the Lord always, but whoever hardens their heart falls into trouble.”

2. 1 Timothy 6:10 - “For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.”

Ephesians 4:20 But ye have not so learned Christ;

The Bible teaches us to not be like the world, but instead to learn and follow Jesus Christ.

1: Learning Jesus' Way: How to Live a Life that Pleases God

2: The Power of Christ: Transforming Our Lives from the Inside Out

1: Matthew 11:29 – Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.

2: 2 Corinthians 5:17 – Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!

Ephesians 4:21 If so be that ye have heard him, and have been taught by him, as the truth is in Jesus:

The verse encourages believers to have heard and been taught by Jesus, who is the truth.

1. The importance of being a lifelong student of Jesus

2. Living by the truth of Jesus

1. John 14:6 - "Jesus said to him, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."

2. 2 Timothy 3:16 - "All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness,"

Ephesians 4:22 That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts;

Christians should put off their former sinful ways and live according to God's will.

1. "Put Away the Old Self and Embrace the New"

2. "Living in the Image of God"

1. Colossians 3:9-10 - "Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old self with its practices and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator."

2. Romans 12:2 - "Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect."

Ephesians 4:23 And be renewed in the spirit of your mind;

Renew your mind to be more like Christ.

1. Renewing the Mind: Transforming Your Life Through Christ

2. Renewing the Mind to Overcome Difficulties

1. Romans 12:2 - "Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind."

2. Philippians 4:8 - "Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things."

Ephesians 4:24 And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.

Believers are to put on the new man, which is created according to God's standards of righteousness and holiness.

1. "God's Calling: Putting On the New Man"

2. "Living a Life of Righteousness and Holiness"

1. Colossians 3:10 - "And have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him"

2. 1 Peter 1:15-16 - "But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation; Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy."

Ephesians 4:25 Wherefore putting away lying, speak every man truth with his neighbour:

for we are members one of another.

Put away lying and speak the truth to one another, for we are all members of the same body.

1. The Power of Truth: How Honesty and Integrity Strengthen Our Relationships

2. The Necessity of Honesty: Communicating Openly and Honestly

1. Colossians 3:9-10 “Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old self with its practices and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator.”

2. Psalm 34:13 “Keep your tongue from evil and your lips from speaking deceit.”

Ephesians 4:26 Be ye angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath:

We should be angry at times, but it should not lead to sinning. We should not let our anger linger too long.

1. "The Power of Righteous Anger"

2. "Managing Our Emotions in a Godly Way"

1. Proverbs 15:18 - A wrathful man stirreth up strife: but he that is slow to anger appeaseth strife.

2. James 1:19-20 - Wherefore, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath: For the wrath of man worketh not the righteousness of God.

Ephesians 4:27 Neither give place to the devil.

This passage emphasizes the need to not give any room in our lives to the devil's influence.

1. We must resist the devil's influence by actively striving to do what is right in God's

eyes.

2. We must remember that the devil seeks to lead us away from God's will, and we must be mindful of his attempts to do so.

1. James 4:7 - "Resist the devil, and he will flee from you."

2. 1 John 4:4 - "You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world."

Ephesians 4:28 Let him that stole steal no more: but rather let him labour, working with his hands the thing which is good, that he may have to give to him that needeth.

This passage encourages people to work hard and use their labors to help those in need.

1. The Importance of Hard Work: How Our Efforts Can Help Others

2. God's Plan for Generosity: Using Our Resources to Bless Others

1. Proverbs 13:11 - Wealth gained hastily will dwindle, but whoever gathers little by little will increase it.

2. 1 John 3:17-18 - But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him? Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth.

Ephesians 4:29 Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers.

We should use our words to build up others, not to tear them down, in order to show grace to those who hear us.

1. The Power of Words: Using Our Speech to Build Up Others

2. The Grace of Speech: Showing Grace to Those Around Us

1. James 3:5-6 - "Even so the tongue is a little member, and boasteth great things. Behold, how great a matter a little fire kindleth! And the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity: so is the tongue among our members, that it defileth the whole body, and setteth on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire of hell."

2. Colossians 4:6 - "Let your speech be alway with grace, seasoned with salt, that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man."

Ephesians 4:30 And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.

Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, who seals us until the day of redemption.

1: We must remember that the Holy Spirit is not to be taken lightly, for He is the one who seals us until the day of redemption.

2: The Holy Spirit is our protector and guide, and He will keep us safe and secure until the day of redemption.

1: Romans 8:16 The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God.

2: John 14:26 But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you.

Ephesians 4:31 Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice:

We should put away bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, evil speaking, and malice from our lives.

1: Let us strive to be more like Christ and rid ourselves of anything that may hinder us from being more like Him.

2: We must rid ourselves of anything that would cause division and strife among us and instead strive to be unified in love and understanding.

1: Colossians 3:8-10 - "But now you must put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and obscene talk from your mouth. Do not lie to one another, seeing that you

have put off the old self with its practices and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator."

2: James 1:19-20 - "Know this, my beloved brothers: let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger; for the anger of man does not produce the righteousness of God."

Ephesians 4:32 And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.

Be kind and forgiving to one another, as Christ has forgiven us.

1: The Power of Forgiveness

2: Be Kind and Forgiving

1: Colossians 3:13 - Bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive.

2: Luke 6:36-37 - Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful. Judge not, and you will not be judged; condemn not, and you will not be condemned; forgive, and you will be forgiven.

Ephesians 5 is the fifth chapter of the Epistle of Paul to the Ephesians. In this chapter, Paul addresses various aspects of Christian conduct, emphasizing the importance of imitating God's love and living in the light.

1st Paragraph: Paul begins by urging believers to imitate God and walk in love, just as Christ loved them and gave Himself up for them (Ephesians 5:1-2). He emphasizes that believers should avoid sexual immorality, impurity, and greed but rather live lives characterized by thanksgiving. Paul warns against participating in unfruitful works of darkness but rather exposing them through righteous living.

2nd Paragraph: Paul highlights the significance of walking in wisdom and making the most of every opportunity (Ephesians 5:15-17). He encourages believers to understand what pleases the Lord and not to be foolish but wise. They are urged to be filled with the Spirit, singing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs while giving thanks always for everything.

3rd Paragraph: The chapter concludes with instructions for various relationships within

Christian households (Ephesians 5:22-33). Paul addresses wives, instructing them to submit to their husbands as unto the Lord. Husbands are called to love their wives sacrificially as Christ loved the Church. Children are encouraged to obey their parents while fathers are urged not to provoke their children but bring them up in discipline and instruction.

Paul also speaks about relationships between slaves and masters, emphasizing fair treatment and doing one's work heartily as unto Christ.

In summary,

Chapter five of Ephesians emphasizes imitating God's love and living a life characterized by righteousness. Believers are called to walk in love, avoiding immoral behavior while exposing unfruitful works of darkness through righteous living.

Paul highlights walking in wisdom, being filled with the Spirit, offering thanksgiving, and making the most of every opportunity. He provides instructions for various relationships within Christian households, addressing the roles of wives, husbands, children, fathers, slaves, and masters.

This chapter underscores the importance of imitating God's love, living in righteousness and wisdom. It emphasizes the significance of maintaining healthy relationships within Christian households and conducting oneself with integrity in various social contexts.

Ephesians 5:1 Be ye therefore followers of God, as dear children;

Follow God's example as beloved children.

1: We are called to be obedient children of God.

2: We must strive to reflect God's love and mercy in all we do.

1: Matthew 5:44-45 - "But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you."

2: 1 John 4:12 - "No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us."

Ephesians 5:2 And walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweetsmelling savour.

Christians are called to follow the example of Jesus Christ, who sacrificially loved us and gave Himself to God as a pleasing offering.

1. Living a Life of Love: A Call to Follow Jesus' Example

2. Sacrifice and Service: How Jesus Loved Us and What We Can Learn from Him

1. John 15:12-13 - "This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you. Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends."

2. Romans 12:1 - "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service."

Ephesians 5:3 But fornication, and all uncleanness, or covetousness, let it not be once named among you, as becometh saints;

Christians are called to live holy lives, free from impure thoughts, words, and actions.

1. "Living a Life of Holiness"

2. "The Power of Our Words"

1. James 1:22-25 – Be doers of the Word, and not hearers only.

2. 1 Corinthians 6:18-20 – Flee from sexual immorality.

Ephesians 5:4 Neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor jesting, which are not convenient: but rather giving of thanks.

Living a life of gratitude and thankfulness for God's blessings.

1: Living a life of Gratitude and Thankfulness

2: The Power of a Grateful Heart

1: Colossians 3:17 - And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him.

2: Psalm 92:1 - It is a good thing to give thanks unto the Lord, and to sing praises unto thy name, O most High.

Ephesians 5:5 For this ye know, that no whoremonger, nor unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, hath any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God.

This verse from Ephesians 5:5 teaches that those who commit immoral acts, are unclean, and are idolaters have no right to inherit the kingdom of Christ and God.

1. The Dangers of Immoral Behavior: A Study in Ephesians 5:5

2. The Path to Salvation: A Study of Ephesians 5:5

1. 1 Corinthians 6:9-10 - Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind.

2. Romans 6:23 - For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Ephesians 5:6 Let no man deceive you with vain words: for because of these things cometh the wrath of God upon the children of disobedience.

The wrath of God comes upon those who disobey His commands.

1: Do not be deceived by empty words and instead follow God's word.

2: If we remain obedient to God, then we will be spared the wrath of God.

1: John 14:15, "If you love me, keep my commandments."

2: Proverbs 3:5-6, "Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths."

Ephesians 5:7 Be not ye therefore partakers with them.

Passage Christians should not partake in the activities of unbelievers.

1. Following God's Path - Avoiding the Wrong Paths

2. Living a Life of Holiness - Abstaining from Sin

1. 1 Thessalonians 5:22 - "Abstain from all appearance of evil."

2. Romans 12:2 - "Be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

Ephesians 5:8 For ye were sometimes darkness, but now are ye light in the Lord: walk as children of light:

Believers were once darkness, but are now light in the Lord. They should live as children of light.

1. "Living as Children of Light"

2. "The Transformation from Darkness to Light"

1. Romans 13:12-14, “The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light. 13 Let us walk honestly, as in the day; not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness, not in strife and envying. 14 But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof.”

2. Matthew 5:14-16, “Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid. 15 Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house. 16 Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.”

Ephesians 5:9 (For the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness and righteousness and truth;)

This passage speaks of the fruits of the Spirit which are goodness, righteousness and

truth.

1. Living by the Fruits of the Spirit - Ephesians 5:9

2. Cultivating Goodness, Righteousness and Truth in Our Lives - Ephesians 5:9

1. Romans 12:9-10 - Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves.

2. Philippians 4:8 - Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things.

Ephesians 5:10 Proving what is acceptable unto the Lord.

The passage emphasizes the importance of living a life that is pleasing to the Lord.

1. "Living a Life Acceptable to the Lord"

2. "The Blessing of Godly Living"

1. Colossians 1:10 - "That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God"

2. 1 Thessalonians 4:1-2 - "Furthermore then we beseech you, brethren, and exhort you by the Lord Jesus, that as ye have received of us how ye ought to walk and to please God, so ye would abound more and more."

Ephesians 5:11 And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them.

Do not associate with ungodly activities, but rather rebuke them.

1. Living in the Light: Growing in Holiness

2. Walking in the Spirit: Turning Away from Sin

1. Romans 12:2 - Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

2. 1 John 1:7 - But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.

Ephesians 5:12 For it is a shame even to speak of those things which are done of them in secret.

Paul admonishes Christians to not talk about the shameful things which are done in secret.

1. The Power of Words - How to control what we say to protect ourselves and others.

2. Not Everything is Meant to be Said - A look at the importance of discretion and honoring God with our words.

1. Proverbs 10:19 - "When words are many, transgression is not lacking, but whoever restrains his lips is prudent."

2. James 3:5-8 - "So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great things. How great a forest is set ablaze by such a small fire! And the tongue is a fire, a world of unrighteousness. The tongue is set among our members, staining the whole body, setting on fire the entire course of life, and set on fire by hell. For every kind of beast and bird, of reptile and sea creature, can be tamed and has been tamed by mankind, but no human being can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison."

Ephesians 5:13 But all things that are reproved are made manifest by the light: for whatsoever doth make manifest is light.

Light is used as a metaphor for truth in this passage from Ephesians.

1. Living in the Light: Knowing and Doing the Will of God

2. The Power of Light: How Knowing the Truth Can Change Your Life

1. John 3:19-21 - And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reproved. But he that doeth truth cometh to the light, that his deeds may be made manifest, that they are wrought in God.

2. Psalm 119:105 - Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.

Ephesians 5:14 Wherefore he saith, Awake thou that sleepest, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give thee light.

Paul urges believers to awaken from spiritual slumber, allowing Christ to give them light.

1. "Arise from Spiritual Slumber"

2. "The Light of Christ"

1. Isaiah 60:1-3 - "Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you."

2. Matthew 5:14-16 - "You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house."

Ephesians 5:15 See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise,

Be wise in the way you walk.

1. The Importance of Wisdom in Our Walk with God

2. Making Wise Choices in Everyday Life

1. Proverbs 4:7 - Wisdom is the principal thing; therefore get wisdom: and with all thy getting get understanding.

2. James 1:5 - If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him.

Ephesians 5:16 Redeeming the time, because the days are evil.

We should make the most of our time, as the days are filled with evil.

1. "Making Wise Use of Our Time"

2. "Time, a Precious Commodity"

1. Ecclesiastes 3:1-8

2. Colossians 4:5-6

Ephesians 5:17 Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is.

Understand the will of God and be wise.

1: Walking in the Will of God

2: The Wisdom of Understanding the Will of the Lord

1: Romans 12:2 - Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

2: James 4:17 - So whoever knows the right thing to do and fails to do it, for him it is sin.

Ephesians 5:18 And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit;

Believers should be filled with the Spirit, not with wine which leads to excess.

1. "Living in the Spirit: The Key to Spiritual Abundance"

2. "The Danger of Drunkenness and the Blessing of Being Filled with the Spirit"

1. Galatians 5:22-23 - "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law."

2. Romans 8:14 - "For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God."

Ephesians 5:19 Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord;

The passage encourages believers to express their faith through song and worship.

1: Make a Joyful Noise: Expressing Faith Through Music

2: Singing to the Lord with Your Heart

1: Colossians 3:16-17 - "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord. And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him."

2: Psalm 98:4-5 - "Make a joyful noise unto the LORD, all the earth: make a loud noise, and rejoice, and sing praise. Sing unto the LORD with the harp; with the harp, and the voice of a psalm."

Ephesians 5:20 Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ;

We should always give thanks to God for all things through Jesus Christ.

1. God's Grace in Our Lives: A Thanksgiving

2. Living a Life of Gratitude: A Thanksgiving

1. Colossians 3:15-17 - Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts.

2. Psalm 95:1-5 - Come, let us sing for joy to the LORD; let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation. Let us come before him with thanksgiving and extol him with music and song. For the LORD is the great God, the great King above all gods. In his hand are the depths of the earth, and the mountain peaks belong to him. The sea is his, for he made it, and his hands formed the dry land.

Ephesians 5:21 Submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God.

This passage encourages believers to submit to one another out of reverence for God.

1: “Submission: The Key to a Godly Relationship”

2: “Living Out the Fear of the Lord”

1: Matthew 22:37-39 “And he said to him, ‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’”

2: 1 Peter 5:5 “Likewise, you who are younger, be subject to the elders. Clothe yourselves, all of you, with humility toward one another, for ‘God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.’”

Ephesians 5:22 Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord.

The passage encourages wives to submit to their husbands as they would to the Lord.

1. "The Power of Submission: Wives and Husbands in Christian Marriage"

2. "Obedience to God through Submission to Spouses"

1. Colossians 3:18-19 - "Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as it is fit in the Lord. Husbands, love your wives, and be not bitter against them."

2. 1 Peter 3:1-2 - "Likewise, ye wives, be in subjection to your own husbands; that, if any obey not the word, they also may without the word be won by the conversation of the wives; While they behold your chaste conversation coupled with fear."

Ephesians 5:23 For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body.

The husband is the head of the wife just as Christ is the head of the Church and He is the saviour of the body.

1. The Husband and Christ: Heads of the House and the Church

2. The Husband and Christ: Saviours of the Home and the Body

1. Colossians 3:18-19 - Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as it is fit in the Lord. Husbands, love your wives, and be not bitter against them.

2. 1 Corinthians 11:3 - But I would have you know, that the head of every man is Christ; and the head of the woman is the man; and the head of Christ is God.

Ephesians 5:24 Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in every thing.

The church should be subject to Christ, and wives should be subject to their husbands in all things.

1. God's Plan for Marriage: Submission and Love

2. The Role of Husbands and Wives in the Marriage Covenant

1. Colossians 3:18-19 - Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as it is fit in the Lord. Husbands, love your wives, and be not bitter against them.

2. 1 Peter 3:7 - Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with them according to knowledge, giving honour unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life; that your prayers be not hindered.

Ephesians 5:25 Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it;

Husbands are called to love their wives like Christ loved the Church and sacrificed Himself for it.

1. The Unfathomable Love of Christ and the Call to Love Our Spouses

2. Sacrificial Love: What Does it Really Mean?

1. 1 John 4:7-12

2. Romans 5:6-8

Ephesians 5:26 That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word,

The passage points to the power of God's Word to cleanse and sanctify us.

1: The Power of God's Word to Sanctify and Cleanse Us

2: The Importance of Obeying God's Word

1: Psalm 119:9-11 “Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? by taking heed thereto according to thy word. With my whole heart have I sought thee: O let me not wander from thy commandments. Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.”

2: John 15:3 “Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you.”

Ephesians 5:27 That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.

This passage speaks of the importance of presenting the church as a glorious, holy, and perfect body.

1. The Beauty of a Holy Church

2. Perfecting Our Church

1. 1 Peter 1:15-16 – “But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner

of conversation; Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy.”

2. Matthew 5:48 – “Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect.”

Ephesians 5:28 So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife loveth himself.

In Ephesians 5:28, Paul encourages husbands to love their wives as they would love themselves.

1. Love your Wife as Yourself - Ephesians 5:28

2. Loving your Wife - from a Biblical Perspective

1. 1 Corinthians 13:4-7 - "Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

2. Matthew 22:37-39 - And he said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself.

Ephesians 5:29 For no man ever yet hated his own flesh; but nourisheth and cherisheth it, even as the Lord the church:

No one has ever hated their own body, instead they take care of it, just as the Lord cares for the Church.

1. Nurturing Ourselves Like We Would the Lord's Church

2. The Importance of Self-Care

1. 1 Corinthians 6:19-20 - Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.

2. Philippians 4:5 - Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near.

Ephesians 5:30 For we are members of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones.

Believers are members of Christ's body, flesh, and bones.

1. The Mystery of the Incarnation: Understanding Our Union with Christ

2. The Meaning of the Church: Being the Body of Christ

1. Colossians 1:15-20 – Christ is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation.

2. Romans 12:4-5 – We are members of one body, each part with its own purpose.

Ephesians 5:31 For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh.

This passage is about the sacred bond of marriage and how it is built on a man and woman leaving their families to be together.

1. "The Covenant of Marriage: A Love Built on Sacrifice"

2. "The Union of Two Souls: Strengthening the Bond of Marriage"

1. Genesis 2:24–25, "Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh."

2. 1 Corinthians 7:4, "For the wife does not have authority over her own body, but the husband does. Likewise the husband does not have authority over his own body, but the wife does."

Ephesians 5:32 This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church.

This passage speaks of the union between Christ and the Church as a great mystery.

1. The Mystery of Christ's Love for the Church

2. Unveiling the Mystery of Christ and the Church

1. John 15:13 - "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends."

2. Romans 8:38-39 - "For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord."

Ephesians 5:33 Nevertheless let every one of you in particular so love his wife even as himself; and the wife see that she reverence her husband.

Every person should love their partner unconditionally, and the wife should respect her husband.

1: Love and Respect: The Cornerstones of Marriage

2: Building a Strong Marriage: Encouraging Love and Respect

1: Colossians 3:19 - Husbands, love your wives, and do not be harsh with them.

2: 1 Peter 3:7 - Likewise, husbands, live with your wives in an understanding way, showing honor to the woman as the weaker vessel, since they are heirs with you of the grace of life, so that your prayers may not be hindered.

Ephesians 6 is the sixth and final chapter of the Epistle of Paul to the Ephesians. In this chapter, Paul discusses the spiritual warfare believers face and provides instructions for putting on the armor of God.

1st Paragraph: Paul begins by addressing the relationship between children and parents, urging children to obey their parents in the Lord (Ephesians 6:1-4). He emphasizes that this is right and promises blessings for those who honor their parents. Paul also instructs fathers not to provoke their children but rather bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.

2nd Paragraph: Paul then turns his attention to relationships between slaves and masters

(Ephesians 6:5-9). He encourages slaves to serve their masters with sincerity as if serving Christ Himself. Masters are urged to treat their slaves justly, knowing that they too have a Master in heaven. Paul highlights that there is no partiality with God, emphasizing fairness and equality among believers.

3rd Paragraph: The chapter concludes with a powerful exhortation regarding spiritual warfare (Ephesians 6:10-18). Paul urges believers to be strong in the Lord's mighty power, putting on the whole armor of God to stand against spiritual forces of evil. He describes each piece of armor—truth, righteousness, readiness from the gospel of peace, faith, salvation, and God's Word—and emphasizes prayer as an essential weapon.

Paul encourages believers to pray at all times in the Spirit for all believers while being alert and persistent in prayer.

In summary,

Chapter six of Ephesians addresses various relationships within Christian households—between children and parents as well as slaves and masters. It emphasizes obedience, honor, fair treatment, and equality.

Paul then shifts his focus towards spiritual warfare. He urges believers to put on the full armor of God—truth, righteousness, readiness from the gospel of peace, faith, salvation, and God's Word. He emphasizes the importance of prayer and being vigilant against spiritual forces of evil.

This chapter highlights the significance of healthy relationships within Christian households, fairness, and equality. It also underscores the reality of spiritual warfare and provides instructions for believers to equip themselves with God's armor and engage in persistent prayer.

Ephesians 6:1 Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right.

Children should obey their parents as it is a moral obligation.

1: Obeying our Parents: Honor your Father and Mother.

2: The Blessings of Obedience: A Child's Duty in the Lord.

1: Proverbs 22:6 "Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it."

2: Colossians 3:20 "Children, obey your parents in all things: for this is well pleasing unto the Lord."

Ephesians 6:2 Honour thy father and mother; which is the first commandment with promise;

Children should show respect to their parents.

1: Respect Your Parents: A Commandment with Promise

2: Honoring Your Father and Mother: A Way to Receive God's Blessing

1: Colossians 3:20 - “Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord.”

2: Exodus 20:12 – “Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long in the land that the Lord your God is giving you.”

Ephesians 6:3 That it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth.

Ephesians 6:3 encourages children to obey their parents so that they may have a long and successful life.

1. "The Blessing of Obedience: Finding Success Through Faith"

2. "A Parent's Love: The Path to a Long Life of Happiness"

1. Proverbs 3:1-2 - "My son, forget not my law; but let thine heart keep my commandments: For length of days, and long life, and peace, shall they add to thee."

2. Colossians 3:20 - "Children, obey your parents in all things: for this is well pleasing unto the Lord."

Ephesians 6:4 And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.

Parents should lovingly guide their children in faith and discipline.

1. Teaching Children Through Love and Discipline

2. Empowering Children Through God's Discipline

1. Proverbs 29:17 - Discipline your children, and they will give you peace; they will bring you the delights you desire.

2. Colossians 3:21 - Fathers, do not provoke your children, lest they become discouraged.

Ephesians 6:5 Servants, be obedient to them that are your masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in singleness of your heart, as unto Christ;

Christians are called to obey their earthly masters with humility and sincerity, as if they were serving Christ Himself.

1. The Christian Call to Serve with Humility

2. Serving Others as if We are Serving Christ

1. Colossians 3:22-24 - "Servants, obey in all things your masters according to the flesh; not with eyeservice, as menpleasers; but in singleness of heart, fearing God; And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men; Knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ."

2. Matthew 20:25-28 - "But Jesus called them unto him, and said, Ye know that the princes of the Gentiles exercise dominion over them, and they that are great exercise authority upon them. But it shall not be so among you: but whosoever will be great among you, let him be your minister; And whosoever will be chief among you, let him be your servant: Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many."

Ephesians 6:6 Not with eyeservice, as menpleasers; but as the servants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart;

Servants of Christ should do God's will with sincerity and integrity, not out of obligation or to please people.

1. Doing God's Will with Sincerity and Integrity

2. Serving God to Please Him, Not People

1. Colossians 3:23 - Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men.

2. 1 Thessalonians 2:4 - But just as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel, so we speak, not to please man, but to please God who tests our hearts.

Ephesians 6:7 With good will doing service, as to the Lord, and not to men:

The passage emphasizes the importance of doing service to the Lord with good will.

1. The Power of Willing Service to the Lord

2. Serving the Lord with a Good Attitude

1. Colossians 3:23-24 - Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving.

2. Matthew 25:40 - The King will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.’

Ephesians 6:8 Knowing that whatsoever good thing any man doeth, the same shall he receive of the Lord, whether he be bond or free.

The Lord rewards good deeds, regardless of one’s status in society.

1: God rewards those who do good regardless of their social standing.

2: Treating everyone with kindness and respect brings God's blessing.

1: Matthew 5:44-45 - But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be children of your Father in heaven.

2: Galatians 6:7-8 - Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows. Whoever sows to please their flesh, from the flesh will reap destruction; whoever

sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life.

Ephesians 6:9 And, ye masters, do the same things unto them, forbearing threatening: knowing that your Master also is in heaven; neither is there respect of persons with him.

Masters should treat their servants with respect and kindness, knowing that they too must answer to God.

1. "Living in God's Light: A Call to Kindness and Respect"

2. "The Master's Example: Showing Respect to Those We Lead"

1. Matthew 7:12 - "Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them: for this is the law and the prophets."

2. Colossians 3:22-25 - "Servants, obey in all things your masters according to the flesh; not with eyeservice, as menpleasers; but in singleness of heart, fearing God: And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men; Knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ. But he that doeth wrong shall receive for the wrong which he hath done: and there is no respect of persons."

Ephesians 6:10 Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might.

Be strong in the Lord and in his power.

1: Embracing the Strength of the Lord

2: The Power of God Working in Us

1: Philippians 4:13 - I can do all things through Christ which strengthens me

2: Isaiah 40:31 - But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.

Ephesians 6:11 Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

We are to put on the armor of God in order to stand up against the devil's schemes.

1. "Standing Against the Enemy: How to Put on the Armor of God"

2. "The Armor of God: Defending Yourself from the Devil's Schemes"

1. Isaiah 59:17 - He put on righteousness as a breastplate, and an helmet of salvation upon his head; and he put on the garments of vengeance for clothing, and was clad with zeal as a cloak.

2. Romans 13:12 - The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light.

Ephesians 6:12 For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.

We are in spiritual warfare against evil forces and must be prepared to fight.

1. Armor Up: Prepare for Spiritual Warfare

2. Battling the Darkness: Standing Firm Against Evil

1. Isaiah 59:17 - He put on righteousness as a breastplate, and a helmet of salvation upon his head; and he put on the garments of vengeance for clothing, and was clad with zeal as a cloak.

2. Ephesians 6:10-18 - Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil.

Ephesians 6:13 Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

Christians should prepare themselves for spiritual warfare by putting on God’s armor.

1. “The Armor of God: Preparing for Spiritual Warfare”

2. “Standing Firm in the Face of Evil”

1. Isaiah 11:5 - “Righteousness shall be the belt of his waist, and faithfulness the belt of his loins.”

2. Romans 13:12 - “The night is far gone; the day is at hand. So then let us cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light.”

Ephesians 6:14 Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness;

The passage calls on believers to wear the armor of righteousness and truth.

1. The Armor of Righteousness: Putting on the Breastplate of Faith

2. The Power of Truth: Girding Yourself with Righteousness

1. Colossians 3:12-14 - Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.

2. Isaiah 59:17 - He put on righteousness as his breastplate, and the helmet of salvation on his head; he put on the garments of vengeance and wrapped himself in zeal as in a cloak.

Ephesians 6:15 And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace;

This passage encourages us to be prepared to share the good news of Jesus Christ with the world.

1. "The Gospel of Peace: Sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ"

2. "Putting on the Whole Armor of God: Preparing for Battle with the Gospel"

1. Romans 10:14-15 - "How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed?

And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? And how are they to preach unless they are sent?"

2. Jeremiah 20:9 - "If I say, “I will not mention him, or speak any more in his name,” there is in my heart as it were a burning fire shut up in my bones, and I am weary with holding it in, and I cannot."

Ephesians 6:16 Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.

Believers should rely on faith to protect them from the schemes of the wicked.

1. The Power of Faith in Overcoming Evil

2. Standing Firm in the Faith

1. James 4:7, "Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you."

2. 1 Peter 5:8-9, "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: Whom resist stedfast in the faith..."

Ephesians 6:17 And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God:

The helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God, are essential weapons for spiritual warfare.

1. The Power of the Word: A Guide to Spiritual Warfare

2. Taking Up the Helmet of Salvation: A Call to Action

1. Isaiah 59:17 - “For He put on righteousness as a breastplate, and a helmet of salvation on His head.”

2. Hebrews 4:12 - “For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword.”

Ephesians 6:18 Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;

Pray steadfastly and with perseverance, interceding for all the saints.

1. The Power of Prayer: Persevering for the Saints

2. Praying with Vigilance: Interceding for the Body of Christ

1. James 5:16 - "The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working."

2. 1 Thessalonians 5:17 - "pray without ceasing,"

Ephesians 6:19 And for me, that utterance may be given unto me, that I may open my mouth boldly, to make known the mystery of the gospel,

Paul prayed for the ability to boldly proclaim the mystery of the gospel.

1. Boldly Proclaiming the Gospel - Ephesians 6:19

2. The Mystery of the Gospel - Ephesians 6:19

1. Romans 1:16 - For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes.

2. Colossians 4:3-4 - Praying at the same time for us as well, that God would open to us a door for the word, to speak the mystery of Christ, for which I am also in chains, that I may make it manifest, as I ought to speak.

Ephesians 6:20 For which I am an ambassador in bonds: that therein I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.

Paul was an ambassador for Christ and was willing to endure whatever hardships that required of him in order to speak boldly of the gospel.

1. A Call to Servanthood: The Example of Paul

2. Equipping Ourselves for Boldness in Proclaiming the Gospel

1. Philippians 1:12-14

2. Acts 26:16-18

Ephesians 6:21 But that ye also may know my affairs, and how I do, Tychicus, a beloved brother and faithful minister in the Lord, shall make known to you all things:

Tychicus is a beloved brother and faithful minister of the Lord who will make known to the Ephesians all of Paul's affairs.

1. Being a faithful minister of the Lord: Ephesians 6:21

2. Learning from the example of Tychicus: Ephesians 6:21

1. Colossians 4:7-9 - Paul commends Tychicus for his faithful service

2. 2 Timothy 4:12 - Paul speaks of sending Tychicus to Ephesus to make known his affairs

Ephesians 6:22 Whom I have sent unto you for the same purpose, that ye might know our affairs, and that he might comfort your hearts.

This passage speaks of Paul sending a messenger to the Ephesian church to share the news of their affairs and to comfort their hearts.

1. How to Find Comfort in Difficult Times

2. The Power of Encouragement

1. Romans 15:5 - "May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus"

2. Isaiah 40:1-2 - "Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and proclaim to her that her hard service has been completed, that her sin has been paid for, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins"

Ephesians 6:23 Peace be to the brethren, and love with faith, from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Paul sends a message of peace and love with faith to the brethren, from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

1. The Power of Love and Faith: How We Can Strengthen Our Bonds with God and Our Brothers and Sisters

2. Finding Peace and Love in God: How We Can Receive Comfort from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ

1. 1 John 3:18 - "Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth."

2. Romans 5:5 - "And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us."

Ephesians 6:24 Grace be with all them that love our Lord Jesus Christ in sincerity. Amen.

Paul expresses his desire for God's grace to be with all those who love Jesus Christ with sincerity.

1. Living a Life of Sincerity - Learning to Live an Authentic Christian Life

2. Loving Our Lord - Growing in Our Relationship with Jesus

1. John 15:9-10 - “As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love.”

2. 1 John 4:7-8 - “Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love.”

Philippians 1 is the first chapter of the Epistle of Paul to the Philippians. In this chapter, Paul expresses his love and gratitude for the believers in Philippi, encourages them in their faith, and shares his perspective on suffering and the advancement of the gospel.

1st Paragraph: Paul begins by expressing his deep affection for the Philippian believers and thanking God for their partnership in spreading the gospel (Philippians 1:3-8). He assures them that he prays for them with joy and confidence, being confident that God who began a good work in them will bring it to completion. Paul longs for their love to abound more and more with knowledge and discernment.

2nd Paragraph: Paul discusses his imprisonment, which has actually served to advance the gospel (Philippians 1:12-18). He explains that many have been encouraged by his chains, gaining confidence to speak God's word fearlessly. Some preach Christ out of envy or rivalry, but Paul rejoices because Christ is proclaimed regardless of motives. He affirms that whether he lives or dies, Christ will be honored through him.

3rd Paragraph: The chapter concludes with Paul's reflection on life and death (Philippians 1:19-30). He expresses his hope and expectation that he will not be put to shame but rather exalted through their prayers and through the provision of the Holy Spirit. For him, living means fruitful labor while dying means being with Christ—a desire he wrestles with. Nevertheless, he encourages believers to conduct themselves in a manner worthy of the gospel amidst opposition without being frightened.

In summary,

Chapter one of Philippians reveals Paul's deep love for the Philippian believers as well as his gratitude for their partnership in spreading the gospel. He expresses confidence in God's work within them.

Paul shares how even though he is imprisoned, it has led to furthering the proclamation of Christ. He rejoices in the advancement of the gospel regardless of others' motives. He also reflects on life and death, expressing his hope for fruitful labor and his desire to be with Christ.

This chapter emphasizes the joy, gratitude, and confidence Paul has in God's work among believers. It highlights the positive impact of Paul's imprisonment on the spread of the gospel and his perspective on life and death. It encourages believers to live in a manner worthy of the gospel amidst challenges and opposition.

Philippians 1:1 Paul and Timotheus, the servants of Jesus Christ, to all the saints in Christ Jesus which are at Philippi, with the bishops and deacons:

Paul and Timothy send their greetings to the saints at Philippi, including the bishops and deacons.

1. The Power of Unity in the Body of Christ

2. The Importance of Serving Others

1. Ephesians 4:16 - "From Him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work."

2. Matthew 20:25-28 - "But Jesus called them to Himself and said, “You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and those who are great exercise authority over them. Yet it shall not be so among you; but whoever desires to become great among you, let him be your servant. And whoever desires to be first among you, let him be your slave — just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.”"

Philippians 1:2 Grace be unto you, and peace, from God our Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ.

Paul wishes the Philippians grace and peace from God and Jesus Christ.

1. The Power of Grace and Peace in Our Lives

2. Rejoicing in the Grace and Peace from God and Jesus Christ

1. Romans 5:1-2 “Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God.”

2. Ephesians 1:2 “Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.”

Philippians 1:3 I thank my God upon every remembrance of you,

Paul expresses his gratitude to God for the church in Philippi.

1: "Be Grateful For the People in Your Life"

2: "Gratitude is a Gift to God"

1: 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 - Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.

2: Ephesians 4:29 - Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear.

Philippians 1:4 Always in every prayer of mine for you all making request with joy,

The passage speaks of Paul's prayer for the Philippians with joy.

1. Experiencing Joy Through Prayer

2. The Power of Praying for Others

1. James 5:16 - "Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective."

2. Colossians 1:9-12 - "For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you. We continually ask God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all the wisdom and understanding that the Spirit gives, so that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God, being strengthened with all power according to his glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience, and giving joyful thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of his holy people in the kingdom of light."

Philippians 1:5 For your fellowship in the gospel from the first day until now;

The passage speaks of the fellowship of the gospel from the first day until now.

1. The importance of fellowship with the gospel and why we should strive to maintain it.

2. The consistency of the gospel and how it has endured throughout the years.

1. Acts 2:42, And they continued steadfastly in the apostles’ doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers.

2. Hebrews 10:24-25, And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.

Philippians 1:6 Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ:

Paul encourages the Philippians to be confident in God, who has begun a good work in them and will continue to perfect it until the day of Jesus Christ.

1. Trust in the Lord: Relying on God's Perfecting Work

2. Encouragement in the Midst of Uncertainty: Finding Comfort in God's Promise

1. Isaiah 41:10 - Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.

2. Hebrews 13:5-6 - Keep your life free from love of money, and be content with what you have, for he has said, “I will never leave you nor forsake you.” So we can confidently say, “The Lord is my helper; I will not fear; what can man do to me?”

Philippians 1:7 Even as it is meet for me to think this of you all, because I have you in my heart; inasmuch as both in my bonds, and in the defence and confirmation of the gospel, ye all are partakers of my grace.

Paul expresses his gratitude to the Philippian church for standing with him in the defense and confirmation of the Gospel.

1. The Role of the Church in Defending and Confirming the Gospel

2. Standing with Others in the Defense of the Gospel

1. Acts 4:29 - "And now, Lord, behold their threatenings: and grant unto thy servants, that with all boldness they may speak thy word,"

2. Hebrews 10:23-25 - "Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised;) And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching."

Philippians 1:8 For God is my record, how greatly I long after you all in the bowels of Jesus Christ.

Paul expresses his deep love for the believers in Philippi.

1: God's Love for Us is Unconditional

2: Love for Others Should Mirror God's Love

1: 1 John 4:19 - We love because He first loved us

2: John 13:34-35 - Love one another as I have loved you

Philippians 1:9 And this I pray, that your love may abound yet more and more in knowledge and in all judgment;

Paul encourages the Philippians to grow in knowledge and in all judgment through their love.

1) How to Grow in Knowledge and Judgment through Love

2) The Power of Abounding Love in Knowledge and Judgment

1) Colossians 3:14 - And above all these things put on charity, which is the bond of perfectness.

2) 1 Corinthians 13:13 - And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity.

Philippians 1:10 That ye may approve things that are excellent; that ye may be sincere and without offence till the day of Christ;

This passage encourages believers to live lives that are exceedingly excellent and without fault so that they can be found blameless on the day of Christ.

1. Living an Excellent Life: The Power of Philippians 1:10

2. Striving for Holiness: How to Be Without Offence Till the Day of Christ

1. Romans 12:2 - "And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God."

2. 1 Peter 1:15-16 - "But as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, because it is written, “Be holy, for I am holy.”"

Philippians 1:11 Being filled with the fruits of righteousness, which are by Jesus Christ, unto the glory and praise of God.

The fruits of righteousness are granted to us by Jesus Christ, to glorify and praise God.

1: We are blessed with the fruits of righteousness, granted to us by Jesus Christ, for the glory of God.

2: By trusting in Jesus Christ, we can attain the fruits of righteousness, to bring glory to God.

1: Colossians 1:10 - That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God.

2: James 3:18 - And the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace of them that make peace.

Philippians 1:12 But I would ye should understand, brethren, that the things which happened unto me have fallen out rather unto the furtherance of the gospel;

This passage speaks of how the difficulties and trials experienced by Paul have been turned into something beneficial, furthering the gospel.

1: We can trust in God to bring good out of our struggles.

2: We can have hope in God, even through our suffering.

1: Romans 8:28 - And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.

2: James 1:2-4 - Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.

Philippians 1:13 So that my bonds in Christ are manifest in all the palace, and in all other places;

Paul's imprisonment was a testament to his faith and commitment to Christ, demonstrating that his loyalty to the gospel was unwavering.

#1: Our faithfulness to Christ should be so strong that it is manifest in all we do.

#2: Our commitment to the gospel must be as solid as a prison cell, weathering every storm.

#1: Matthew 10:32-33 - “Whoever acknowledges me before others, I will also acknowledge before my Father in heaven. But whoever disowns me before others, I will disown before my Father in heaven.”

#2: Colossians 3:17 - And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Philippians 1:14 And many of the brethren in the Lord, waxing confident by my bonds, are much more bold to speak the word without fear.

The brethren in the Lord are more confident in speaking the word of God without fear due to Paul's bonds.

1. The Power of Perseverance in Living Out Our Faith

2. Overcoming Fear Through Trust and Faith in God

1. Matthew 10:28 - And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. But rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.

2. Romans 10:13-14 - For “whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.” How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher?

Philippians 1:15 Some indeed preach Christ even of envy and strife; and some also of good will:

Paul urges the church in Philippi to accept the preaching of Christ, regardless of the motivations behind it.

1 - No matter the motivation, the message of Christ should be accepted and embraced.

2 - God can use any situation to bring His message of salvation.

1 - Proverbs 21:1 - The king's heart is in the hand of the Lord; as the rivers of water: he turneth it whithersoever he will.

2 - Jeremiah 29:11 - For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.

Philippians 1:16 The one preach Christ of contention, not sincerely, supposing to add affliction to my bonds:

Paul's imprisonment did not stop him from proclaiming the Gospel of Christ, even in the face of opposition.

1: In times of hardship, stay strong in your faith and continue to share the love of Christ.

2: Even when faced with opposition, never compromise on your beliefs.

1: Romans 8:31-39 - Paul encourages believers to stand firm and not be discouraged by opposition.

2: Matthew 5:11-12 - Jesus teaches His followers to remain strong even when persecuted.

Philippians 1:17 But the other of love, knowing that I am set for the defence of the

gospel.

Paul is aware that he is called to defend the Gospel and is motivated by love.

1. The Power of Love: How Love Can Fuel Our Mission

2. Standing Firm: The Courage to Defend the Gospel

1. 1 John 4:7-12 – “Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God.”

2. Romans 12:1-2 – “I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.”

Philippians 1:18 What then? notwithstanding, every way, whether in pretence, or in truth, Christ is preached; and I therein do rejoice, yea, and will rejoice.

Christ is preached in all circumstances, and Paul rejoices in that.

1: In all circumstances, we must rejoice in the power of the gospel of Christ.

2: As Christians, we must find joy in the fact that Christ's message is being spread in any way possible.

1: 1 Corinthians 1:17-18 - For Christ did not send me to baptize, but to preach the gospel—not with wisdom and eloquence, lest the cross of Christ be emptied of its power.

2: Romans 1:16-17 - For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile.

Philippians 1:19 For I know that this shall turn to my salvation through your prayer, and the supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ,

Paul expresses his confidence in God's plan for his salvation.

1. God's plan for our salvation is always greater than our own.

2. God's grace through the power of the Holy Spirit is enough to sustain us.

1. Ephesians 2:8-10 - For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.

2. Romans 8:26-27 - Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words.

Philippians 1:20 According to my earnest expectation and my hope, that in nothing I shall be ashamed, but that with all boldness, as always, so now also Christ shall be magnified in my body, whether it be by life, or by death.

The passage stresses the importance of magnifying Christ in one's life and doing it with boldness, no matter the consequences.

1: Living Boldly for Christ - The importance of living a life that magnifies Christ.

2: Unashamed of Christ - Not being ashamed to live for Christ no matter the consequences.

1: Matthew 5:14-16 - “You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.

2: Colossians 3:17 - And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Philippians 1:21 For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain.

Paul expresses his belief that living for Christ is of greater value than death.

1: Living for Christ Is of Greater Value Than Death

2: The Power of Faith in Christ

1: Romans 5:8 - But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

2: Philippians 3:10 - I want to know Christ—yes, to know the power of his resurrection and participation in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death.

Philippians 1:22 But if I live in the flesh, this is the fruit of my labour: yet what I shall choose I wot not.

Paul expresses uncertainty in what he should choose between living in the flesh or dying in Christ.

1. The Freedom of Choice: How to Make the Right Decision

2. The Importance of Biblical Wisdom in Making Decisions

1. James 1:5 - "If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him."

2. Proverbs 3:5-6 - "Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths."

Philippians 1:23 For I am in a strait betwixt two, having a desire to depart, and to be with Christ; which is far better:

This passage speaks of Paul's desire to depart this life and be with Christ, which is far better.

1: We can learn from Paul's example to seek a better life beyond this one by striving to be with Christ.

2: We should have a longing to be with Christ, for it is far better than anything this world can offer.

1: 2 Corinthians 5:7-8 - For we walk by faith, not by sight. Yes, we do have confidence and would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord.

2: Revelation 14:13 - Then I heard a voice from heaven say, "Write this: Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on." "Yes," says the Spirit, "they will rest from their labor, for their deeds will follow them."

Philippians 1:24 Nevertheless to abide in the flesh is more needful for you.

The passage states that it is more needful for the reader to remain in the flesh.

1. The Need for Us to Remain in the Flesh and Honor God

2. The Blessing of Abiding in the Flesh

1. Romans 8:13-14 - "For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live. For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God."

2. Galatians 5:16-17 - "This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh. For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would."

Philippians 1:25 And having this confidence, I know that I shall abide and continue with you all for your furtherance and joy of faith;

This passage speaks about Paul's confidence in his ongoing partnership with the Philippians for their furtherance and joy of faith.

1: Paul's confidence in the Philippians and how it can encourage us to maintain our relationships with our fellow Christians.

2: Paul's example of partnership with the Philippians and how we can apply it to our own lives and relationships.

1: Acts 20:35 - In all things I have shown you that by working hard in this way we must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he himself said, ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’

2: Colossians 3:13 - Bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against

another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive.

Philippians 1:26 That your rejoicing may be more abundant in Jesus Christ for me by my coming to you again.

Paul expresses his desire to be with the Philippians again so that they can rejoice more abundantly in Jesus Christ.

1. Rejoice in Jesus Christ, for He is the Source of Our Joy!

2. Abounding Joy in Jesus Christ: What it Means for Us.

1. Romans 15:13 - May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.

2. John 15:11 - I have said these things to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.

Philippians 1:27 Only let your conversation be as it becometh the gospel of Christ: that whether I come and see you, or else be absent, I may hear of your affairs, that ye stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel;

Paul urges the Philippians to have a godly conversation and stand united together in spirit and purpose for the sake of the gospel.

1. The Power of Unity - Standing Together for the Gospel

2. The Power of Conversation - Letting the Gospel Speak Through Us

1. Colossians 3:17 - And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him.

2. Romans 12:2 - And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

Philippians 1:28 And in nothing terrified by your adversaries: which is to them an evident token of perdition, but to you of salvation, and that of God.

Paul encourages the Philippians to not be afraid of their adversaries, for it is a sign of their own salvation instead of destruction.

1: Courage in Adversity: Facing Fear and Finding Strength in God

2: The Power of Salvation: The Evidence of God’s Grace

1: Isaiah 41:10 - So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.

2: Romans 8:38-39 - For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Philippians 1:29 For unto you it is given in the behalf of Christ, not only to believe on him, but also to suffer for his sake;

This passage encourages us to not only believe in Jesus, but to also be willing to suffer for His sake.

1. Suffering for the Sake of Christ: A Guide to Following Jesus

2. The Power of Belief: How to Live a Life of Faith

1. Romans 12:1-2 - Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.

2. 1 Peter 4:12-13 - Dear friends, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that has come on you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice inasmuch as you participate in the sufferings of Christ, so that you may be overjoyed when his glory is revealed.

Philippians 1:30 Having the same conflict which ye saw in me, and now hear to be in me.

Paul encourages the Philippians to imitate his steadfast faith in the face of persecution.

1: Let us stand firm in our faith, no matter the cost.

2: Trust in God and know that He will always be with us in times of struggle.

1: 1 Peter 5:8-9 – “Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. Resist him, firm in your faith.”

2: Isaiah 41:10 – “Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.”

Philippians 2 is the second chapter of the Epistle of Paul to the Philippians. In this chapter, Paul encourages believers to imitate Christ's humility, unity, and selflessness as they live out their faith.

1st Paragraph: Paul begins by urging believers to have the same mindset as Christ Jesus, who humbled Himself and became obedient even unto death (Philippians 2:1-11). He emphasizes the importance of unity and selflessness, encouraging them to consider others as more significant than themselves. Paul calls for humility and a willingness to serve one another in love.

2nd Paragraph: Paul highlights the example of Timothy and Epaphroditus as models of selflessness and dedication (Philippians 2:19-30). He plans to send Timothy soon to encourage them with news about his own situation. He commends Timothy's genuine concern for their welfare. Likewise, he praises Epaphroditus for risking his life in service to him on behalf of the Philippian church.

3rd Paragraph: The chapter concludes with exhortations for believers to shine like stars in a crooked generation (Philippians 2:12-18). Paul urges them to work out their salvation with fear and trembling, knowing that it is God who works in them both to will and do His good pleasure. He encourages them not to grumble or dispute but rather hold fast to God's word so that he may boast on the day of Christ.

In summary,

Chapter two of Philippians emphasizes imitating Christ's humility, unity, and selflessness. It calls believers to consider others as more significant than themselves while serving one another in love.

Paul provides examples through Timothy and Epaphroditus—individuals who demonstrated genuine concern for others' welfare through their selfless actions.

The chapter concludes with exhortations for believers to work out their salvation with

fear and trembling, holding fast to God's word and shining as lights in a dark world. It encourages a mindset of humility, unity, and faithful obedience to God's will.

Philippians 2:1 If there be therefore any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any bowels and mercies,

Paul urges the Philippians to have unity and humility, and to be like-minded and of one accord, as Jesus Christ has done.

1: We should strive to emulate Jesus Christ by having unity and humility amongst ourselves.

2: We should recognize and appreciate the consolation, comfort, fellowship, bowels, and mercies that are found in Christ.

1: John 13:34-35 - “A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.”

2: Ephesians 4:2-3 - “with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love, endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.”

Philippians 2:2 Fulfil ye my joy, that ye be likeminded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind.

This passage encourages us to come together in unity and love, with the same mindset and attitude.

1. Unity in the Body of Christ: The Power of One

2. The Joy of Being Likeminded: A Call to Oneness

1. 1 Corinthians 10:17 - For we, though many, are one bread and one body; for we all partake of that one bread.

2. John 17:20-23 - I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word; that they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that

they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me.

Philippians 2:3 Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves.

Christians should not act out of selfishness or pride, but instead should humbly think of others as more important than themselves.

1. The Power of Humility - How to put others before ourselves and the importance of Christian humility.

2. The Virtue of Selflessness - The value of valuing others above ourselves and how to practice selflessness.

1. James 4:10 - Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you.

2. Matthew 20:25-28 - Jesus said, “You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them. It shall not be so among you. But whoever would be great among you must be your servant, and whoever would be first among you must be your slave.”

Philippians 2:4 Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others.

The passage encourages us to think of others and not focus only on our own interests.

1: God calls us to be selfless by looking to the needs of others.

2: We must remember to put others before ourselves.

1: Galatians 6:2 "Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ."

2: Romans 12:10 "Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another."

Philippians 2:5 Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:

Passage Christians should strive to have the same mindset as Jesus.

1. Being Like Jesus: How to Cultivate a Christlike Attitude

2. The Mind of Christ: Emulating the Compassion and Humility of Jesus

1. Colossians 3:12-14 - Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive.

14 And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.

2. Romans 12:2 - Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

Philippians 2:6 Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God:

This passage talks about the humility of Jesus, who was in the form of God but did not view being equal with God as something to be taken advantage of.

1. “Living in Humility: Learning to Follow Jesus’ Example”

2. “The Power of Humility: Christ’s Example of Putting Others First”

1. Matthew 16:24-25: “Then Jesus told his disciples, ‘If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.’”

2. Philippians 4:5: “Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand.”

Philippians 2:7 But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men:

This passage from Philippians 2:7 speaks of Jesus humbling himself and taking on the form of a servant to become like men.

1. Humility is the Path to Greatness

2. The Example of Jesus: Serving Others with Love

1. Matthew 20:26-28 “But among you it shall not be so: but whosoever will be great among you, let him be your minister; And whosoever will be chief among you, let him be your servant: Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many.”

2. 1 Peter 5:5-6 “Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder. Yea, all of you be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble. Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time.”

Philippians 2:8 And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.

The passage speaks of Jesus humbling himself and becoming obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.

1. God's Plan of Redemption: The Sacrifice of Jesus

2. The Power of Humility: Following Christ's Example

1. Isaiah 53:5-10

2. Hebrews 5:7-9

Philippians 2:9 Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name:

The passage is about Jesus and how God highly exalted him and gave him a name which is above every name.

1. The Power of a Name: Learning from Jesus's Story

2. Exalted Above All: The Significance of Jesus's Name

1. 1 Peter 2:21 - "For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps."

2. Hebrews 1:3-4 - "Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high."

Philippians 2:10 That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth;

At Jesus' name, everyone should kneel in worship, including those in heaven, on the earth, and under the earth.

1: In Philippians 2:10, the Bible tells us that every person should kneel in worship to the name of Jesus.

2: We should honor Jesus by bowing our knees in worship every time His name is mentioned.

1: Isaiah 45:23 "I have sworn by myself, the word has gone out of my mouth in righteousness, and shall not return, that unto me every knee shall bow, every tongue shall swear."

2: Romans 14:11 "For it is written, As I live, saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God."

Philippians 2:11 And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

This passage emphasizes the importance of acknowledging Jesus Christ as Lord and praising God the Father for his glory.

1: The Power of Confessing Jesus Christ as Lord

2: Giving God the Father the Glory He Deserves

1: Romans 10:9 - That if you confess with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

2: John 5:23 - That all may honor the Son just as they honor the Father. Whoever does not honor the Son does not honor the Father, who sent him.

Philippians 2:12 Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling.

Paul encourages the Philippians to continue in their obedience to God, and to work out their own salvation with fear and trembling.

1. The Imperative of Obedience: Why We Must Obey God

2. The Necessity of Fear and Trembling: How to Work Out Our Own Salvation

1. Deuteronomy 28:1-2 "And if you faithfully obey the voice of the Lord your God, being careful to do all his commandments that I command you today, the Lord your God will set you high above all the nations of the earth. And all these blessings shall come upon you and overtake you, if you obey the voice of the Lord your God.

2. Romans 12:1-2 I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

Philippians 2:13 For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure.

The passage highlights that God works in humans to allow them to make decisions that are pleasing to Him.

1: God has provided us with free will to make our own decisions, but it is important to consider how our decisions align with His will.

2: We are all capable of doing great things for God when we surrender our will to Him and allow Him to work within us.

1: Romans 12:2 - "And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God."

2: Ephesians 3:20-21 - "Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us, Unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen."

Philippians 2:14 Do all things without murmurings and disputings:

This passage encourages us to think and act positively, without any complaining or arguing.

1: Choose Joy: Finding Contentment and Peace in Life

2: Living in Harmony with Others: The Power of Forgiveness

1: James 1:19 - Wherefore, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath:

2: Galatians 5:22-23 - But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.

Philippians 2:15 That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world;

Christians are called to be blameless and harmless, examples of God's love in an often misguided and perverse world.

1. The Light of God's Love in a Darkened World

2. Living a Life of Blamelessness and Holiness

1. Matthew 5:14-16 - "You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see

your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven."

2. 1 Peter 2:11-12 - "Beloved, I urge you as sojourners and exiles to abstain from the passions of the flesh, which wage war against your soul. Keep your conduct among the Gentiles honorable, so that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day of visitation."

Philippians 2:16 Holding forth the word of life; that I may rejoice in the day of Christ, that I have not run in vain, neither laboured in vain.

The passage emphasizes the importance of continuing to spread the word of God even in the face of obstacles.

1. "Remain Steadfast in the Word of God"

2. "The Power of Faith in Difficult Times"

1. Matthew 16:18 - "And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it."

2. James 1:2-4 - "Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing."

Philippians 2:17 Yea, and if I be offered upon the sacrifice and service of your faith, I joy, and rejoice with you all.

The Apostle Paul expresses joy at the faith of the people of Philippi, and is willing to be offered in service and sacrifice to it.

1. The Joy of Serving Others

2. Serving Others with Faith

1. John 15:13 - "Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one’s life for one’s friends."

2. Colossians 3:23 - "Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men."

Philippians 2:18 For the same cause also do ye joy, and rejoice with me.

Paul encourages the Philippian church to rejoice with him for his faithfulness to God and ministry of the gospel.

1. Joy in the Lord: Rejoicing in Our Faithfulness to God

2. Rejoicing in Partnership: Sharing in One Another's Joy

1. John 15:11 - “These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full.”

2. Romans 12:15 - “Rejoice with them that do rejoice, and weep with them that weep.”

Philippians 2:19 But I trust in the Lord Jesus to send Timotheus shortly unto you, that I also may be of good comfort, when I know your state.

The apostle Paul trusts in the Lord Jesus to send Timothy to the Philippians, bringing him comfort when he knows their state.

1. Trusting in the Lord during Times of Uncertainty

2. The Promises of God in Difficult Times

1. Isaiah 41:10 - Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness.

2. Psalm 55:22 - Cast thy burden upon the Lord, and he shall sustain thee: he shall never suffer the righteous to be moved.

Philippians 2:20 For I have no man likeminded, who will naturally care for your state.

Paul is expressing his desire to find someone who will care for the Philippian church as much as he does.

1. The Heart of a Servant: Learning to Care for Others

2. The Challenge of Authentic Community: Loving and Serving One Another

1. John 13:34-35 - A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another.

2. Romans 12:9-10 - Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil. Cling to what is good. Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving p to one another.

Philippians 2:21 For all seek their own, not the things which are Jesus Christ's.

People often focus on what is beneficial for them instead of what is beneficial for Jesus Christ.

1. We must always remember to put Jesus Christ first in our lives.

2. We should strive to put others before ourselves.

1. Matthew 16:24-25 "Then Jesus said to his disciples, “Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will find it."

2. Galatians 2:20 "I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me."

Philippians 2:22 But ye know the proof of him, that, as a son with the father, he hath served with me in the gospel.

Paul speaks of Timothy's commitment to the gospel, commending him for his service alongside him.

1. The Commitment of Timothy: An Example for Us All

2. Serving Together: A Foundation of the Gospel

1. 2 Corinthians 5:14-15 - For the love of Christ controls us, because we have concluded this: that one has died for all, therefore all have died; and he died for all, that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for him who for their sake died and was raised.

2. Matthew 28:19-20 - Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.

Philippians 2:23 Him therefore I hope to send presently, so soon as I shall see how it will go with me.

Paul is sending Timothy to the Philippians, and will decide when to do so based on his own circumstances.

1. "The Importance of Patience When Waiting on God's Timing"

2. "The Sacrifice of Serving Others"

1. Isaiah 40:31 - "But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint."

2. Galatians 6:2 - "Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ."

Philippians 2:24 But I trust in the Lord that I also myself shall come shortly.

Paul expresses his trust in the Lord and believes that he will soon come to join the Philippians.

1. God's Faithfulness and Our Trust in Him

2. God's Timing and Our Patience

1. Romans 15:13 - "May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit."

2. Isaiah 40:31 - "But they who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint."

Philippians 2:25 Yet I supposed it necessary to send to you Epaphroditus, my brother, and companion in labour, and fellowsoldier, but your messenger, and he that ministered to my wants.

Paul sent Epaphroditus to the Philippians as a representative, brother, and co-laborer to help in their ministry.

1. The Importance of Unity in Ministry

2. Recognizing God's Gift of Co-Laborers

1. John 15:12-13 - "This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you. Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends."

2. Romans 12:4-5 - "For as we have many members in one body, and all members have not the same office: So we, being many, are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another."

Philippians 2:26 For he longed after you all, and was full of heaviness, because that ye had heard that he had been sick.

Paul expresses his deep affection and concern for the Philippians, as he was full of heaviness due to hearing about their sickness.

1. Learning to Love with a Paul-like Affection

2. Showing Care and Concern for Others

1. Romans 12:15 - Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep.

2. 1 John 4:7 - Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God.

Philippians 2:27 For indeed he was sick nigh unto death: but God had mercy on him; and not on him only, but on me also, lest I should have sorrow upon sorrow.

Paul recounts how God had mercy on him and the sick man, sparing them both from having to face sorrow upon sorrow.

1. The Compassion of God

2. The Mercy of God in Unexpected Ways

1. Matthew 9:36 – When Jesus saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.

2. Psalm 103:8 – The Lord is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love.

Philippians 2:28 I sent him therefore the more carefully, that, when ye see him again, ye may rejoice, and that I may be the less sorrowful.

Paul sends away Timothy with great care, so that the people of Philippi will be able to rejoice when they see him again and Paul will be less sorrowful.

1. "The Joy of Reunions"

2. "The Power of Encouragement"

1. Psalm 30:5: "For his anger is but for a moment, and his favor is for a lifetime. Weeping may tarry for the night, but joy comes with the morning."

2. Romans 12:15: "Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep."

Philippians 2:29 Receive him therefore in the Lord with all gladness; and hold such in reputation:

The passage encourages believers to welcome those who serve the Lord into their community with enthusiasm and to treat them with respect.

1. Welcome the Servant: Celebrating the Faithful

2. Honor and Respect: The Key to Fellowship

1. Romans 16:2 - "that ye receive her in the Lord, as becometh saints, and that ye assist her in whatsoever business she hath need of you: for she hath been a succourer of many, and of myself also."

2. Proverbs 16:7 - "When a man's ways please the LORD, he maketh even his enemies to be at peace with him."

Philippians 2:30 Because for the work of Christ he was nigh unto death, not regarding his life, to supply your lack of service toward me.

Paul commended Epaphroditus for risking his life to fulfill his service to the church.

1: We must always be ready to lay down our lives for the service of the church.

2: We must never take the church for granted, but always be willing to give of ourselves to its mission.

1: John 15:13 - “Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one’s life for one’s friends.”

2: 1 John 3:16 - “This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters.”

Philippians 3 is the third chapter of the Epistle of Paul to the Philippians. In this chapter, Paul discusses his own spiritual journey, warns against false teachings, and encourages believers to press on toward the goal of knowing Christ.

1st Paragraph: Paul begins by warning believers to beware of false teachers who rely on external religious practices (Philippians 3:1-6). He emphasizes that true circumcision is a matter of the heart and not merely an outward ritual. Paul shares his own background as a devout Jew, highlighting his impressive religious credentials. However, he considers all those achievements as loss compared to knowing Christ.

2nd Paragraph: Paul explains that he counts everything as loss for the sake of knowing Christ and being found in Him (Philippians 3:7-11). He desires to be found in Christ with a

righteousness that comes through faith rather than by works of the law. Paul expresses his longing to know Christ intimately—to share in His sufferings and become like Him in His death so that he may attain resurrection from the dead.

3rd Paragraph: The chapter concludes with exhortations for believers to press on toward maturity in their faith (Philippians 3:12-21). Paul acknowledges that he has not yet reached perfection but continues to press forward. He encourages believers to forget what lies behind and strain forward toward what lies ahead—the heavenly calling in Christ Jesus. He warns against those who live as enemies of the cross but assures them that their citizenship is in heaven, eagerly awaiting their Savior's return.

In summary,

Chapter three of Philippians highlights the importance of true spiritual transformation rather than relying on external religious practices or achievements.

Paul shares his personal journey, considering all his religious credentials as loss compared to knowing Christ intimately through faith.

He encourages believers to press on toward maturity, forgetting past accomplishments or failures and straining forward toward their heavenly calling in Christ Jesus. The chapter warns against false teachings and emphasizes the ultimate citizenship of believers in heaven, eagerly awaiting the return of their Savior.

Philippians 3:1 Finally, my brethren, rejoice in the Lord. To write the same things to you, to me indeed is not grievous, but for you it is safe.

Rejoice in the Lord!

1: Let us learn to find joy in the Lord, no matter the circumstances we face.

2: Let us look to the Lord, that He might provide us with comfort and strength in our times of need.

1: Isaiah 40:31 - But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.

2: Habakkuk 3:17-18 - Though the fig tree shall not blossom, neither shall fruit be in the vines; the labour of the olive shall fail, and the fields shall yield no meat; the flock shall be cut off from the fold, and there shall be no herd in the stalls: Yet I will rejoice in the Lord, I will joy in the God of my salvation.

Philippians 3:2 Beware of dogs, beware of evil workers, beware of the concision.

Paul warns the Philippians to be wary of those who may try to lead them astray with false teachings.

1. We Must Exercise Discernment and Not Follow False Teaching

2. Remain Focused on God's Word and Not the Opinion of Man

1. 1 Thessalonians 5:21-22 - Test all things; hold fast what is good.

2. 2 Corinthians 11:3-4 - But I am afraid that just as Eve was deceived by the serpent’s cunning, your minds may somehow be led astray from your sincere and pure devotion to Christ.

Philippians 3:3 For we are the circumcision, which worship God in the spirit, and rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh.

We should put our faith and trust in Christ, not in ourselves.

1: To have true joy and contentment, we must put our confidence in Christ, not in ourselves.

2: Rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh – the only way to experience true joy and contentment.

1: Romans 8:37-39 – “No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

2: John 15:11 - “I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete.”

Philippians 3:4 Though I might also have confidence in the flesh. If any other man thinketh that he hath whereof he might trust in the flesh, I more:

Paul is expressing that he has greater confidence in his own abilities than any other person.

1. The Power of a Confident Mindset

2. Trusting in Ourselves vs. Trusting in God

1. Proverbs 3:5-6 "Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths."

2. Romans 12:3 "For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith."

Philippians 3:5 Circumcised the eighth day, of the stock of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, an Hebrew of the Hebrews; as touching the law, a Pharisee;

Paul describes himself as a Jewish man who was circumcised on the 8th day and belonged to the tribe of Benjamin, of the Israelite nation, and was a Pharisee in regards to the law.

1. "The Power of Circumcision: A Look at Paul's Jewish Identity"

2. "The Faith of a Pharisee: Understanding Paul's Legalism"

1. Genesis 17:10-14 - God's covenant with Abraham regarding circumcision

2. Matthew 23:1-3 - Jesus' condemnation of the Pharisees' legalism

Philippians 3:6 Concerning zeal, persecuting the church; touching the righteousness which is in the law, blameless.

Paul warns the Philippians to not be overly zealous in persecuting the Church, but to uphold the righteousness of the law.

1. Zeal for the Word of God: The Power of Righteousness

2. The Danger of Self-Righteousness: Examine Your Zeal

1. Romans 10:2-3 - For I bear them record that they have a zeal of God, but not according to knowledge. For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God.

2. Hebrews 11:6 - But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.

Philippians 3:7 But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ.

The passage emphasizes the importance of sacrificing material gains for the sake of Christ.

1: We should be willing to put Christ before anything else in our lives.

2: We should be ready to make sacrifices for the sake of Christ.

1: Matthew 16:24-25 - "Then Jesus said to his disciples, “Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me."

2: Matthew 6:33 - "But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well."

Philippians 3:8 Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ,

This passage speaks of the worth of gaining knowledge of Jesus Christ and the willingness to sacrifice all worldly things to gain Him.

1: Nothing in this world is more valuable than the knowledge of Jesus Christ and the joy that comes with it.

2: We should be willing to give up anything to gain Jesus Christ, for He is worth more than anything this world can offer.

1: Matthew 13:44-46 - The parable of the treasure hidden in a field.

2: Colossians 3:1-4 - Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth.

Philippians 3:9 And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith:

Paul encourages believers to have faith in Christ instead of relying on their own righteousness, which is based on the law.

1. Put Your Faith in Christ: The Righteousness That God Gives

2. The Power of Faith: Finding True Righteousness in Christ

1. Romans 3:21-22 - But now the righteousness of God apart from the law is revealed, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets, 22 even the righteousness of God, through faith in Jesus Christ, to all and on all who believe.

2. Galatians 2:15-16 - We ourselves are Jews by birth and not Gentile sinners; 16 yet we know that a person is not justified by works of the law but through faith in Jesus Christ, so we also have believed in Christ Jesus, in order to be justified by faith in Christ and not by works of the law, because by works of the law no one will be justified.

Philippians 3:10 That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death;

This passage is about desiring to know Christ through understanding His power and suffering in order to be conformed to His death.

1: Being Conformed to Christ's Death

2: Knowing Christ Through His Power and Suffering

1: Romans 12:1-2 - Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.

2: Matthew 16:24 - Then Jesus said to his disciples, “Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me.”

Philippians 3:11 If by any means I might attain unto the resurrection of the dead.

Paul expresses his desire to attain the resurrection of the dead.

1. The Power of Perseverance: Paul's Pursuit of the Resurrection

2. The Hope of Heaven: The Resurrection of the Dead

1. Romans 8:18-25 - For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us.

2. 1 Corinthians 15:12-20 - But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.

Philippians 3:12 Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect: but I follow after, if that I may apprehend that for which also I am apprehended of Christ Jesus.

Paul encourages believers to strive for perfection in their faith.

1. Perfection in Faith: Achieving Our High Calling

2. Living Up to Our Christian Responsibility

1. Romans 12:2 - Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

2. Matthew 5:48 - You therefore must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

Philippians 3:13 Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before,

This passage encourages us to focus on the future, leaving the past behind.

1: "Look Ahead: Leaving the Past Behind"

2: "Growth Through Change: Moving Toward the Future"

1: Isaiah 43:18-19 "Do not remember the former things, nor consider the things of old. Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?"

2: 2 Corinthians 5:17 "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come."

Philippians 3:14 I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.

This verse encourages us to strive towards our goals and use the power of Christ to help us along the way.

1. "The High Calling of God: Pursuing Our Goals in Christ"

2. "Press Towards the Mark: Staying the Course with Jesus"

1. Matthew 6:33 - "But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well."

2. Galatians 6:9 - "Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up."

Philippians 3:15 Let us therefore, as many as be perfect, be thus minded: and if in any thing ye be otherwise minded, God shall reveal even this unto you.

The passage encourages us to strive for perfection, and reassures us that if we are not in agreement, God will show us the way.

1. Perfection is an Attainable Goal

2. Following God's Path is the Key to Success

1. Ephesians 4:13 - “Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ.”

2. James 1:4 - “But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.”

Philippians 3:16 Nevertheless, whereto we have already attained, let us walk by the same rule, let us mind the same thing.

Believers should strive to continue living in accordance with the standards they have already achieved.

1. "Staying on Track: Pursuing a Consistent Walk with God"

2. "Living in Accordance with the Standards We Have Achieved"

1. Galatians 5:25 - "If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit."

2. Colossians 2:6 - "Therefore as you have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him."

Philippians 3:17 Brethren, be followers together of me, and mark them which walk so as ye have us for an ensample.

Paul encourages believers to follow his example of living a life devoted to Christ.

1. Walking in the Footsteps of Paul: Living a Life of Devotion to God

2. Following the Example of the Saints: Growing in Holiness

1. 1 Corinthians 11:1 - "Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ."

2. Hebrews 12:1-2 - "Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us

run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God."

Philippians 3:18 (For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, that they are the enemies of the cross of Christ:

)

The passage warns against those who are enemies of the cross of Christ.

1: Following the path of Christ - The importance of living according to the teachings of Jesus and his sacrifice for us.

2: Rejecting the false teachings of the world - Embracing the path of righteousness and rejecting the temptations of the world.

1: Colossians 3:5-10 - Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry.

2: 2 Thessalonians 3:6-15 - Now we command you, brothers, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you keep away from any brother who is walking in idleness and not in accord with the tradition that you received from us.

Philippians 3:19 Whose end is destruction, whose God is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame, who mind earthly things.)

Some people live for their own pleasure and care only about earthly things, but this will lead to destruction.

1: The path of destruction is not the path of life. We must look to God and put Him first in our lives if we want to find true joy and peace.

2: We must not be led astray by earthly desires and pleasures, but rather seek God for our purpose and true joy.

1: Colossians 3:2 - Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things.

2: Romans 12:2 - Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

Philippians 3:20 For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ:

The passage speaks of looking for the Lord Jesus Christ, our Saviour, from Heaven.

1. The Hope and Salvation of Jesus Christ - Philippians 3:20

2. Trusting in Our Heavenly Conversation - Philippians 3:20

1. Matthew 16:27 - For the Son of Man is going to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay each person according to what he has done.

2. Hebrews 9:28 - so Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time, not to deal with sin but to save those who are eagerly waiting for him.

Philippians 3:21 Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself.

This passage from Philippians 3:21 teaches us that God has the power to transform our physical bodies to be like His glorious body.

1. Our Transformation into the Image of God

2. God's Glorious Power to Subdue All Things

1. Romans 8:29 - For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.

2. 2 Corinthians 3:18 - But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord.

Philippians 4 is the fourth and final chapter of the Epistle of Paul to the Philippians. In this chapter, Paul provides practical instructions for believers to maintain joy, peace, and contentment in their lives.

1st Paragraph: Paul begins by exhorting believers to stand firm in the Lord and reconcile any conflicts among themselves (Philippians 4:1-5). He encourages two women, Euodia and Syntyche, to agree in the Lord. Paul emphasizes rejoicing always and letting gentleness be known to all. He urges believers not to be anxious but rather bring their concerns before God through prayer with thanksgiving.

2nd Paragraph: Paul highlights the importance of focusing on positive virtues and godly thinking (Philippians 4:6-9). He encourages believers not to worry about anything but instead present their requests to God. The peace of God will guard their hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. Paul urges them to dwell on things that are true, honorable, just, pure, lovely, commendable—virtues worthy of praise.

3rd Paragraph: The chapter concludes with expressions of gratitude for the support received from the Philippians (Philippians 4:10-23). Paul acknowledges their generosity in providing for his needs while he was in prison. He assures them that God will supply all their needs according to His riches in glory through Christ Jesus. Paul extends greetings from fellow workers and sends his love and grace-filled benediction.

In summary,

Chapter four of Philippians emphasizes maintaining joy, peace, contentment amidst conflicts or anxieties through prayerful dependence on God.

Paul exhorts believers to stand firm in the Lord and reconcile any disputes among themselves while cultivating a mindset focused on virtues worthy of praise.

He expresses gratitude for the support received from the Philippians while assuring them that God will meet all their needs according to His abundance. The chapter concludes with greetings and a grace-filled benediction from Paul and his fellow workers.

This chapter encourages believers to prioritize unity, prayer, positive thinking, and gratitude while relying on God's provision and extending His grace to others.

Philippians 4:1 Therefore, my brethren dearly beloved and longed for, my joy and crown, so stand fast in the Lord, my dearly beloved.

The passage encourages us to remain steadfast in our faith and trust in the Lord.

1. Stand Firm in the Lord: The Strength of Our Faith

2. Anchoring Ourselves in the Lord: Remaining Steadfast in God's Word

1. Isaiah 40:31 - But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.

2. Hebrews 10:23 - Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised;)

Philippians 4:2 I beseech Euodias, and beseech Syntyche, that they be of the same mind in the Lord.

Paul encourages Euodias and Syntyche to have a common attitude in the Lord.

1: Having Unity in the Lord.

2: Living in Agreement with Others.

1: Colossians 3:12-14 - Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience.

2: Hebrews 12:14 - Strive for peace with everyone, and for the holiness without which no one will see the Lord.

Philippians 4:3 And I intreat thee also, true yokefellow, help those women which laboured with me in the gospel, with Clement also, and with other my fellowlabourers, whose names are in the book of life.

Passage Paul requests assistance from his co-labourer in the gospel, Clement, and other fellow labourers whose names are in the book of life.

1. The Power of Collaboration in the Gospel

2. The Value of Names in the Book of Life

1. Romans 1:16 - For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.

2. Revelation 20:15 - And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.

Philippians 4:4 Rejoice in the Lord alway: and again I say, Rejoice.

The passage encourages us to find joy and contentment in the Lord always.

1: Finding Joy and Contentment in the Lord

2: Rejoicing in God's Goodness

1: James 1:2-4 - Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

2: Psalm 16:11 - You make known to me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

Philippians 4:5 Let your moderation be known unto all men. The Lord is at hand.

We should always be moderate in our behavior, for the Lord is near.

1. The Importance of Moderation - Philippians 4:5

2. The Nearness of the Lord - Philippians 4:5

1. James 1:19-20 - Know this, my beloved brothers: let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger; for the anger of man does not produce the righteousness of God.

2. Galatians 5:22-23 - But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.

Philippians 4:6 Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.

We should not worry about anything, instead, we should pray to God with thanksgiving and let Him know our requests.

1. The Power of Prayer: We can rely on prayer to God instead of worrying.

2. Give Thanks: We can show our gratitude to God by thanking Him in our prayers.

1. Matthew 6:25-34 - Jesus teaches us not to worry and to instead trust in God.

2. 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 - We should rejoice, pray and give thanks in all circumstances.

Philippians 4:7 And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

The peace of God, which surpasses all human understanding, will guard the hearts and minds of believers through Jesus Christ.

1. The Unfathomable Peace of God - exploring the depths of the peace that God offers us through Jesus Christ.

2. Guarding our Hearts and Minds - understanding how to protect ourselves from the world and its influences through Jesus Christ.

1. John 14:27 - "Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid."

2. Isaiah 26:3 - "Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee."

Philippians 4:8 Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.

Paul instructs the believers to focus their thoughts on things that are true, honest, just, pure, lovely, of good report, virtuous, and praiseworthy.

1. The Power of Thought: How Our Thoughts Shape Our Lives

2. The Importance of Right Thinking: Transform Your Mind to Transform Your Life

1. Romans 12:2 “Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.”

2. Proverbs 23:7 “For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he.”

Philippians 4:9 Those things, which ye have both learned, and received, and heard, and seen in me, do: and the God of peace shall be with you.

This passage is encouraging believers to continue to do what they have learned, received, heard and seen from Jesus, and God will be with them in peace.

1. The Lord's Peace: Learning from Jesus and Letting God Guide You

2. Living Out What We Know: Following Jesus and Experiencing the Peace of the Lord

1. Colossians 3:16 - Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.

2. John 14:27 - Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.

Philippians 4:10 But I rejoiced in the Lord greatly, that now at the last your care of me hath flourished again; wherein ye were also careful, but ye lacked opportunity.

The speaker rejoiced in the Lord because the care of others towards him was flourishing again despite them initially lacking the opportunity to do so.

1. Rejoice in the Lord for the blessings of the care of others.

2. Cherish the moments of care and kindness we receive in life.

1. 1 Thessalonians 5:18 - "in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you."

2. Hebrews 10:24 - "And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works."

Philippians 4:11 Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content.

The passage speaks of contentment, regardless of one's circumstances.

1. "Contentment: A Path to Peace"

2. "Contentment: A Blessing in Disguise"

1. Matthew 6:25-34 - Jesus teaching on not worrying about material possessions.

2. James 1:2-4 - The testing of faith and joy in trials.

Philippians 4:12 I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound: every where and in all things I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need.

This passage encourages us to remain content in all circumstances, whether there is plenty or scarcity.

1: "Contentment in Abundance and Scarcity"

2: "Finding Balance in All Things"

1: Psalm 37:3-5 - Trust in the Lord and do good; dwell in the land and enjoy safe pasture. Take delight in the Lord, and he will give you the desires of your heart. Commit your way to the Lord; trust in him and he will do this.

2: James 4:13-15 - Come now, you who say, “Today or tomorrow we will go into such and such a town and spend a year there and trade and make a profit”— yet you do not know what tomorrow will bring. What is your life? For you are a mist that appears for a little time and then vanishes. Instead you ought to say, “If the Lord wills, we will live and do

this or that.”

Philippians 4:13 I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.

This passage highlights the power of Jesus Christ to help us overcome all obstacles in life.

1. The Strength of Jesus: How We Can Accomplish Anything with His Help

2. Achieving the Impossible: The Power of Jesus to Overcome Every Challenge

1. Matthew 19:26 - But Jesus beheld [them], and said unto them, With men this is impossible; but with God all things are possible.

2. Ephesians 3:20 - Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us.

Philippians 4:14 Notwithstanding ye have well done, that ye did communicate with my affliction.

This passage speaks of the Philippians' generosity in providing for Paul's needs in his affliction.

1: Generosity is a Fruit of the Spirit.

2: God Rewards Generosity.

1: Luke 6:38 - "Give, and it will be given to you: good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over will be put into your bosom. For with the same measure that you use, it will be measured back to you.”

2: Galatians 6:7-8 - "Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap. For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life.”

Philippians 4:15 Now ye Philippians know also, that in the beginning of the gospel, when I departed from Macedonia, no church communicated with me as concerning giving and receiving, but ye only.

Paul thanked the church at Philippi for their generous financial support of his ministry.

1. The Generosity of the Church of Philippi: An Example of Godly Living

2. The Blessings of Giving and Receiving in the Body of Christ

1. 2 Corinthians 9:7 - “Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.”

2. Luke 6:38 - “Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.”

Philippians 4:16 For even in Thessalonica ye sent once and again unto my necessity.

The passage is about the Philippians sending aid to Paul in Thessalonica.

1. The Power of Generosity: How Giving to Others Can Be Fulfilling

2. The Joy of Helping Others: How We Can All Make a Difference

1. Luke 6:38 - "Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you."

2. Matthew 10:8 - "Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse those who have leprosy, drive out demons. Freely you have received; freely give."

Philippians 4:17 Not because I desire a gift: but I desire fruit that may abound to your account.

Paul encourages the Philippians to give to his missionary work not out of obligation, but out of love and joy.

1. Joyful Generosity: The Power of Giving with a Grateful Heart

2. The Blessings of Giving: Why We Should Give Without Expectations

1. 2 Corinthians 9:6-8

2. Luke 6:38

Philippians 4:18 But I have all, and abound: I am full, having received of Epaphroditus the things which were sent from you, an odour of a sweet smell, a sacrifice acceptable, wellpleasing to God.

The apostle Paul was blessed with the generous gift from the Philippians, which was a pleasing and acceptable offering to God.

1. Cultivating Gratitude: How to Appreciate God's Blessings

2. The Power of Generosity: How to Give with a Pure Heart

1. 2 Corinthians 9:6-7 - “Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.”

2. Hebrews 13:16 - “And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased.”

Philippians 4:19 But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

God will provide for all our needs according to His glorious riches in Christ Jesus.

1. God is the Provider: Let us Trust in Him

2. Relying on God for Provision in Times of Need

1. Matthew 6:25-34 - Do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink, or about your body, what you will wear.

2. Psalm 145:15-16 - The Lord is righteous in all his ways and kind in all his works.

Philippians 4:20 Now unto God and our Father be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

This passage is a short doxology praising God and His everlasting glory.

1: God is our Father and He deserves our praise for His everlasting glory.

2: Allowing God's glory to shine forth in our lives encourages others to seek His greatness.

1: James 1:17 - Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows.

2: Psalm 145:1-3 - I will exalt you, my God the King; I will praise your name for ever and ever. Every day I will praise you and extol your name for ever and ever. Great is the Lord and most worthy of praise; his greatness no one can fathom.

Philippians 4:21 Salute every saint in Christ Jesus. The brethren which are with me greet you.

This passage is a greeting from the Apostle Paul to the believers in Philippi, encouraging them to greet each other in the name of Jesus.

1. The Power of Greeting in Jesus: How the Small Exchange of Kindness Can Make a Big Impact

2. Unity in the Body of Christ: How to Foster a Healthy Community of Believers

1. Hebrews 13:1-2 “Let brotherly love continue. Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares.”

2. Romans 12:9-10 “Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good. Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor.”

Philippians 4:22 All the saints salute you, chiefly they that are of Caesar's household.

This passage from Philippians 4:22 emphasizes the importance of Christians showing respect to those in authority, even those who may not be believers.

1. The Role of Respect in the Christian Life

2. Living as Salt and Light in the World

1. Romans 13:1-7

2. 1 Peter 2:13-17

Philippians 4:23 The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen.

The passage is a benediction, asking for the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ to be with all of us.

1. The Power of Grace: How the Grace of Jesus Christ Can Transform Your Life

2. What Does It Mean to Receive the Grace of Jesus Christ?

1. Ephesians 2:8-9 - “For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.”

2. Romans 6:14 - “For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace.”

Colossians 1 is the first chapter of the Epistle of Paul to the Colossians. In this chapter, Paul expresses his thanksgiving for the faith and love of the Colossian believers, exalts Christ's supremacy, and emphasizes his own ministry as a servant of the gospel.

1st Paragraph: Paul begins by expressing his gratitude for the faith, love, and hope that have been evident among the Colossian believers (Colossians 1:1-8). He commends their response to the gospel and their fruit-bearing lives. Paul assures them that he continually prays for them, asking God to fill them with knowledge of His will and grant them spiritual wisdom and understanding.

2nd Paragraph: Paul exalts Christ's supremacy over all creation (Colossians 1:9-20). He prays for their growth in knowledge and spiritual wisdom so they may walk in a manner worthy of the Lord. Paul emphasizes that Christ is the image of God, creator of all things visible and invisible. He describes how all things were created through Him and for Him. Christ holds preeminence in everything, including His redemptive work on earth through His death on the cross.

3rd Paragraph: The chapter concludes with Paul's explanation of his ministry as a servant proclaiming Christ (Colossians 1:21-29). He highlights how they were once alienated from God but have now been reconciled through Christ's sacrifice. Paul rejoices in sharing this mystery—the hope of glory—to both Jews and Gentiles alike. He labors to present everyone mature in Christ by proclaiming Him with all wisdom so that they may be presented perfect before God.

In summary,

Chapter one of Colossians begins with expressions of gratitude for the faith and love displayed by the Colossian believers.

Paul exalts Christ's supremacy over creation, emphasizing His role as creator and the redemptive work accomplished through His death on the cross.

He explains his ministry as a servant, proclaiming Christ's message of reconciliation and laboring to present believers mature in Him. This chapter highlights the importance of faith, growth in knowledge, and Christ's preeminence in all things. It encourages believers to live lives worthy of the Lord and embrace the hope of glory found in Christ.

Colossians 1:1 Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, and Timotheus our brother,

Paul and Timothy send a greeting of grace and peace from God the Father and Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

Paul and Timothy send a greeting of grace and peace from God the Father and Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

1. The Grace of God: How to Receive and Maintain His Mercy

2. Peace with God Through Jesus Christ

1. Ephesians 2:8-9 - For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.

2. John 14:27 - Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.

Colossians 1:2 To the saints and faithful brethren in Christ which are at Colosse: Grace be unto you, and peace, from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

This passage speaks of the grace and peace bestowed to the saints and faithful brethren in Christ at Colosse by God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

1. The Unconditional Love of God: God's Grace and Peace for All

2. The Faithfulness of Believers: Living in God's Grace and Peace

1. John 3:16-17 - For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.

2. Romans 5:8 - But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

Colossians 1:3 We give thanks to God and the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, praying always for you,

Paul expresses his thankfulness to God for the Colossians and prays for them.

1. "Thanking God For His Faithfulness"

2. "Rejoicing in Our Prayers for Others"

1. Isaiah 43:7 - Everyone who is called by My name, whom I have created for My glory; I have formed him, yes, I have made him.

2. Romans 5:5 - And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.

Colossians 1:4 Since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus, and of the love which ye have to all the saints,

Paul expresses his joy in hearing of the faith and love of the Colossians in Christ Jesus and for all the saints.

1. "The Power of Faith and Love in Christ"

2. "How to Cultivate Faith and Love in Your Life"

1. John 15:13 - "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends."

2. 1 Corinthians 13:13 - "And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity."

Colossians 1:5 For the hope which is laid up for you in heaven, whereof ye heard before in the word of the truth of the gospel;

This passage highlights the importance of the hope of eternal life which is granted through the gospel.

1: Have Hope in the Gospel: An Eternal Promise

2: Living with Faith and Hope: A Look at Colossians 1:5

1: Hebrews 11:1 - "Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen."

2: Romans 5:2-5 - "Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God. More than that, we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not put us to shame, because God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us."

Colossians 1:6 Which is come unto you, as it is in all the world; and bringeth forth fruit, as it doth also in you, since the day ye heard of it, and knew the grace of God in truth:

The gospel of Christ has come to Colossae and is bearing fruit since the people heard of

it and understood the grace of God.

1. Living in the Grace of God - Understanding and Applying the Gospel

2. Bearing Fruit in the Kingdom - Upholding the Mission of the Gospel

1. Ephesians 2:8-9 - For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God,

2. Romans 12:1-2 - I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

Colossians 1:7 As ye also learned of Epaphras our dear fellowservant, who is for you a faithful minister of Christ;

The passage speaks of Epaphras as a faithful minister of Christ.

1. Faithfulness in Ministry

2. Learning from Examples

1. 1 Corinthians 4:1-2 - "Let a man so consider us, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God. Moreover it is required in stewards that one be found faithful."

2. 1 Timothy 4:12 - "Let no one despise your youth, but be an example to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity."

Colossians 1:8 Who also declared unto us your love in the Spirit.

The passage speaks of the love that the Spirit of God brings to us.

1: The Love of the Spirit of God

2: The Joy of the Lord is Our Strength

1: Romans 5:5 - And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us.

2: Ephesians 3:16-17 - That he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man; That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love.

Colossians 1:9 For this cause we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to desire that ye might be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding;

Paul prayed for the Colossians to be filled with knowledge of God's will and with spiritual understanding.

1. Pray for God's Will to Be Revealed in Your Life

2. Embrace Spiritual Understanding to Live in God's Will

1. Jeremiah 29:13 - And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart.

2. John 10:10 - The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.

Colossians 1:10 That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God;

Christians are called to live a life pleasing to the Lord by being productive, doing good works, and growing in knowledge of God.

1: Living the Life God Calls Us To: Walking Worthy of the Lord

2: Growing in Knowledge of God

1: Ephesians 4:1-3 I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness,

with patience, bearing with one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

2: Romans 12:2 Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

Colossians 1:11 Strengthened with all might, according to his glorious power, unto all patience and longsuffering with joyfulness;

The passage emphasizes the need to be strengthened with all might and endurance to have joyfulness.

1: We must rely on God's glorious power to have patience and longsuffering.

2: We should strive to have joyfulness through God's strength.

1: Romans 15:4-5 - For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.

2: James 1:2-3 - Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness.

Colossians 1:12 Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light:

Paul teaches to give thanks to the Father for making us worthy to receive the inheritance of the saints in light.

1. "Receiving the Inheritance of the Saints: A Journey of Gratitude"

2. "Light of the Saints: God's Unfailing Gift to Us"

1. John 3:16-17 - For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

2. Ephesians 2:4-5 - But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved

us, Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;)

Colossians 1:13 Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son:

God has delivered us from the power of darkness and has brought us into His kingdom through His Son.

1: In the kingdom of God, we are free from the power of darkness and evil and can experience the peace and joy of our Lord.

2: Through the death and resurrection of Jesus, we are redeemed from the power of darkness and brought into the kingdom of God.

1: Romans 8:1-2 "There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and death."

2: Ephesians 2:4-7 "But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ —by grace you have been saved— and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus."

Colossians 1:14 In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins:

Colossians 1:14 teaches that Jesus offers us redemption and forgiveness of sins through his sacrifice.

1. The Power of the Blood of Jesus: How His Sacrifice Achieves Redemption and Forgiveness

2. The Hope of Redemption: How Jesus Offers Us Forgiveness and New Life

1. Ephesians 1:7 - In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace.

2. Isaiah 53:5 - But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed.

Colossians 1:15 Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature:

The passage speaks of Jesus as the image of the invisible God and the firstborn of creation.

1: Jesus is the visible representation of the invisible God.

2: Jesus is the firstborn of all creation and is worthy of our reverence.

1: John 14:9 - Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you so long, and yet you have not known Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; so how can you say, 'Show us the Father'?

2: Revelation 4:11 - "You are worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honor and power; for You created all things, and by Your will they exist and were created."

Colossians 1:16 For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him:

All things in heaven and on earth, both visible and invisible, were created by and for Jesus.

1. The Power of Creation: Exploring Our Origin Through Jesus

2. Our Purpose in Jesus: Understanding Our Place in the Universe

1. John 1:3 - All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made.

2. Ephesians 3:9 - and to make all see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the ages has been hidden in God who created all things through Jesus Christ.

Colossians 1:17 And he is before all things, and by him all things consist.

Jesus is before all things and everything is held together by Him.

1. Jesus is the Foundation of Everything - Colossians 1:17

2. Understanding the Power of Jesus - Colossians 1:17

1. John 1:3 - All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made.

2. Hebrews 1:3 - He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power.

Colossians 1:18 And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence.

Jesus is the head of the church and is the first to be resurrected from the dead, so He has preeminence over all things.

1. Preeminence of Jesus: How Jesus has preeminence over all things.

2. The Head of the Church: The importance of Jesus being the head of the church.

1. Colossians 3:17 - And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him.

2. Ephesians 1:20-23 - Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places, Far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come: And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church, Which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all.

Colossians 1:19 For it pleased the Father that in him should all fulness dwell;

God's pleasure is found in Jesus, in whom all fullness dwells.

1: God's Pleasure in Jesus

2: Jesus, the Fullness of God's Pleasure

1: Ephesians 1:9-10 - Having made known unto us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure which he hath purposed in himself: That in the dispensation of the fulness of times he might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth; even in him:

2: Philippians 2:13 - For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure.

Colossians 1:20 And, having made peace through the blood of his cross, by him to reconcile all things unto himself; by him, I say, whether they be things in earth, or things in heaven.

Through Christ's death on the cross, He reconciled all things, in heaven and on earth, to Himself.

1. "The Power of Reconciliation through the Cross of Christ"

2. "Peace through the Blood of Christ"

1. Isaiah 53:5 - But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed.

2. Ephesians 2:16 - And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit.

Colossians 1:21 And you, that were sometime alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now hath he reconciled

1: God's grace brings reconciliation between those who were once enemies.

2: We are made right with God through the work of Jesus Christ.

1: Ephesians 2:12-18 - God brings us near to Himself through Christ and makes us one in the Spirit.

2: Romans 5:10 - We are reconciled to God through Jesus Christ's death on the cross.

Colossians 1:22 In the body of his flesh through death, to present you holy and unblameable and unreproveable in his sight:

Jesus Christ's death made it possible for believers to be presented to God as holy and blameless.

1. The Holiness of Christ: How His Sacrifice Makes Us Righteous

2. Unblameable and Unreproveable: Living a Life of Purity in God's Sight

1. 2 Corinthians 5:21 - For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.

2. Romans 8:1 - There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.

Colossians 1:23 If ye continue in the faith grounded and settled, and be not moved away from the hope of the gospel, which ye have heard, and which was preached to every creature which is under heaven; whereof I Paul am made a minister;

Paul encourages Christians to remain grounded and steadfast in the faith, hope, and gospel that was preached to all creation.

1. Living a Life of Faith: Staying Grounded in the Gospel

2. Hope in the Gospel: Anchoring Our Lives in Christ

1. Romans 10:17 - So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.

2. Ephesians 2:8-9 - For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.

Colossians 1:24 Who now rejoice in my sufferings for you, and fill up that which is behind of the afflictions of Christ in my flesh for his body's sake, which is the church:

Paul rejoices in his sufferings for the sake of the Church, which is the body of Christ.

1. The Joy of Serving: Paul's Example of Serving the Church

2. The Power of Christ's Love: Filling up What is Behind of the Afflictions of Christ

1. Phil. 3:10-11 - That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death;

2. Heb. 12:1-2 - Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us.

Colossians 1:25 Whereof I am made a minister, according to the dispensation of God which is given to me for you, to fulfil the word of God;

Paul was appointed as a minister to the Colossians by God in order to fulfill His Word.

1. Paul's Appointment - How God's Plan Prepares Us for Service

2. Living Out the Word - Discerning God's Will in Our Lives

1. Jeremiah 1:5 - "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart; I appointed you as a prophet to the nations."

2. Matthew 28:18-20 - "Then Jesus came to them and said, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.'"

Colossians 1:26 Even the mystery which hath been hid from ages and from generations, but now is made manifest to his saints:

The mystery of God's plan has been revealed to His saints.

1. Understanding the Mystery of God's Plan

2. Rejoice in the Mystery of God's Plan

1. Ephesians 3:6-11

2. Romans 16:25-27

Colossians 1:27 To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory:

God has revealed the mystery of Christ within us, which is the hope of glory.

1. The Mystery of Christ: The Hope of Glory

2. The Riches of the Glory of Christ Within Us

1. Romans 8:24-25 - For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees?

2. Ephesians 1:17-19 - that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him, having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you.

Colossians 1:28 Whom we preach, warning every man, and teaching every man in all wisdom; that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus:

Paul was committed to preaching, warning, and teaching everyone in wisdom so that each person may be presented as perfect in Christ Jesus.

1. The Power of Preaching in Perfection

2. Perfection in Christ Jesus: A Call to Action

1. Matthew 28:19-20 “Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them

in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”

2. Romans 12:2 “And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.”

Colossians 1:29 Whereunto I also labour, striving according to his working, which worketh in me mightily.

Paul strives to work according to God's will, who works in him powerfully.

1. "The Power of God Working Through Us"

2. "The Strength to Endure in God's Service"

1. Ephesians 3:20-21 - Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.

2. Philippians 4:13 - I can do all things through him who strengthens me.

Colossians 2 is the second chapter of the Epistle of Paul to the Colossians. In this chapter, Paul addresses false teachings and emphasizes the sufficiency and supremacy of Christ.

1st Paragraph: Paul expresses his concern for the Colossian believers, warning them against being deceived by persuasive but empty philosophies (Colossians 2:1-8). He desires that they may be encouraged in heart and united in love, attaining full assurance and understanding of God's mystery—Christ Himself. Paul cautions them not to be taken captive by human traditions or elemental spiritual forces but rather to remain rooted in Christ.

2nd Paragraph: Paul refutes various false teachings that were infiltrating the church (Colossians 2:9-23). He affirms that in Christ dwells all the fullness of deity bodily. Believers are complete in Him, having received His spiritual circumcision through faith. Paul warns against being enslaved by legalistic practices or asceticism, emphasizing that these have no value in restraining worldly indulgence.

3rd Paragraph: The chapter concludes with exhortations to focus on heavenly realities

rather than earthly regulations (Colossians 3:1-17). Paul encourages believers to set their minds on things above and put to death their earthly nature. He urges them to clothe themselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, patience, forgiveness—all rooted in love. They are called to let the peace of Christ rule their hearts and let His word dwell richly among them.

In summary,

Chapter two of Colossians highlights Paul's concern for believers not to be deceived by empty philosophies but rather remain rooted in Christ.

He refutes false teachings and emphasizes that believers are complete in Christ alone.

The chapter concludes with exhortations for believers to focus on heavenly realities while displaying virtues such as compassion, kindness, humility, forgiveness—all grounded in love. It emphasizes the sufficiency and supremacy of Christ over worldly regulations and traditions. This chapter encourages believers to stay steadfast in their faith, rooted in the truth of Christ's sufficiency.

Colossians 2:1 For I would that ye knew what great conflict I have for you, and for them at Laodicea, and for as many as have not seen my face in the flesh;

Paul expresses his great care and concern for the Colossians, as well as those in Laodicea and those who have not seen him in person.

1. "The Power of Caring: Cultivating Lasting Relationships"

2. "The Joy of Serving: Living out our Love for Others"

1. 1 Thessalonians 2:8 - "So being affectionately desirous of you, we were willing to have imparted unto you, not the gospel of God only, but also our own souls, because ye were dear unto us."

2. Philippians 1:7-8 - "Even as it is meet for me to think this of you all, because I have you in my heart; inasmuch as both in my bonds, and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel, ye all are partakers of my grace."

Colossians 2:2 That their hearts might be comforted, being knit together in love, and unto all riches of the full assurance of understanding, to the acknowledgement of the mystery of God, and of the Father, and of Christ;

The passage emphasizes the importance of love and understanding in order to recognize

the mystery of God.

1. The Power of Love: Achieving Unity Through Understanding

2. The Mystery of God: Achieving Clarity Through Connection

1. 1 John 4:7-8 "Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God. He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love."

2. Ephesians 3:14-19 "For this cause I bow my knees unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, That he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man; That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love, May be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height; And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God."

Colossians 2:3 In whom are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.

Paul encourages Christians to seek wisdom and knowledge by looking to Jesus, in whom all treasures of wisdom and knowledge are hidden.

1. Seek Wisdom and Knowledge through Jesus

2. The Hidden Treasures of Jesus

1. Proverbs 3:13-15 - Blessed is the one who finds wisdom, and the one who gets understanding, for the gain from her is better than gain from silver and her profit better than gold. She is more precious than jewels, and nothing you desire can compare with her.

2. Psalm 119:104 - Through your precepts I get understanding; therefore I hate every false way.

Colossians 2:4 And this I say, lest any man should beguile you with enticing words.

Paul warns against being deceived by false teachers and their enticing words.

1. Be Wary of False Teachers - Colossians 2:4

2. Don't Be Deceived by Deceptive Words - Colossians 2:4

1. 1 John 4:1-3 - Test the Spirits

2. Ephesians 5:6-7 - Do Not Be Deceived by False Teaching

Colossians 2:5 For though I be absent in the flesh, yet am I with you in the spirit, joying and beholding your order, and the stedfastness of your faith in Christ.

This passage is about Paul rejoicing in the faith of the Colossians despite being absent in the flesh.

1. The Power of Faith in Christ: How to Remain Steadfast in Difficult Times

2. The Blessing of Fellowship: The Joy of Community in Christ

1. Hebrews 10:23-25; Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised;)

2. Romans 15:13; Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that ye may abound in hope, through the power of the Holy Ghost.

Colossians 2:6 As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in him:

Believers should live their lives in a manner that reflects their faith in Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior.

1. Living a Life of Faith: What it Means to Follow Jesus.

2. Colossians 2:6: Walking in Obedience to the Lord.

1. Romans 6:17-18 - "But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you. Being then made

free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness."

2. Ephesians 5:1-2 - "Be ye therefore followers of God, as dear children; And walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweetsmelling savour."

Colossians 2:7 Rooted and built up in him, and stablished in the faith, as ye have been taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving.

Rooted in Christ, we can stand firm in the faith and live in thanksgiving.

1: Be Steadfast in the Faith with Gratitude

2: Rejoice in the Lord and Let Your Faith be Strengthened

1: Romans 12:12 - Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer.

2: Galatians 5:22-23 - But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.

Colossians 2:8 Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ.

Beware of false teachings that contradict the teachings of Jesus Christ.

1: Live according to the teachings of Jesus Christ, not according to the philosophies of the world.

2: Do not be deceived by philosophies that are contrary to the teachings of Jesus.

1: John 14:6 - Jesus said to him, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

2: 1 John 2:15-17 - Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, love for the Father is not in them. For everything in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—comes not from the Father but from the world. The world and its desires pass away, but whoever does the will of God lives forever.

Colossians 2:9 For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily.

Paul writes in Colossians 2:9 that God dwells in Jesus in full bodily form.

1. "The Immanence of God: How God Is Present in Our Lives"

2. "Fully God, Fully Human: Celebrating the Divinity of Jesus"

1. John 1:1-2 - "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God."

2. John 14:9 - "Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you so long, and yet you have not known Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; so how can you say, ‘Show us the Father’?”

Colossians 2:10 And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power:

God has made us complete through Christ, who is the ruler of all authority.

1. Letting Go Of Insecurity: Relying On God's Love To Make Us Complete

2. The Strength Of Our Faith: Anchoring Ourselves In Christ

1. Ephesians 3:20-21 - Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

2. Romans 8:37-39 - No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Colossians 2:11 In whom also ye are circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, in putting off the body of the sins of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ:

In Colossians 2:11, Paul speaks of a spiritual circumcision made without hands, which is accomplished by putting off the body of the sins of the flesh through the circumcision of Christ.

1. The Circumcision of Christ: Why We Are Free from Sin

2. The Power of Spiritual Circumcision: Choosing Freedom from Sin

1. Romans 6:6-7: "We know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be rendered powerless, that we should no longer be slaves to sin."

2. Galatians 5:24: "Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires."

Colossians 2:12 Buried with him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with him through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead.

This passage speaks of being baptized and rising with Christ through faith in the power of God, who raised him from death.

1: Our Hope in the Resurrection of Jesus.

2: The Power of Faith in God's Saving Grace.

1: Romans 6:4 - Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.

2: 1 Peter 3:21 - The like figure whereunto even baptism doth also now save us (not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God,) by the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Colossians 2:13 And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he quickened together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses;

God has forgiven us of all our trespasses and given us new life.

1. The Power of Forgiveness: Our Hope in the Lord

2. Redeemed and Renewed: Overcoming Sin with Grace

1. Isaiah 43:25 - “I, even I, am he who blots out your transgressions, for my own sake, and remembers your sins no more.”

2. Psalm 103:12 - As far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us.

Colossians 2:14 Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross;

Jesus Christ removed the law that separated humanity from God by nailing it to the cross.

1. Jesus' Love Overcomes the Law - How Jesus' death on the cross replaced the law with grace.

2. Nailed to the Cross - Examining what it means to have our sins nailed to the cross.

1. Romans 8:1 - "Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus."

2. Romans 5:8 - "But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us."

Colossians 2:15 And having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them in it.

The passage describes how Jesus triumphed over principalities and powers.

1. The Triumph of Jesus Over Sin and Death

2. The Victory of the Cross: Jesus Conquering Our Enemy

1. Hebrews 2:14-15 - Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, he himself likewise partook of the same things, that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil.

2. 1 Corinthians 15:54-57 - When the perishable puts on the imperishable, and the mortal puts on immortality, then shall come to pass the saying that is written: “Death is swallowed up in victory.” O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting? The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Colossians 2:16 Let no man therefore judge you in meat, or in drink, or in respect of an holyday, or of the new moon, or of the sabbath days:

Paul encourages the Colossian believers not to let anyone judge them in regards to their food, drink, or keeping of religious holy days.

1. The Freedom of Not Being Judged

2. Relying on Paul's Advice in Colossians

1. Galatians 5:1 “Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage.”

2. Romans 14:1-4 “Him that is weak in the faith receive ye, but not to doubtful disputations. For one believeth that he may eat all things: another, who is weak, eateth herbs. Let not him that eateth despise him that eateth not; and let not him which eateth not judge him that eateth: for God hath received him. Who art thou that judgest another man’s servant? to his own master he standeth or falleth. Yea, he shall be holden up: for God is able to make him stand.”

Colossians 2:17 Which are a shadow of things to come; but the body is of Christ.

The body is of Christ and the things to come are a shadow of it.

1. The reality of Christ: trusting in Him for eternal life

2. The shadows of the future: living in the present with hope for the future

1. Hebrews 9:27-28 - “And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment, so Christ was offered once to bear the sins of many. To those who eagerly wait for Him He will appear a second time, apart from sin, for salvation.”

2. Romans 8:18-19 - “For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us. For the earnest expectation of the creation eagerly waits for the revealing of the sons of God.”

Colossians 2:18 Let no man beguile you of your reward in a voluntary humility and worshipping of angels, intruding into those things which he hath not seen, vainly puffed up by his fleshly mind,

Paul warns against false teachers who would lead people away from the reward of the gospel by teaching doctrines of humility and worship of angels, which are based on human imagination instead of God's truth.

1: We must be careful to guard against teachings that would lead us away from the reward of the gospel, which is freely given by God.

2: We must take care to remain grounded in the truth of God’s word, and reject teachings that are based on the human imagination.

1: Colossians 1:15-17 - He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities--all things were created through him and for him.

2: Ephesians 4:14 - That we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes.

Colossians 2:19 And not holding the Head, from which all the body by joints and bands having nourishment ministered, and knit together, increaseth with the increase of God.

The body of believers experiences growth when they are united to Christ as their head.

1: Jesus is the Head of the Church - Colossians 2:19

2: The Church Grows Through Unity - Colossians 2:19

1: Ephesians 4:15-16 - Speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ.

2: 1 Corinthians 12:12-13 - For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and all were made to drink of one Spirit.

Colossians 2:20 Wherefore if ye be dead with Christ from the rudiments of the world, why, as though living in the world, are ye subject to ordinances,

Believers in Christ have been released from the world's rules and regulations, yet they still live in the world.

1. Living in the World While Dead to It

2. The Freedom and Responsibility of Believers in Christ

1. Romans 6:4-6 - We have been buried with Christ and raised to newness of life.

2. Galatians 5:1 - Stand fast in the liberty wherewith Christ has made us free.

Colossians 2:21 (Touch not; taste not; handle not;

)

This verse warns against becoming entangled in the empty and futile practices of the world.

1: We should not be fooled by the false promises of the world, but rather seek truth in Jesus.

2: Do not be captivated by the vain and worthless customs of the world, but instead focus on the life-changing truth of Jesus.

1: Hebrews 12:1-2 - "Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us,"

2: 1 John 2:15-17 - "Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, love for the Father is not in them. For everything in the world—the lust of the flesh,

the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—comes not from the Father but from the world. The world and its desires pass away, but whoever does the will of God lives forever."

Colossians 2:22 Which all are to perish with the using;) after the commandments and doctrines of men?

Paul warns against following the commands and teachings of men, which will eventually perish.

1. The Impermanence of Man's Rules: Don't Let Your Faith Be Shaken

2. Human Doctrines Are Fleeting: Put Your Trust in Christ

1. Matthew 6:24: "No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon."

2. Isaiah 55:8-9: “‘For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are your ways My ways,’ says the Lord. ‘For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways, And My thoughts than your thoughts.’”

Colossians 2:23 Which things have indeed a shew of wisdom in will worship, and humility, and neglecting of the body; not in any honour to the satisfying of the flesh.

The passage speaks of the need for self-control and moderation when engaging in religious practices.

1: Put God First and Abstain from the Lusts of the Flesh

2: Prioritize Spiritual Health Over Physical Health

1: James 4:7- Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

2: Romans 13:14 - But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof.

Colossians 3 is the third chapter of the Epistle of Paul to the Colossians. In this chapter,

Paul instructs believers on how to live a transformed life in Christ, emphasizing the importance of setting their minds on heavenly things and putting off old sinful behaviors.

1st Paragraph: Paul urges believers to set their minds on things above and to put to death their earthly nature (Colossians 3:1-11). He encourages them to focus on the eternal realities of Christ, who is seated at the right hand of God. Believers are called to put off sinful practices such as sexual immorality, impurity, evil desires, greed, anger, and slander. Instead, they are instructed to clothe themselves with virtues such as compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, patience, forgiveness—all rooted in love.

2nd Paragraph: Paul emphasizes unity and love among believers (Colossians 3:12-17). He urges them to bear with one another and forgive each other as Christ has forgiven them. Above all else, they are called to put on love—the bond of perfect unity. They are encouraged to let the peace of Christ rule in their hearts and be thankful in all circumstances. Paul exhorts them to let the word of Christ dwell richly among them through teaching and admonishing one another.

3rd Paragraph: The chapter concludes with instructions for various relationships within Christian households (Colossians 3:18-25; Colossians 4:1). Wives are called to submit themselves to their husbands as fitting in the Lord while husbands are instructed to love their wives sacrificially. Children are urged to obey their parents in everything while fathers should not provoke or discourage their children. Slaves (employees) should work diligently as unto the Lord while masters (employers) should treat slaves justly and fairly.

In summary,

Chapter three of Colossians emphasizes the transformed life in Christ, calling believers to set their minds on heavenly things and put off old sinful behaviors.

Paul encourages unity, love, and virtues such as compassion, kindness, humility, forgiveness—all rooted in love.

The chapter provides instructions for various relationships within Christian households and highlights the importance of obedience, sacrificial love, and fair treatment. It encourages believers to let the peace of Christ rule in their hearts and let His word dwell richly among them. This chapter emphasizes the importance of living out one's faith in practical ways while keeping a focus on heavenly values.

Colossians 3:1 If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God.

Believers in Christ should seek the things which are above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God.

1. The Power of Seeking the Things Above: Recognizing and Achieving Spiritual Goals

2. Heaven-Bound: Pursuing the Heavenly Rewards of a Life in Christ

1. Matthew 6:33 - But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.

2. Philippians 4:8 - Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.

Colossians 3:2 Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth.

Set your eyes on God, not the world.

1. Living with Heaven in Mind: A Call to Elevate Our Thinking

2. The Power of Focus: Choosing to Pursue Eternal Treasures

1. Matthew 6:19-21 - “Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

2. Philippians 4:8 - “Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.”

Colossians 3:3 For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God.

Believers are spiritually dead to the world, and their life is hidden in Christ and God.

1. "Living in the Light of Christ"

2. "The Death of the Old Nature"

1. Matthew 5:14-16 - "Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be

hid."

2. Romans 6:3-7 - "Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death?"

Colossians 3:4 When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory.

Christians will one day appear with Christ in glory when He returns.

1. "Living for Christ in Anticipation of His Return"

2. "The Privilege of Sharing in Christ's Glorious Appearing"

1. 1 Peter 1:13 - Therefore, prepare your minds for action; be self-controlled; set your hope fully on the grace to be given you when Jesus Christ is revealed.

2. Titus 2:13 - While we wait for the blessed hope—the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Colossians 3:5 Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry:

Believers should put to death sinful desires such as sexual immorality, impurity, lust, and greed, which are idolatry.

1. Overcoming Temptation: How to Control Sinful Desires

2. The Road to Holiness: What it Takes to Become Righteous

1. Romans 6:11-13 - In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus.

2. Galatians 5:16-17 - So I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh.

Colossians 3:6 For which things' sake the wrath of God cometh on the children of disobedience:

God's wrath is brought upon those who disobey Him.

1. God's Judgment: The Consequence of Disobedience

2. Choosing Obedience: The Path to God's Blessing

1. Ephesians 5:6: "Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience."

2. Proverbs 1:10-19: "My son, if sinners entice you, do not consent. If they say, “Come with us, let us lie in wait to shed blood; let us lurk secretly for the innocent without cause; let us swallow them alive like Sheol, and whole, like those who go down to the Pit; we shall find all precious goods, we shall fill our houses with plunder;..."

Colossians 3:7 In the which ye also walked some time, when ye lived in them.

Paul reminds the Colossians that they once lived according to sinful ways, but now they must live according to Christ's teachings.

1. The Power of Transformation: Finding Strength in Jesus Christ

2. Living a Christ-Centered Life: How to Follow Christ's Example

1. 2 Corinthians 5:17 - Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.

2. Ephesians 4:17-24 - Now this I say and testify in the Lord, that you must no longer walk as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their minds. They are darkened in their understanding, alienated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, due to their hardness of heart.

Colossians 3:8 But now ye also put off all these; anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy communication out of your mouth.

Put off anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, and filthy communication.

1: Let us put off unrighteous communication and replace it with love and compassion.

2: Let us put off our old ways of speaking and replace them with the Word of God.

1: James 3:9-10 - With the tongue we praise our Lord and Father, and with it we curse human beings, who have been made in God’s likeness. Out of the same mouth come praise and cursing. My brothers and sisters, this should not be.

2: Ephesians 4:29 - Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen.

Colossians 3:9 Lie not one to another, seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds;

Do not tell lies to each other since you have taken off the old self with its habits.

1. The importance of truthfulness in our lives

2. Putting off the old self and putting on the new

1. Ephesians 4:22-24 - You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; to be made new in the attitude of your minds; and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.

2. Proverbs 12:22 - The Lord detests lying lips, but He delights in people who are trustworthy.

Colossians 3:10 And have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him:

Believers should strive to be renewed in knowledge according to the image of God who created them.

1. Renewing Our Knowledge of God

2. Putting On the New Man

1. Romans 12:2 - "And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God."

2. Ephesians 4:23-24 - "And be renewed in the spirit of your mind; And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness."

Colossians 3:11 Where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcision nor uncircumcision, Barbarian, Scythian, bond nor free: but Christ is all, and in all.

Christ is the center of all identities, and everyone is equal before him.

1: Everyone Is Equal Before Christ - Colossians 3:11

2: All Identities Come Secondary to Christ - Colossians 3:11

1: Galatians 3:28 - There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus.

2: Ephesians 2:14-15 - For he is our peace, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition between us; Having abolished in his flesh the enmity, even the law of commandments contained in ordinances; for to make in himself of twain one new man, so making peace.

Colossians 3:12 Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering;

Put on the characteristics of God's chosen people: mercy, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience.

1. The Power of Humility: An Examination of Colossians 3:12

2. Embracing the Characteristics of God's Elect: A Study of Colossians 3:12

1. James 3:13-18

2. Philippians 2:1-11

Colossians 3:13 Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye.

We should forgive one another just as Christ has forgiven us.

1. The Power of Forgiveness - How Jesus' Example Can Guide Our Lives

2. A New Commandment - Bearing With and Forgiving Our Brothers and Sisters

1. Matthew 6:14-15 - "For if you forgive other people when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive others their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins."

2. Ephesians 4:31-32 - "Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you."

Colossians 3:14 And above all these things put on charity, which is the bond of perfectness.

We are called to put on charity, which binds us together and perfects us.

1. "The Power of Love: How Charity Can Bring Perfection to Our Lives"

2. "The Strength of Unity: Understanding the Bond of Perfectness"

1. 1 Corinthians 13:13 - "And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity."

2. Galatians 5:22-23 - "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law."

Colossians 3:15 And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful.

This verse encourages us to let the peace of God reign in our hearts, and to be thankful for being called into one body.

1. Letting the Peace of God Rule in our Hearts

2. Being Thankful for Our Call into One Body

1. Ephesians 4:3-4 "Endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling."

2. 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 "Rejoice evermore. Pray without ceasing. In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you."

Colossians 3:16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.

Christians should allow the teachings of Christ to fill their hearts, and express their faith through singing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to the Lord.

1. The Power of the Word of Christ

2. A Song of Praise in Your Heart

1. Psalm 95:1-2 - "Oh come, let us sing to the LORD; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation! Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!"

2. Romans 15:13 - "May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope."

Colossians 3:17 And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him.

We should do all things in the name of Jesus, thanking God the Father.

1. "Giving Thanks to God: Living a Life of Thanksgiving"

2. "The Power of the Name: Doing Everything in the Name of Jesus"

1. Ephesians 5:20 - Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

2. Philippians 2:9-11 - Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Colossians 3:18 Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as it is fit in the Lord.

Wives are encouraged to submit to their husbands, as prescribed by the Lord.

1. "Submission and Respect: How to Follow Christ's Design for Marriage"

2. "Obeying the Lord's Will: Submission in Marriage"

1. Ephesians 5:22-33

2. 1 Peter 3:1-7

Colossians 3:19 Husbands, love your wives, and be not bitter against them.

Husbands should show love to their wives and not be resentful.

1. The Power of Love: How to Express Love to Your Spouse

2. The Danger of Bitterness: Overcoming Resentment in Marriage

1. Ephesians 5:25-33 (Husbands should love their wives as Christ loved the Church)

2. 1 Peter 3:7 (Husbands should live with their wives in understanding and honor)

Colossians 3:20 Children, obey your parents in all things: for this is well pleasing unto the Lord.

Children should obey their parents in all things to please the Lord.

1. Releasing the Blessing of Obedience: Living a Life of Honor to Your Parents

2. Being a Blessing to the Lord: Obeying Your Parents in All Things

1. Ephesians 6:1-3 - Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. “Honor your father and mother” -- which is the first commandment with a promise -- “that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth.”

2. Proverbs 6:20-22 - My son, keep your father’s command and do not forsake your mother’s teaching. Bind them always on your heart; fasten them around your neck. When you walk, they will guide you; when you sleep, they will watch over you; when you awake, they will speak to you.

Colossians 3:21 Fathers, provoke not your children to anger, lest they be discouraged.

Parents should not be overly harsh with their children in order to prevent them from feeling disheartened.

1. The importance of showing kindness to our children

2. Raising children with love and understanding

1. Ephesians 6:4 “Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.”

2. Proverbs 22:6 “Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it.”

Colossians 3:22 Servants, obey in all things your masters according to the flesh; not with eyeservice, as menpleasers; but in singleness of heart, fearing God:

Obedience is key to pleasing God and fulfilling our responsibilities.

1. Cultivating Obedience in Our Lives

2. The Power of Singleness of Heart

1. Ephesians 6:5-7 "Servants, be obedient to them that are your masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in singleness of your heart, as unto Christ; Not with eyeservice, as menpleasers; but as the servants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart; With good will doing service, as to the Lord, and not to men."

2. James 4:7 "Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you."

Colossians 3:23 And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men;

Whatever we do, we should do it with all our heart as if we are doing it for the Lord, not for men.

1. Work unto the Lord with All Your Heart

2. Relying on the Lord in All Your Endeavors

1. Ephesians 6:5-8 “Servants, be obedient to them that are your masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in singleness of your heart, as unto Christ; Not with eyeservice, as menpleasers; but as the servants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart; With good will doing service, as to the Lord, and not to men: Knowing that whatsoever good thing any man doeth, the same shall he receive of the Lord, whether he be bond or free.”

2. Deuteronomy 6:5 “And thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might.”

Colossians 3:24 Knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ.

The Lord will reward those who serve Him.

1. Faithful Service: A Reward from the Lord

2. Serving the Lord Christ: An Inheritance of Blessing

1. Matthew 6:19-21 “Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves do not break in or steal; for where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

2. Hebrews 11:6 “And without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him.”

Colossians 3:25 But he that doeth wrong shall receive for the wrong which he hath done: and there is no respect of persons.

Everyone will be held accountable for their actions, no matter their social status or influence.

1. We Will All Give an Account for Our Actions

2. The Great Equalizer: We All Reap What We Sow

1. Proverbs 24:12 - “If thou sayest, Behold, we knew it not; doth not he that pondereth the heart consider it? and he that keepeth thy soul, doth not he know it? and shall not he render to every man according to his works?”

2. Romans 2:11 - “For there is no respect of persons with God.”

Colossians 4 is the fourth and final chapter of the Epistle of Paul to the Colossians. In this chapter, Paul gives instructions regarding interpersonal relationships, encourages believers to pray and live wisely, and sends greetings and final remarks.

1st Paragraph: Paul instructs believers on how to conduct themselves toward others (Colossians 4:2-6). He urges them to devote themselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful. Paul asks for prayers on his behalf as well, that God may open a door for him to proclaim the mystery of Christ. He encourages believers to make the most of every opportunity, speaking with grace and wisdom toward outsiders.

2nd Paragraph: Paul sends greetings from fellow workers who are with him (Colossians

4:7-14). He mentions Tychicus, a beloved brother who will provide updates about his circumstances. Aristarchus, Mark, Justus, and Epaphras are also mentioned as fellow prisoners or servants of Christ. Paul commends Luke for his medical skills and Demas as a fellow worker. He extends greetings from Laodicea and Nympha's house church.

3rd Paragraph: The chapter concludes with personal remarks from Paul (Colossians 4:15-18). He instructs the Colossian believers to greet those in Laodicea while reading his letter publicly among them as well. Archippus is urged to fulfill his ministry faithfully. Finally, Paul signs off with a personal greeting in his own hand and reminds them of his imprisonment for which he seeks prayers that he may proclaim the gospel boldly.

In summary,

Chapter four of Colossians provides instructions on conducting oneself toward others through prayerfulness, wisdom in speech, and making use of opportunities.

Paul sends greetings from fellow workers who are with him while commending their service in Christ.

The chapter concludes with personal remarks including instructions for greetings between churches, encouragement for faithful ministry, and a reminder of Paul's imprisonment. This chapter emphasizes the importance of prayer, wise conduct, and unity among believers. It encourages believers to live out their faith in practical ways and support one another in spreading the gospel message.

Colossians 4:1 Masters, give unto your servants that which is just and equal; knowing that ye also have a Master in heaven.

Masters should treat their servants with justice and fairness, remembering that they too have a Master in Heaven.

1. God Expects Fairness From Employers

2. The Golden Rule: Treat Others As You Would Want To Be Treated

1. Ephesians 6:9 - “And, masters, do the same things unto them, forbearing threatening: knowing that your Master also is in heaven; neither is there respect of persons with him.”

2. Matthew 7:12 - “Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them: for this is the law and the prophets.”

Colossians 4:2 Continue in prayer, and watch in the same with thanksgiving;

Continue in prayer and be thankful.

1: We should never cease to be thankful and pray to God for all of our needs.

2: Praying to God is one of the most important ways we can show Him our gratitude and love.

1: 1 Thessalonians 5:17 - Pray without ceasing.

2: Philippians 4:6 - Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.

Colossians 4:3 Withal praying also for us, that God would open unto us a door of utterance, to speak the mystery of Christ, for which I am also in bonds:

Paul asks for prayer that God will give him an opportunity to speak about the mystery of Christ, for which he is in prison.

1. The Power of Prayer: How Prayer Can Open Doors for Us

2. The Mystery of Christ: Understanding the Power of the Gospel

1. Ephesians 3:14-21 - Paul's prayer for the church to understand the love of God.

2. Romans 8:38-39 - Nothing can separate us from the love of Christ.

Colossians 4:4 That I may make it manifest, as I ought to speak.

Passage Paul is expressing his desire to speak in a manner that properly manifests the truth of God.

1. The Power of Right Speech

2. Manifesting God's Truth Through Our Words

1. James 3:2-12 - Taming the Tongue

2. Proverbs 12:18 - The Words of the Wise in Heart are Spoken Gracefully

Colossians 4:5 Walk in wisdom toward them that are without, redeeming the time.

We should use our wisdom to interact with those outside the Church in a way that makes the most of our time.

1. Making the Most of Our Time: A Study on Colossians 4:5

2. Walking in Wisdom: A Reflection on Colossians 4:5

1. Proverbs 4:7, “Wisdom is the principal thing; therefore get wisdom: and with all thy getting get understanding.”

2. Ephesians 5:15-16, “See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, Redeeming the time, because the days are evil.”

Colossians 4:6 Let your speech be alway with grace, seasoned with salt, that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man.

Christians should use their speech with grace and wisdom, so they can answer others in a way that is pleasing to God.

1. The Power of Our Words - Proverbs 18:21

2. The Beauty of Kind Words - Proverbs 15:1

1. Proverbs 15:1 - A soft answer turneth away wrath: but grievous words stir up anger.

2. Proverbs 18:21 - Death and life are in the power of the tongue: and they that love it shall eat the fruit thereof.

Colossians 4:7 All my state shall Tychicus declare unto you, who is a beloved brother, and

a faithful minister and fellowservant in the Lord:

Tychicus was a beloved brother and faithful minister of the Lord.

1: Be a faithful minister of the Lord like Tychicus.

2: Love and support each other as brothers and sisters in the Lord.

1: 1 Corinthians 16:15-16 - "Be watchful, stand firm in the faith, act like men, be strong. Let all that you do be done in love."

2: Galatians 6:10 - "So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith."

Colossians 4:8 Whom I have sent unto you for the same purpose, that he might know your estate, and comfort your hearts;

Paul sends a beloved brother to help comfort the Colossians.

1. The Power of Community: How We Can Comfort Each Other in the Church.

2. The Comfort of Christ: Relying on God's Presence in Difficult Times.

1. 2 Corinthians 1:3-4 - Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.

2. Hebrews 13:20-21 - Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, equip you with everything good that you may do his will, working in us that which is pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.

Colossians 4:9 With Onesimus, a faithful and beloved brother, who is one of you. They shall make known unto you all things which are done here.

Onesimus is a faithful and beloved brother who is a part of the Colossians' community and who will inform them of the news from their location.

1. Living Out Your Faith In Community

2. The Power of Faithful Friendships

1. Hebrews 10:24-25 - And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

2. Proverbs 27:17 - Iron sharpens iron, and one man sharpens another.

Colossians 4:10 Aristarchus my fellowprisoner saluteth you, and Marcus, sister's son to Barnabas, (touching whom ye received commandments: if he come unto you, receive him;)

Paul greets the Colossians with a special hello from two of his fellow prisoners.

1: We should always be prepared to accept and show love to those around us, especially those in need.

2: We should always look to God first for guidance and direction, even when it comes to who to receive and show love to.

1: Hebrews 13:2 - "Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares."

2: 1 John 4:7-8 - "Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God. He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love."

Colossians 4:11 And Jesus, which is called Justus, who are of the circumcision. These only are my fellowworkers unto the kingdom of God, which have been a comfort unto me.

Paul mentions Jesus and Justus, two of his fellow workers in the kingdom of God, and states that they have been a comfort to him.

1. The Comfort of Godly Community

2. The Power of Fellowship in the Kingdom of God

1. Ecclesiastes 4:9-12

2. Romans 15:1-3

Colossians 4:12 Epaphras, who is one of you, a servant of Christ, saluteth you, always labouring fervently for you in prayers, that ye may stand perfect and complete in all the will of God.

Epaphras exemplified prayerful dedication and commitment to God's will.

1: We must strive to be dedicated and committed to fulfilling God's will.

2: We must look to Epaphras as an example of prayerful dedication to God's will.

1: James 5:16 - "The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective."

2: Matthew 6:10 - "Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven."

Colossians 4:13 For I bear him record, that he hath a great zeal for you, and them that are in Laodicea, and them in Hierapolis.

Paul commends Epaphras for having a great zeal for the churches in Laodicea and Hierapolis.

1. How to Develop Zeal for God's Kingdom

2. The Power of a Committed Heart

1. Matthew 22:37-39 - Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, and mind.

2. 1 Corinthians 15:58 - Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.

Colossians 4:14 Luke, the beloved physician, and Demas, greet you.

This passage highlights Luke and Demas as individuals who greet the Colossians.

1. The Power of Greetings: How Our Interactions with Others Reflect Our Faith

2. The Faithful Physician: Luke's Commitment to the Gospel

1. Romans 16:21 - Timothy, my fellow worker, greets you; so do Lucius and Jason and Sosipater, my kinsmen.

2. 2 Corinthians 13:12 - Greet one another with a holy kiss. All the saints greet you.

Colossians 4:15 Salute the brethren which are in Laodicea, and Nymphas, and the church which is in his house.

This passage talks about the importance of showing respect and love to fellow believers in Laodicea and Nymphas, as well as the church in their house.

1. "Living in Unity: The Power of Showing Respect and Love to Fellow Believers"

2. "A House of Prayer: The Significance of the Church in Our Lives"

1. Ephesians 4:1-3 - "I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace."

2. Romans 12:10 - "Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor."

Colossians 4:16 And when this epistle is read among you, cause that it be read also in the church of the Laodiceans; and that ye likewise read the epistle from Laodicea.

Paul instructs the Colossians to read his letter to the Laodicean church and to read the letter from the Laodicean church.

1. The Power of God's Word: How Reading Scripture Unites the Church

2. The Power of the Scriptures: Connecting the Church Across Time and Space

1. Psalm 119:105 - Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path.

2. Colossians 3:12-15 - Therefore, as God’s chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.

Colossians 4:17 And say to Archippus, Take heed to the ministry which thou hast received in the Lord, that thou fulfil it.

Archippus was charged to take heed to the ministry he was given and to fulfill it.

1. Keeping Faith in Fulfilling Your Ministry

2. Living Out the Ministry the Lord Has Given You

1. Matthew 25:14-30

2. 2 Corinthians 5:20-21

Colossians 4:18 The salutation by the hand of me Paul. Remember my bonds. Grace be with you. Amen.

Paul encourages the Colossians to remember his bonds and gives his blessing of grace to them.

1. The Power of a Blessing: Living a Life of Grace

2. The Strength of a Legacy: Remembering Our Ancestors

1. Ephesians 6:18-20 - Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and

watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;

2. Romans 12:14-15 - Bless them which persecute you: bless, and curse not. Rejoice with them that do rejoice, and weep with them that weep.

1 Thessalonians 1 is the first chapter of the letter written by the apostle Paul to the believers in Thessalonica. It begins with a warm greeting and expresses gratitude for their faith, love, and endurance in the midst of persecution.

1st Paragraph: Paul commends the Thessalonian believers for their faith and work produced by faith (1 Thessalonians 1:1-3). He acknowledges their reputation as a model church, highlighting their steadfastness in following Christ despite facing affliction. Paul expresses his gratitude to God for their faithful testimony and mentions how news of their faith has spread far and wide.

2nd Paragraph: The chapter continues with Paul recalling his initial visit to Thessalonica (1 Thessalonians 1:4-7). He reminds them of how they received the gospel message with power, conviction, and deep assurance. The Thessalonians turned away from idolatry to serve the living God eagerly while awaiting Jesus' return from heaven. Their transformation was evident not only in words but also through actions as they became examples to other believers.

3rd Paragraph: Paul concludes by emphasizing how their faith had an impact beyond their own community (1 Thessalonians 1:8-10). He mentions that news of their conversion had reached various regions, inspiring others to turn away from idols and serve God. The apostle highlights that they were eagerly waiting for Jesus' return from heaven—the Son whom God raised from the dead—who would deliver them from coming wrath.

In summary,

Chapter one of 1 Thessalonians praises the believers in Thessalonica for their exemplary faith, love, and endurance amidst persecution.

Paul commends them for being models of Christian living and acknowledges how news of their faith has spread far.

He recalls his visit to them when they embraced the gospel message wholeheartedly, turning away from idolatry to serve the living God. Their transformation became an inspiration to others, and they eagerly awaited Jesus' return as their deliverer from future judgment. This chapter highlights the Thessalonians' strong faith, their impact on others, and their hope in Christ's return.

1 Thessalonian 1:1 Paul, and Silvanus, and Timotheus, unto the church of the Thessalonians which is in God the Father and in the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace be unto you,

and peace, from God our Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Paul, Silvanus, and Timotheus send grace and peace to the church of the Thessalonians, who are in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

1. Rejoice in God's Grace and Peace

2. Embrace the Love of God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ

1. Romans 5:1-2 - Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God.

2. John 14:25-26 - “All this I have spoken while still with you. But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you. Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.

1 Thessalonian 1:2 We give thanks to God always for you all, making mention of you in our prayers;

We are thankful to God for the Thessalonians and always remember them in our prayers.

1: We should always be thankful to God for the people in our lives, and remember them in prayer.

2: Gratitude to God for the people around us and regular prayer for them is an important part of our faith.

1: Colossians 4:2-4 “Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving. At the same time, pray also for us, that God may open to us a door for the word, to declare the mystery of Christ, on account of which I am in prison— that I may make it clear, which is how I ought to speak.”

2: Philippians 1:3-4 “I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy.”

1 Thessalonian 1:3 Remembering without ceasing your work of faith, and labour of love, and patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ, in the sight of God and our Father;

The Thessalonians' faith, love, and hope in Jesus Christ is remembered and praised by Paul in the sight of God the Father.

1. Faith, Love, and Hope: The Qualities of a True Believer

2. The Power of Perseverance: Strengthening Our Faith, Love, and Hope

Cross-

1. Galatians 5:6 - "For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision avails anything, but faith working through love."

2. Matthew 24:12-13 - "And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold. But he who endures to the end shall be saved."

1 Thessalonian 1:4 Knowing, brethren beloved, your election of God.

The apostle Paul reminds the believers in Thessalonica of their election by God.

1. God's Election of His People - Rejoicing in His Love and Grace

2. Remembering Our Election - Walking in Faith and Obedience

1. Romans 8:28-30 - And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.

2. 2 Timothy 2:10 - Therefore I endure everything for the sake of the elect, that they also may obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory.

1 Thessalonian 1:5 For our gospel came not unto you in word only, but also in power, and in the Holy Ghost, and in much assurance; as ye know what manner of men we were among you for your sake.

Paul and his companions preached the gospel to the Thessalonians and showed them an example of holiness, power, and assurance.

1. The Power of the Gospel: How God's Word Can Transform Our Lives

2. Living a Life of Holiness and Assurance: How to Live a Life of Faith

1. Romans 1:16-17 - For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.

2. 1 John 1:5-7 - This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth: But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.

1 Thessalonian 1:6 And ye became followers of us, and of the Lord, having received the word in much affliction, with joy of the Holy Ghost:

The Thessalonians received the Word of God despite much affliction, and responded with joy in the Holy Spirit.

1. Be Joyful Despite Your Circumstances

2. The Power of the Holy Spirit in the Lives of Believers

1. Hebrews 10:34-35 - "For you had compassion on those in prison, and you joyfully accepted the plundering of your property, since you knew that you yourselves had a better possession and an abiding one."

2. Romans 15:13 - "May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope."

1 Thessalonian 1:7 So that ye were ensamples to all that believe in Macedonia and Achaia.

This verse encourages believers in Macedonia and Achaia to be examples to all other believers.

1. How to Be a Godly Example to Others

2. Following the Lord's Example of Faithfulness

1. 1 Corinthians 11:1 - "Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ."

2. 1 Peter 2:21 - "For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps."

1 Thessalonian 1:8 For from you sounded out the word of the Lord not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but also in every place your faith to God-ward is spread abroad; so that we need not to speak any thing.

The word of the Lord spread quickly from Thessalonica throughout Macedonia, Achaia, and beyond, so that there was no need for further preaching.

1. The Power of Faith: How Our Beliefs Can Spread Beyond Ourselves

2. The Church’s Responsibility to Preach the Gospel

1. Romans 10:14-15 - “How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? And how are they to preach unless they are sent?”

2. Acts 8:4 - “Now those who were scattered went about preaching the word.”

1 Thessalonian 1:9 For they themselves shew of us what manner of entering in we had unto you, and how ye turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God;

The Thessalonians turned away from idols to serve the living and true God.

1. Turning From Idols to Serve God

2. The Power of Transformation

1. 1 Thessalonians 1:9

2. Isaiah 57:15 For thus saith the high and lofty One that inhabiteth eternity, whose name is Holy; I dwell in the high and holy place, with him also that is of a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite ones.

1 Thessalonian 1:10 And to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, even Jesus, which delivered us from the wrath to come.

Paul encourages the Thessalonians to have faith and to wait for Jesus, who delivered them from the wrath to come.

1. Jesus: The Deliverer of Our Salvation

2. Have Faith and Wait for the Lord

1. Romans 5:8-10 - But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

2. Psalm 27:14 - Wait for the Lord; be strong and take heart and wait for the Lord.

1 Thessalonians 2 is the second chapter of the letter written by the apostle Paul to the believers in Thessalonica. In this chapter, Paul reflects on his ministry among them, emphasizing his integrity, love for them, and his desire to see their spiritual growth.

1st Paragraph: Paul begins by reminding the Thessalonians of how he conducted himself during his time with them (1 Thessalonians 2:1-6). He emphasizes that he and his companions spoke boldly in spite of opposition and suffering. Their preaching was not motivated by deceit or impure motives but out of a sincere desire to please God who entrusted them with the gospel. They did not seek human approval but aimed to please God who examines their hearts.

2nd Paragraph: Paul recalls how they treated the Thessalonian believers with gentleness and affection (1 Thessalonians 2:7-12). He compares himself to a nursing mother caring for her own children. They were not only eager to share the gospel but also willing to share their lives with them. They worked hard day and night so as not to be a burden on anyone while proclaiming God's message. They exhorted, encouraged, and urged them like a father does with his children, urging them to live lives worthy of God's calling.

3rd Paragraph: The chapter concludes with Paul expressing gratitude for how the Thessalonian believers received God's word (1 Thessalonians 2:13-16). He commends them for accepting it as truth—not merely human words—and acknowledging its transforming power within themselves. Despite facing persecution from their own

countrymen—similar to what other churches experienced—their faith remained strong. The persecutors became obstacles in spreading the gospel but faced divine judgment due to their rejection of Christ.

In summary,

Chapter two of 1 Thessalonians highlights Paul's integrity in ministry, his love for the Thessalonian believers, and their reception of the gospel message.

Paul emphasizes that he and his companions preached with sincerity and a desire to please God rather than seeking human approval. They treated the Thessalonians with gentleness and affection, sharing not only the gospel but also their lives. Paul compares himself to a nurturing mother and a caring father who exhorts them to live worthy lives.

He expresses gratitude for how they received God's word as truth and acknowledges their endurance in the face of persecution. The chapter concludes by noting that those who opposed them faced divine judgment for rejecting Christ. This chapter highlights Paul's pastoral care, his commitment to spreading the gospel, and the Thessalonians' faithfulness amidst adversity.

1 Thessalonian 2:1 For yourselves, brethren, know our entrance in unto you, that it was not in vain:

Paul and his companions had not come to Thessalonica in vain, but with a purpose to preach the gospel.

1. The Power of Gospel Preaching

2. God's Plan for our Lives

1. Romans 10:14-17 - How shall they hear without a preacher?

2. Acts 4:31 - And when they had prayed, the place was shaken where they were assembled together; and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and they spake the word of God with boldness.

1 Thessalonian 2:2 But even after that we had suffered before, and were shamefully entreated, as ye know, at Philippi, we were bold in our God to speak unto you the gospel of God with much contention.

Paul and his companions suffered persecution in Philippi but were still bold to proclaim the gospel of God.

1. When faced with adversity, stand strong in God's power.

2. Obedience to God's will can help us to remain courageous in difficult times.

1. Isaiah 41:10 - Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.

2. Proverbs 3:5-6 - Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.

1 Thessalonian 2:3 For our exhortation was not of deceit, nor of uncleanness, nor in guile:

Passage The exhortation was given without deceit, impurity, or guile.

1. The Power of Authentic Exhortation

2. Showing Integrity in Our Encouragement

1. Colossians 3:12-14 - Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience.

2. James 1:19-21 - Know this, my beloved brothers: let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger; for the anger of man does not produce the righteousness of God.

1 Thessalonian 2:4 But as we were allowed of God to be put in trust with the gospel, even so we speak; not as pleasing men, but God, which trieth our hearts.

Paul explains that he and the other apostles are entrusted with the gospel and speak according to God's will, not to please men.

1. Trusting in God's Calling: How to Follow the Gospel with Courage and Authority

2. Following God's Will: Why Pleasing Men Should Not Be Our Highest Priority

1. Isaiah 55:8-9 - "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts."

2. Jeremiah 29:11 - "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

1 Thessalonian 2:5 For neither at any time used we flattering words, as ye know, nor a cloke of covetousness; God is witness:

The Apostle Paul assures the Thessalonians that he and his companions never used flattery or tried to take advantage of them when preaching the Gospel.

1. The Power of Honesty in the Proclamation of the Gospel

2. The Importance of Integrity When Serving God

1. John 15:13 - "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends."

2. Proverbs 11:3 - "The integrity of the upright shall guide them: but the perverseness of transgressors shall destroy them."

1 Thessalonian 2:6 Nor of men sought we glory, neither of you, nor yet of others, when we might have been burdensome, as the apostles of Christ.

The Apostle Paul and his companions did not seek glory from the Thessalonians or anyone else, even though they had the right to be burdensome.

1. The Power of Humility: How to Be Burdenless in a Burdensome World

2. Seeing Others as More Important Than Ourselves: The Example of the Apostles

1. Philippians 2:3–4: "Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others."

2. Matthew 20:28: “Just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

1 Thessalonian 2:7 But we were gentle among you, even as a nurse cherisheth her children:

Paul and his companions treated the Thessalonians like a nurse treats her children, with gentleness and care.

1. "Gentleness: The True Measure of Love"

2. "Cherishing Children: A Model for Life"

1. 1 Thessalonians 2:7

2. Matthew 11:29-30 - "Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls."

1 Thessalonian 2:8 So being affectionately desirous of you, we were willing to have imparted unto you, not the gospel of God only, but also our own souls, because ye were dear unto us.

Paul was so fond of the Thessalonians that he was willing to give them not just the gospel of God, but also himself.

1. The Power of Love - How Paul's Love for the Thessalonians Gave Them the Gospel

2. The Value of Relationships - How Paul Showed the Thessalonians How Dear They Were to Him

1. John 3:16 - For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

2. Romans 12:10 - Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves.

1 Thessalonian 2:9 For ye remember, brethren, our labour and travail: for labouring night and day, because we would not be chargeable unto any of you, we preached unto you the gospel of God.

Paul and his companions worked hard to preach the Gospel of God to the Thessalonians without being a burden to them.

1. The Joy of Serving God Without Expecting Anything in Return

2. Persevering in Serving God Despite Difficulties

1. Matthew 10:7-8 - And as you go, proclaim this message: 'The kingdom of heaven has come near.' Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse those who have leprosy, drive out demons. Freely you have received; freely give.

2. Hebrews 6:10 – God is not unjust; he will not forget your work and the love you have shown him as you have helped his people and continue to help them.

1 Thessalonian 2:10 Ye are witnesses, and God also, how holily and justly and unblameably we behaved ourselves among you that believe:

The apostle Paul reminds the Thessalonian believers of how holy and upright he and his companions were among them.

1. Upright Living: The Example of Paul and His Companions

2. Holiness in our Lives: A Model of Paul and His Companions

1. Matthew 5:48 - Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

2. Romans 12:2 - Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

1 Thessalonian 2:11 As ye know how we exhorted and comforted and charged every one of you, as a father doth his children,

Paul exhorted, comforted, and charged the Thessalonians as a loving father.

1. The Love of a Father: Showing Compassion and Encouragement

2. The Power of Encouragement: Blessing Others with God's Love

1. Ephesians 6:4, “Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord.”

2. Romans 15:5, “May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you the same attitude of mind toward each other that Christ Jesus had.”

1 Thessalonian 2:12 That ye would walk worthy of God, who hath called you unto his kingdom and glory.

The Thessalonians are encouraged to live a life worthy of God, who has called them to His kingdom and glory.

1. Living a Life Worthy of God's Calling

2. Being Faithful to God's Kingdom and Glory

1. Matthew 5:16 - “Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.”

2. Ephesians 4:1 - “I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called.”

1 Thessalonian 2:13 For this cause also thank we God without ceasing, because, when ye received the word of God which ye heard of us, ye received it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which effectually worketh also in you that believe.

Paul and his companions thank God for the Thessalonians' belief in the Word of God, which had become effective in their lives.

1. The Power of Belief: How Believing in the Word of God Changes Our Lives

2. Living Out the Word: Practical Ways to Integrate God's Word into Our Lives

1. Hebrews 4:12 - For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

2. Romans 10:17 - So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

1 Thessalonian 2:14 For ye, brethren, became followers of the churches of God which in Judaea are in Christ Jesus: for ye also have suffered like things of your own countrymen, even as they have of the Jews:

The Thessalonian church had followed the example of other churches in Judea, and had suffered persecution from their own people like the Jews had.

1. The Power of Faithful Persecution: Learning to Endure Faithfully Through Difficult Times

2. The Strength of Unity: Standing Together in the Face of Adversity

1. Romans 5:3-4 - Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope.

2. James 1:2-4 - Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.

1 Thessalonian 2:15 Who both killed the Lord Jesus, and their own prophets, and have persecuted us; and they please not God, and are contrary to all men:

The Thessalonians had killed the Lord Jesus and their own prophets and had persecuted those who follow Him. They do not please God and are contrary to all men.

1. The Unfavorable Consequences of Unbelief

2. God's Unfailing Love Despite Our Unbelief

1. Romans 5:8 - But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

2. Luke 6:27 - But I say unto you which hear, Love your enemies, do good to them which hate you.

1 Thessalonian 2:16 Forbidding us to speak to the Gentiles that they might be saved, to fill up their sins alway: for the wrath is come upon them to the uttermost.

Passage The Thessalonians were forbidden to speak to the Gentiles in order to save them from their sins, as God's wrath was upon them.

1. How to Minister to Those in Need of Salvation

2. God's Wrath and Mercy

1. Ezekiel 18:23 - Have I any pleasure at all that the wicked should die? saith the Lord GOD: and not that he should return from his ways, and live?

2. Romans 5:8 - But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

1 Thessalonian 2:17 But we, brethren, being taken from you for a short time in presence, not in heart, endeavoured the more abundantly to see your face with great desire.

Paul and his companions felt a deep longing to see the Thessalonian church and endeavored to visit them again as soon as possible.

1. The Power of Longing and Yearning for Fellowship

2. The Unfailing Strength of Christian Unity

1. Acts 20:38-39 - "Therefore, keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour. And encourage each other with these words".

2. Hebrews 10:24-25 - "Let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works. And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another".

1 Thessalonian 2:18 Wherefore we would have come unto you, even I Paul, once and again; but Satan hindered us.

Paul wanted to visit the Thessalonians church again, but his plans were hindered by Satan.

1. A Faithful Overcomer: Learning to Overcome the Hindrances of Satan

2. Persevering in Faith: Standing Firm in the Face of Opposition

1. Ephesians 6:10-12 - Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.

2. James 4:7 - Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

1 Thessalonian 2:19 For what is our hope, or joy, or crown of rejoicing? Are not even ye in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at his coming?

Paul asks the Thessalonians what their hope, joy, and crown of rejoicing are, as they will be in the presence of the Lord Jesus at his coming.

1. Our Hope and Joy in the Presence of the Lord

2. Our Crown of Rejoicing in the Coming of Jesus

1. Romans 8:24-25 - For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

2. 1 Corinthians 15:51-54 - Behold! I tell you a mystery. We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed. For this perishable body must put on the imperishable, and this mortal body must put on immortality.

1 Thessalonian 2:20 For ye are our glory and joy.

Paul expresses his joy and appreciation for the Thessalonian Christians, reminding them that they are a source of glory and joy to him.

1. Joy in the Journey: The Power of Christian Fellowship

2. Glorifying God Through Christian Community

1. Acts 2:44-47 - All who believed were together and had all things in common.

2. Romans 15:5,7 - May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, and accept one another, just as Christ accepted you, for the glory of God.

1 Thessalonians 3 is the third chapter of the letter written by the apostle Paul to the believers in Thessalonica. In this chapter, Paul expresses his concern for their faith and sends Timothy to strengthen and encourage them in their trials.

1st Paragraph: Paul begins by expressing his concern for the Thessalonian believers (1 Thessalonians 3:1-5). He mentions that he could no longer bear not knowing about their faith and decided to send Timothy, his fellow worker and brother, to strengthen and encourage them. Paul was concerned that they might be tempted by afflictions and that their faith might falter due to persecution.

2nd Paragraph: Paul rejoices upon receiving a positive report about the Thessalonians' faith (1 Thessalonians 3:6-9). Timothy returns with good news of their steadfastness in the Lord. Their love for Paul and their longing to see him again brought him great joy and comforted him in his own distresses. He prays earnestly night and day, asking God to allow him an opportunity to visit them once more.

3rd Paragraph: The chapter concludes with a prayer for increased love among believers (1 Thessalonians 3:10-13). Paul asks God to make a way for him to see them face-to-face so he can supply what is lacking in their faith. He prays that God would cause their love for one another—and for all people—to abound more and more. Finally, he asks God to establish their hearts blameless in holiness before Him at Jesus' coming with all His saints.

In summary,

Chapter three of 1 Thessalonians reveals Paul's concern for the Thessalonian believers amidst persecution.

He sends Timothy as his representative to strengthen and encourage them in their faith.

Upon receiving a positive report from Timothy, Paul rejoices over their steadfastness and expresses his longing to see them again. He prays for increased love among believers and asks God to establish their hearts blameless in holiness. This chapter highlights Paul's pastoral care, his desire for their spiritual well-being, and his hope for their continued growth in faith and love.

1 Thessalonian 3:1 Wherefore when we could no longer forbear, we thought it good to be left at Athens alone;

Paul and his companions could no longer bear to stay in Athens, so they decided to leave.

1. The power of making difficult decisions - 1 Thessalonian 3:1

2. Following God's will despite fear or uncertainty - 1 Thessalonian 3:1

1. Isaiah 55:8-9 - For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.

2. Joshua 1:9 - Have not I commanded thee? Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the Lord thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest.

1 Thessalonian 3:2 And sent Timotheus, our brother, and minister of God, and our fellowlabourer in the gospel of Christ, to establish you, and to comfort you concerning your faith:

Paul sent Timothy to Thessalonica as their brother, minister of God, and fellow worker in the gospel of Christ to encourage them in their faith.

1. "Anchored in Faith: Standing Firm in Perilous Times"

2. "The Power of Encouragement: Strengthening the Body of Christ"

1. Hebrews 10:19-25 - "Therefore, brothers and sisters, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, his body, and since we have a great priest over the house of

God, let us draw near to God with a sincere heart and with the full assurance that faith brings, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water."

2. Romans 8:38-39 - "For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord."

1 Thessalonian 3:3 That no man should be moved by these afflictions: for yourselves know that we are appointed thereunto.

Paul encourages the Thessalonians to not be discouraged by their afflictions, as they are appointed to endure them.

1. "We are Appointed for Affliction: How to Find Strength in Trials"

2. "An Encouragement to Persevere: Understanding God's Appointments"

1. James 1:2-4 - "Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing."

2. 2 Corinthians 4:17-18 - "For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal."

1 Thessalonian 3:4 For verily, when we were with you, we told you before that we should suffer tribulation; even as it came to pass, and ye know.

The apostle Paul warned the Thessalonians that they would face tribulation, which ultimately came to pass.

1. Faith in the Face of Tribulation

2. Perseverance Through Difficulty

1. James 1:2-4 - Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of

many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.

2. Romans 8:28 - And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.

1 Thessalonian 3:5 For this cause, when I could no longer forbear, I sent to know your faith, lest by some means the tempter have tempted you, and our labour be in vain.

Paul was concerned about the faith of the Thessalonians and sent someone to check on them to prevent the Tempter from corrupting their faith and invalidating Paul's work.

1. We must be vigilant in protecting our faith and the faith of others from the Tempter's influence.

2. Our efforts in the service of God should be motivated by a desire to protect the faith of others.

1. 1 Peter 5:8 - Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour.

2. Galatians 5:7-9 - Ye did run well; who did hinder you that ye should not obey the truth? This persuasion cometh not of him that calleth you. A little leaven leaveneth the whole lump.

1 Thessalonian 3:6 But now when Timotheus came from you unto us, and brought us good tidings of your faith and charity, and that ye have good remembrance of us always, desiring greatly to see us, as we also to see you:

Timothy came to the Thessalonians with news of their faith and love, and that they had fond memories of Paul and his companions.

1. The Power of Faith and Love in our Communities

2. Remembering One Another with Fondness

1. Romans 5:5 - "And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us."

2. John 13:34-35 - "A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another."

1 Thessalonian 3:7 Therefore, brethren, we were comforted over you in all our affliction and distress by your faith:

The Thessalonians were comforted by the faith of their fellow believers in the midst of their affliction and distress.

1. The Comfort of Faith: Finding Strength in Difficult Times

2. Strengthening Your Faith in Times of Adversity

1. Hebrews 11:1, "Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen."

2. James 1:2-4, "Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing."

1 Thessalonian 3:8 For now we live, if ye stand fast in the Lord.

The Apostle Paul encourages the Thessalonians to remain strong in the Lord.

1. Stand Fast in the Lord - Being Steadfast in Faith and Obedience

2. The Strength of the Lord - How to Rely on God's Power

1. 1 Corinthians 16:13 - Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith; be courageous; be strong.

2. Philippians 4:13 - I can do all this through him who gives me strength.

1 Thessalonian 3:9 For what thanks can we render to God again for you, for all the joy wherewith we joy for your sakes before our God;

We give thanks to God for the joy we experience because of the Thessalonians.

1. Rejoice in the Lord Always: Celebrating Joy in Our Lives

2. Gratitude for God's Blessings: Expressing Thanks for His Goodness

1. Romans 12:12- Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer.

2. John 3:16- For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

1 Thessalonian 3:10 Night and day praying exceedingly that we might see your face, and might perfect that which is lacking in your faith?

Paul prayed night and day for the believers in Thessalonica, desiring to see them and help them to be complete in faith.

1. The Power of Prayer: Paul's Example of Dedication

2. Being Complete in Faith: Growing Closer to God

1. James 5:16 - "The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working."

2. Colossians 1:19-20 - "For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross."

1 Thessalonian 3:11 Now God himself and our Father, and our Lord Jesus Christ, direct our way unto you.

Paul and his companions pray that God and Jesus will direct them on their journey to the Thessalonians.

1. God will provide direction when you seek Him.

2. God's guidance is beneficial to our lives.

1. Proverbs 3:5-6 - Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.

2. Psalm 32:8 - I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you with my loving eye on you.

1 Thessalonian 3:12 And the Lord make you to increase and abound in love one toward another, and toward all men, even as we do toward you:

Paul encourages the Thessalonians to increase and abound in love towards one another and all people, just as he loves them.

1. Abounding in Love: The Thessalonians' Challenge

2. Love That Abounds: Fulfilling Paul's Teaching

1. John 15:12 - "This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you."

2. Romans 12:10 - "Be kindly affectionate one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another."

1 Thessalonian 3:13 To the end he may stablish your hearts unblameable in holiness before God, even our Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ with all his saints.

Paul encourages the Thessalonians to strive to be unblameable in holiness before God by the time of the Lord's coming.

1. "A Heart of Holiness"

2. "Striving for Righteousness"

1. Romans 12:1-2 - "Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—his

good, pleasing and perfect will."

2. Psalm 119:9-11 - "How can a young person stay on the path of purity? By living according to your word. I seek you with all my heart; do not let me stray from your commands. I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you."

1 Thessalonians 4 is the fourth chapter of the letter written by the apostle Paul to the believers in Thessalonica. In this chapter, Paul provides instructions regarding holy living, particularly in relation to sexual purity and brotherly love.

1st Paragraph: Paul urges the Thessalonian believers to live in a way that pleases God (1 Thessalonians 4:1-8). He reminds them of the instructions they had received from him on how to live a holy life. He emphasizes that God's will for them is their sanctification and that they should abstain from sexual immorality. Paul warns against indulging in lustful passions like those who do not know God, highlighting that disregarding these instructions is not just an offense against man but against God Himself.

2nd Paragraph: Paul encourages the Thessalonians to excel in brotherly love (1 Thessalonians 4:9-10). He commends them for their love toward one another but urges them to increase it even more. He encourages them to lead quiet lives, mind their own affairs, and work with their hands so as not to be dependent on others. This way, they would conduct themselves properly before outsiders and lack nothing.

3rd Paragraph: The chapter concludes with teachings about Christ's second coming and its implications for believers (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18). Paul addresses concerns about those who have died before Christ's return, assuring the Thessalonians that they should not grieve like those without hope. Instead, he explains that when Jesus returns with a loud command and trumpet call, both living believers and those who have died will rise together to meet Him in the air. They will forever be with Him, providing comfort and hope for all believers.

In summary,

Chapter four of 1 Thessalonians provides instructions on holy living regarding sexual purity and brotherly love.

Paul urges the Thessalonians to abstain from sexual immorality and live in a way that pleases God. He encourages them to excel in brotherly love, leading quiet lives, minding their own affairs, and working diligently.

Paul also addresses concerns about the fate of those who have died before Christ's return, assuring them that they will rise again to meet Jesus when He comes back. This chapter emphasizes the importance of living a holy life, cultivating brotherly love, and finding hope in Christ's second coming for all believers.

1 Thessalonian 4:1 Furthermore then we beseech you, brethren, and exhort you by the Lord Jesus, that as ye have received of us how ye ought to walk and to please God, so ye would abound more and more.

The apostle Paul exhorts the believers in Thessalonica to live a life that pleases God.

1. Abounding in Faith: Living a Life that Pleases God

2. Choosing to Follow: A Path of Devotion to God

1. Romans 12:1-2 - Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship.

2. Colossians 3:17 - And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

1 Thessalonian 4:2 For ye know what commandments we gave you by the Lord Jesus.

Paul reminded the Thessalonians of the commandments he had given them in the name of the Lord Jesus.

1. The Power of Following God's Commandments - exploring the positive impact of following God's commandments, as instructed by the Lord Jesus.

2. The Importance of Obeying God's Word - understanding how obedience to the Lord's commands is essential for a life of faith.

1. Psalm 119:105 - "Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path."

2. Deuteronomy 11:26-28 - "See, I am setting before you today a blessing and a curse: the blessing, if you obey the commandments of the Lord your God, which I command you today, and the curse, if you do not obey the commandments of the Lord your God, but turn aside from the way that I am commanding you today."

1 Thessalonian 4:3 For this is the will of God, even your sanctification, that ye should abstain from fornication:

God wills that believers abstain from fornication.

1. The Power of God's Will - A on 1 Thessalonians 4:3

2. A Call to Holiness - A on the Sanctification of Believers

1. Ephesians 5:3 - But among you there must not be even a hint of sexual immorality, or of any kind of impurity, or of greed, because these are improper for God’s holy people.

2. Matthew 5:27-28 - “You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall not commit adultery.’ But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lustful intent has already committed adultery with her in his heart.

1 Thessalonian 4:4 That every one of you should know how to possess his vessel in sanctification and honour;

Christians should strive to live with holiness and honor.

1. Living with Holiness and Honor: A Call to Action

2. Possessing Our Vessels: Understanding Our Purpose

1. Ephesians 5:3-4 - "But sexual immorality and all impurity or covetousness must not even be named among you, as is proper among saints. Let there be no filthiness nor foolish talk nor crude joking, which are out of place, but instead let there be thanksgiving."

2. 2 Corinthians 7:1 - "Since we have these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from every defilement of body and spirit, bringing holiness to completion in the fear of God."

1 Thessalonian 4:5 Not in the lust of concupiscence, even as the Gentiles which know not God:

Do not engage in sexual immorality, like those who do not know God.

1: God's Word Teaches Us to Abstain from Sexual Immorality

2: The Power of Abstaining from Lust

1: Ephesians 5:3-5 "But sexual immorality and all impurity or covetousness must not even be named among you, as is proper among saints. Let there be no filthiness nor foolish talk nor crude joking, which are out of place, but instead let there be thanksgiving. For you may be sure of this, that everyone who is sexually immoral or impure, or who is covetous (that is, an idolater), has no inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God."

2: Colossians 3:5-6 "Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. On account of these the wrath of God is coming."

1 Thessalonian 4:6 That no man go beyond and defraud his brother in any matter: because that the Lord is the avenger of all such, as we also have forewarned you and testified.

This passage encourages us to not take advantage of our brothers and sisters, as the Lord will take vengeance on those who do.

1: God's Justice: Do Not Take Advantage of Your Brothers and Sisters

2: We Are Called to Love Our Neighbors: Do Not Defraud Them

1: Matthew 22:37-39 "And he said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself."

2: Galatians 5:13-14 "For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another. For the whole law is fulfilled in one word: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”

1 Thessalonian 4:7 For God hath not called us unto uncleanness, but unto holiness.

God has called us to live holy and pure lives.

1: God calls us to live lives of holiness and purity.

2: We must live our lives according to God's will and not our own.

1: Matthew 5:48 – “Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.”

2: Ephesians 4:1 – “Therefore I, a prisoner for serving the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of your calling, for you have been called by God.”

1 Thessalonian 4:8 He therefore that despiseth, despiseth not man, but God, who hath also given unto us his holy Spirit.

Paul encourages us not to despise the gifts that God has given to us, including His Holy Spirit.

1. God has Blessed Us with His Holy Spirit, Let Us Not Take It for Granted

2. Embracing and Appreciating the Gifts of God

1. Romans 5:5 - "And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us."

2. Matthew 7:11 - "If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give good things to them that ask him?"

1 Thessalonian 4:9 But as touching brotherly love ye need not that I write unto you: for ye yourselves are taught of God to love one another.

The Thessalonians were taught by God to love one another and do not need to be reminded.

1. The Power of Love: How God Teaches Us to Love One Another

2. Loving One Another: Applying God's Teachings in Our Lives

1. Romans 12:10 - "Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor."

2. 1 John 4:7-8 - "Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love."

1 Thessalonian 4:10 And indeed ye do it toward all the brethren which are in all Macedonia: but we beseech you, brethren, that ye increase more and more;

Paul encourages the Thessalonians to continue to show love and care for their fellow believers in Macedonia, and to do even more.

1. The Power of Love: How to Show Care for Fellow Believers

2. Growing in Faith: Increasing Your Love and Care

1. 1 Corinthians 13:13 - And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.

2. Galatians 5:22-23 - But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.

1 Thessalonian 4:11 And that ye study to be quiet, and to do your own business, and to work with your own hands, as we commanded you;

Believers are called to lead a life of peace, diligence, and hard work according to the Lord's commands.

1. "Peace, Diligence, and Hard Work: Living as the Lord Commands"

2. "The Quiet Life: Living Out God's Word"

1. Ephesians 4:28 - Let him that stole steal no more: but rather let him labour, working with his hands the thing which is good, that he may have to give to him that needeth.

2. Colossians 3:23 - And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men;

1 Thessalonian 4:12 That ye may walk honestly toward them that are without, and that ye may have lack of nothing.

Christians should be honest in their dealings with non-Christians and should strive to have all their needs met.

1. The Importance of Honesty in Relationships

2. Living a Life of Contentment

1. Ephesians 4:25 - Therefore, having put away falsehood, let each one of you speak the truth with his neighbor, for we are members one of another.

2. Philippians 4:11-13 - Not that I am speaking of being in need, for I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content. I know how to be brought low, and I know how to abound. In any and every circumstance, I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need.

1 Thessalonian 4:13 But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope.

Believers should not be ignorant of those who have died; they should not sorrow like those who have no hope.

1. The Hope of Eternal Life: Rejoicing Even in Times of Loss

2. God's Comfort in the Mourning: Finding Strength in Our Sorrow

1. Romans 15:13 - May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.

2. Psalm 34:18 - The Lord is near to the brokenhearted and saves the crushed in spirit.

1 Thessalonian 4:14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him.

God will bring those who have died in Jesus with Him when He returns.

1. God's Love and Faithfulness: A Comfort for Those Who Grieve

2. The Promise of Eternal Life in Jesus

1. 1 Corinthians 15:20-23 - But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept.

2. John 14:1-3 - Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me.

1 Thessalonian 4:15 For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep.

Paul tells the Thessalonians that those who are still alive when the Lord returns will not precede those who have already died.

1. The Lord's Promise of Comfort for Those Who Have Passed: How God's Love Endures Beyond Death

2. The Hope of the Resurrection: How Believing in the Lord's Return Brings Eternal Life

1. Revelation 21:4 - "He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away."

2. Romans 8:38-39 - "For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord."

1 Thessalonian 4:16 For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:

The Lord will return to earth with a shout, the voice of an archangel, and the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will be the first to rise.

1. How to Prepare for the Lord's Return

2. The Promise of the Resurrected Dead

1. John 14:1-3 - "Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you."

2. Romans 8:11 - "But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you."

1 Thessalonian 4:17 Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.

Believers who are still alive when Christ returns will be caught up in the clouds to meet the Lord and will be with Him forever.

1. A Vision of Heaven: Living in Joy with the Lord

2. Hope in the Midst of Uncertainty: The Promise of Eternal Life

1. John 14:2-3 - "In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also."

2. Psalm 16:11 - "You make known to me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore."

1 Thessalonian 4:18 Wherefore comfort one another with these words.

Christians should comfort each other with words from the Bible.

1. The Power of Comforting Words from the Bible

2. The Comfort of Knowing God's Word

1. Matthew 11:28 - Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

2. Psalm 27:14 - Wait on the LORD: be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the LORD.

1 Thessalonians 5 is the fifth and final chapter of the letter written by the apostle Paul to the believers in Thessalonica. In this chapter, Paul addresses various aspects of Christian living, including readiness for Christ's return, relationships within the church, and a call to live in peace.

1st Paragraph: Paul begins by discussing the timing of Christ's return (1 Thessalonians 5:1-11). He emphasizes that no one knows the exact time or season when Jesus will come again. Therefore, believers should always be prepared and watchful. He contrasts those who are in darkness—unbelievers—with those who are children of light—believers. He encourages them to stay sober and alert, putting on faith and love as a breastplate and hope of salvation as a helmet. Believers are destined for salvation through Jesus Christ.

2nd Paragraph: Paul instructs the Thessalonian believers regarding their relationships within the church (1 Thessalonians 5:12-22). He urges them to respect and esteem their leaders who work diligently among them. They are to live in peace with one another, admonish those who are idle or unruly, encourage the disheartened, help the weak, and be patient with everyone. They should not seek revenge but instead pursue what is good for one another and for all people.

3rd Paragraph: The chapter concludes with final exhortations related to spiritual practices (1 Thessalonians 5:23-28). Paul prays that God would sanctify them completely—spiritually blameless at Jesus' coming—and preserve their whole spirit, soul, and body until then. He reminds them that God is faithful and will fulfill His promises. Paul urges them to pray for him as well while greeting all believers with a holy kiss—an expression of affection—and instructs that his letter be read publicly among them.

In summary,

Chapter five of 1 Thessalonians emphasizes readiness for Christ's return, relationships within the church, and spiritual practices.

Paul encourages believers to be watchful and prepared for Jesus' second coming. He instructs them to live as children of light, putting on faith, love, and hope.

He also addresses their conduct within the church, urging respect for leaders, living in peace with one another, and engaging in acts of encouragement and support. Paul emphasizes the importance of pursuing what is good for one another and all people.

The chapter concludes with a prayer for their sanctification and preservation until Christ's return. Paul affirms God's faithfulness and requests prayer for himself while instructing

that his letter be shared publicly among believers. This chapter highlights the urgency of readiness, the significance of harmonious relationships within the church community, and the importance of spiritual practices in Christian living.

1 Thessalonian 5:1 But of the times and the seasons, brethren, ye have no need that I write unto you.

Paul reminds the Thessalonians that they have no need for him to write to them concerning the times and seasons.

1. The Nature of God's Timing: How to Recognize and Respond to God's Perfect Timing

2. Trusting in God's Timing: How to Wait and Persevere in Faith

1. Ecclesiastes 3:1-8 - For everything there is a season

2. Psalm 27:14 - Wait for the Lord; be strong and take heart and wait for the Lord.

1 Thessalonian 5:2 For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night.

The Day of the Lord will come unexpectedly, like a thief in the night.

1. "Living in Anticipation of the Lord's Return"

2. "The Unexpectedness of the Day of the Lord"

1. Matthew 24:42-44 (Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh.)

2. 2 Peter 3:9-10 (The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.)

1 Thessalonian 5:3 For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape.

People are warned that sudden destruction will come upon them when they feel safe and secure.

1. The Importance of Being Prepared for Sudden Destruction

2. The Reality of God's Judgment on Sin

1. Matthew 24:36-44 - Jesus warns of the unexpected coming of the Son of Man.

2. Romans 1:18-32 - God's wrath is revealed against unrighteousness.

1 Thessalonian 5:4 But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief.

Believers are not in darkness and will not be overtaken by the day of the Lord as a thief.

1. “Living in the Light: God’s Protection from Unexpected Disaster”

2. “God’s Sovereignty and the Day of the Lord”

1. Romans 13:11-14; “And do this, understanding the present time: The hour has already come for you to wake up from your slumber, because our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed. The night is nearly over; the day is almost here. So let us put aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light.”

2. Isaiah 26:20-21; “Go, my people, enter your rooms and shut the doors behind you; hide yourselves for a little while until his wrath has passed by. See, the LORD is coming out of his dwelling to punish the people of the earth for their sins. The earth will see the display of his wrath and understand his purpose.”

1 Thessalonian 5:5 Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness.

We are to be children of the light, not of the darkness.

1: The Light of Christ - How Jesus illuminates our lives and brings us out of the darkness.

2: Shining the Light of God - How we can be a beacon of hope and truth to a world shrouded in darkness.

1: John 8:12 - Jesus said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

2: Ephesians 5:8 - "For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light."

1 Thessalonian 5:6 Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be sober.

We should stay alert and vigilant instead of sleeping like others.

1. "Living Wakefully: The Importance of Staying Alert and Vigilant"

2. "The Call to Sobriety: Keeping Ourselves Awake Through Faithful Living"

1. Ephesians 5:14-16 (for waking from the dead and living a wise life)

2. Proverbs 4:23-27 (for keeping our hearts and minds focused on God's truth and direction)

1 Thessalonian 5:7 For they that sleep sleep in the night; and they that be drunken are drunken in the night.

We should not be overtaken by sleep or drunkenness in the night, but instead be sober and vigilant.

1) "The Watchful Night: Remaining Vigilant in the Darkness"

2) "The Sleep of the Righteous: Avoiding the Temptations of the Night"

1) Isaiah 21:11, "The burden of Dumah. He calleth to me out of Seir, Watchman, what of the night? Watchman, what of the night?"

2) Ephesians 5:14-15, "Wherefore he saith, Awake thou that sleepest, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give thee light. See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise."

1 Thessalonian 5:8 But let us, who are of the day, be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love; and for an helmet, the hope of salvation.

Believers who are living in the day should be sober and wear the armor of faith, love and the hope of salvation.

1. Putting on the Armor of God: The Breastplate of Faith and Love and the Helmet of Salvation

2. A Call to Sober Living: Why Believers Should Live Soberly

1. Ephesians 6:10-18 - The Armor of God

2. Titus 2:11-14 - A Call to Sober Living

1 Thessalonian 5:9 For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ,

God has not destined us to face His wrath, but to be saved through Jesus Christ.

1. God's Mercy: Finding Salvation Through Jesus Christ

2. The Wrath of God: Avoiding God's Punishment Through Faith

1. John 3:16 - For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

2. Romans 8:1 - There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.

1 Thessalonian 5:10 Who died for us, that, whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with him.

Jesus died for us, so that we can live with Him both in life and in death.

1. We are Called to Live with Christ: How to Live a Life of Faith and Fellowship with God.

2. The Gift of Eternal Life: The Blessing of Knowing We Will Live with Jesus Forever.

1. Romans 6:23 - For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

2. John 14:2-3 - In my Father’s house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also.

1 Thessalonian 5:11 Wherefore comfort yourselves together, and edify one another, even as also ye do.

Christians should comfort and encourage each other.

1. "God's Comfort in Times of Need"

2. "The Power of Encouragement"

1. Psalm 23:4 - Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

2. Hebrews 10:24-25 - And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

1 Thessalonian 5:12 And we beseech you, brethren, to know them which labour among you, and are over you in the Lord, and admonish you;

We are to recognize and give respect to those who work and lead among us in the Lord.

1. Appreciate Those Who Lead: A Study of 1 Thessalonians 5:12

2. Following Those Who Follow the Lord: An Exposition of 1 Thessalonians 5:12

1. Hebrews 13:17 - Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you.

2. 1 Peter 5:5 - Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder. Yea, all of you be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble.

1 Thessalonian 5:13 And to esteem them very highly in love for their work's sake. And be at peace among yourselves.

We should value and love each other and live in peace with one another.

1: We are all part of the same family of God, so let us treat each other as such.

2: Love and peace are essential components of a healthy and harmonious community.

1: Romans 12:10 “Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor.”

2: Philippians 4:2-3 “I entreat Euodia and I entreat Syntyche to agree in the Lord. Yes, I ask you also, true companion, help these women, who have labored side by side with me in the gospel together with Clement and the rest of my fellow workers, whose names are in the book of life.”

1 Thessalonian 5:14 Now we exhort you, brethren, warn them that are unruly, comfort the feebleminded, support the weak, be patient toward all men.

We are to encourage and support those around us, and be patient and understanding of everyone.

1. The Power of Encouragement: How We Can Lift Each Other Up

2. The Strength of Patience: How We Can Find Understanding in Every Situation

1. Proverbs 15:1-4 - A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger.

2. Romans 12:12 - Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer.

1 Thessalonian 5:15 See that none render evil for evil unto any man; but ever follow that which is good, both among yourselves, and to all men.

Do not return evil for evil, instead pursue good in all relationships.

1. Choose Love: Pursuing Good in All Relationships

2. Turning Adversity into Opportunity: Living a Life of Good

1. Romans 12:21 - Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

2. Isaiah 1:17 - Learn to do good; seek justice, correct oppression; bring justice to the fatherless, plead the widow's cause.

1 Thessalonian 5:16 Rejoice evermore.

We should always rejoice in the Lord.

1. Rejoicing in the Lord: What it means to truly celebrate in the Lord.

2. The Joy of the Lord: Finding true and lasting joy in the Lord.

1. Psalm 16:11 - You make known to me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

2. Psalm 100:1-2 - Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth! Serve the Lord with gladness! Come into his presence with singing!

1 Thessalonian 5:17 Pray without ceasing.

Christians are encouraged to pray without ceasing.

1. The Power of Prayer: How Constant Prayer Can Change our Lives

2. Praying without Ceasing: Achieving a Closer Relationship with God

1. James 5:16 - "The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working."

2. Philippians 4:6-7 - "Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God."

1 Thessalonian 5:18 In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.

We should be thankful for all things, for this is God's will for us in Jesus Christ.

1. Thankful in Every Circumstance - Living a Life of Gratitude

2. The Will of God - Submitting to His Plans for Our Lives

1. Ephesians 4:32 - "And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you."

2. Psalm 100:4 - "Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name."

1 Thessalonian 5:19 Quench not the Spirit.

Believers should not suppress the work of the Holy Spirit in their lives.

1. "Fanning the Flames of the Spirit"

2. "Rekindling the Fire of the Spirit"

1. Ephesians 5:18, "And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit"

2. Galatians 5:16-17, "But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do."

1 Thessalonian 5:20 Despise not prophesyings.

Believers should not look down on prophetic messages.

1. The Power of Prophetic Messages: How God Speaks Through Prophets.

2. Discerning the Voice of God: How to Recognize and Respect Prophetic Messages.

1. Acts 2:17-21 - The outpouring of the Holy Spirit and the gift of prophecy.

2. Ezekiel 33:7-9 - God's warning to watchmen and the responsibility to give a warning to the people.

1 Thessalonian 5:21 Prove all things; hold fast that which is good.

We should test the truth of all things and cling to that which is good.

1. "Discernment: Testing the Truth"

2. "Clinging to That Which Is Good"

1. Philippians 4:8-9: "Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me—practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you."

2. John 8:31-32: "So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, “If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”

1 Thessalonian 5:22 Abstain from all appearance of evil.

Paul encourages Christians to avoid anything that might be perceived as evil.

1. "Avoid the Appearance of Evil: A Call to Holiness"

2. "Living a Life of Integrity: Abstaining from Evil"

1. John 14:15 - "If you love me, you will keep my commandments."

2. Romans 12:2 - "Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect."

1 Thessalonian 5:23 And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Paul prays that the Thessalonians will be sanctified and preserved blameless for the coming of Jesus Christ.

1. "Sanctification and Blamelessness: Preparing for the Coming of Jesus"

2. "The Whole Spirit, Soul, and Body: Preserving Holiness in the Last Days"

1. Ephesians 4:22-24 - "That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts; And be renewed in the spirit of your mind; And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness."

2. 1 Peter 1:13-16 - "Wherefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and hope to the end for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ; As obedient children, not fashioning yourselves according to the former lusts in your ignorance: But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation; Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy."

1 Thessalonian 5:24 Faithful is he that calleth you, who also will do it.

This passage encourages believers that God is faithful and will keep his promise.

1. "God's Faithfulness: A Source of Comfort and Hope"

2. "Remain Faithful and Trust in God"

1. Isaiah 43:2 "When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you."

2. Hebrews 10:23 "Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful."

1 Thessalonian 5:25 Brethren, pray for us.

The author of 1 Thessalonians is asking his brethren to pray for him.

1. God always answers the prayers of those who are devoted to Him.

2. Prayer is an important part of a Christian's spiritual journey.

1. Philippians 4:6-7: "Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."

2. James 5:16: "Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective."

1 Thessalonian 5:26 Greet all the brethren with an holy kiss.

The apostle Paul encourages believers to greet one another with a holy kiss of love and peace.

1. "The Power of a Holy Kiss"

2. "The Blessing of a Holy Kiss"

1. Romans 16:16 - "Greet one another with a holy kiss."

2. 1 Peter 5:14 - "Greet one another with a kiss of love."

1 Thessalonian 5:27 I charge you by the Lord that this epistle be read unto all the holy brethren.

Paul commands the readers to read the letter to all of their fellow believers.

1. The importance of reading scripture together as brothers and sisters in Christ.

2. How Paul's letters remain relevant to believers today.

1. Colossians 3:16 - Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.

2. Hebrews 10:24-25 - And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.

1 Thessalonian 5:28 The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. Amen.

Paul sends his blessing to the Thessalonians, wishing them grace from the Lord Jesus Christ.

1. The Power of Blessing: Understanding the Significance of Paul's Blessing to the Thessalonians

2. Grace from Jesus: Learning to Receive and Appreciate God's Abundant Grace

1. Ephesians 1:7-8 - "In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, which he lavished upon us..."

2. Romans 5:20-21 - "Now the law came in to increase the trespass, but where sin increased, grace abounded all the more, so that, as sin reigned in death, grace also might reign through righteousness leading to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."

2 Thessalonians 1 is the first chapter of the second letter written by the apostle Paul to the believers in Thessalonica. In this chapter, Paul expresses encouragement and assurance to the Thessalonian believers amidst their persecution and affirms God's righteous judgment on those who oppose Him.

1st Paragraph: Paul begins by commending the Thessalonian believers for their growing faith and love (2 Thessalonians 1:1-4). He acknowledges their perseverance in the face of afflictions and persecutions, which are evidence of God's righteous judgment. Paul assures them that their suffering is not in vain but serves as a testament to God's justice and their worthiness of His kingdom.

2nd Paragraph: Paul reassures the Thessalonians that God will deal justly with those who afflict them (2 Thessalonians 1:5-10). He explains that when Christ returns, He will bring relief to believers who have been oppressed while punishing those who have troubled them. This punishment will be characterized by eternal destruction away from His presence, demonstrating God's righteous judgment against evildoers.

3rd Paragraph: The chapter concludes with a prayer for the Thessalonian believers' continued spiritual growth (2 Thessalonians 1:11-12). Paul prays that God would count them worthy of His calling and fulfill every good purpose they have through His power. He desires that Jesus' name would be glorified in them, and they in Him, according to God's grace. Ultimately, he encourages them to continue living out their faith so that Jesus may be glorified through their lives.

In summary,

Chapter one of 2 Thessalonians provides encouragement amidst persecution and affirms God's righteous judgment.

Paul commends the Thessalonian believers for their growing faith and love demonstrated through perseverance in afflictions.

He reassures them that God will bring relief to the oppressed and punish those who trouble them when Christ returns. This punishment will be characterized by eternal destruction away from God's presence.

Paul concludes with a prayer for their spiritual growth, desiring that they would fulfill God's purposes and bring glory to Jesus' name. This chapter highlights the believers' endurance in persecution, God's justice against evildoers, and the importance of living out their faith for Jesus' glory.

2 Thessalonian 1:1 Paul, and Silvanus, and Timotheus, unto the church of the Thessalonians in God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ:

Paul, Silvanus, and Timotheus greet the church of Thessalonians and acknowledge God the Father and Jesus Christ as Lord.

1. "Recognizing God the Father and Jesus Christ as Lord"

2. "The Power of Greeting in the Church"

1. Matthew 28:19-20 - "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

2. Romans 10:9-10 - "because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved."

2 Thessalonian 1:2 Grace unto you, and peace, from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Paul sends greetings of grace and peace to the believers in Thessalonica from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

1. The Peace and Grace of God - How to Receive and Share His Love

2. Experiencing the Grace and Peace of God - How to Cultivate a Relationship with Him

1. Romans 5:1 - Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

2. Colossians 3:15 - And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful.

2 Thessalonian 1:3 We are bound to thank God always for you, brethren, as it is meet, because that your faith groweth exceedingly, and the charity of every one of you all toward each other aboundeth;

The Thessalonians have been commended for their growing faith and mutual charity.

1. The Power of Faith and Charity

2. Mutual Support: The Blessing of Fellowship

1. Romans 15:14 - And I myself also am persuaded of you, my brethren, that ye also are full of goodness, filled with all knowledge, able also to admonish one another.

2. Galatians 6:2 - Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ.

2 Thessalonian 1:4 So that we ourselves glory in you in the churches of God for your patience and faith in all your persecutions and tribulations that ye endure:

The Thessalonians were praised for their faith and patience in the face of their persecutions and tribulations.

1. The Power of Patience and Faith: How Enduring Persecution Can Strengthen Our Faith

2. The Strength of Resilience: How to Remain Hopeful in the Face of Struggles

1. Hebrews 10:36 - For you have need of endurance, so that when you have done the will of God you may receive the promise.

2. Romans 5:3-5 - Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. And hope does not put us to shame, because God’s love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.

2 Thessalonian 1:5 Which is a manifest token of the righteous judgment of God, that ye may be counted worthy of the kingdom of God, for which ye also suffer:

The suffering of believers is a sign of God's righteous judgment, which renders them worthy to enter His kingdom.

1. Trust in God's Judgment: How to Embrace Suffering for the Kingdom

2. Perseverance in Faith: How to Remain Worthy of the Kingdom

1. Romans 8:17-18 - And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together.

2. James 1:2-3 - My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience.

2 Thessalonian 1:6 Seeing it is a righteous thing with God to recompense tribulation to them that trouble you;

God will repay those who cause trouble to the righteous.

1. God is a righteous judge and will always uphold justice.

2. God's justice is sure and He will always avenge those who are wronged.

1. Romans 12:19 - "Do not take revenge, my dear friends, but leave room for God’s wrath, for it is written: “It is mine to avenge; I will repay,” says the Lord."

2. Psalm 7:11 - "God is a righteous judge, a God who expresses his wrath every day."

2 Thessalonian 1:7 And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels,

Believers who are troubled will find rest when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with his angels.

1. The Hope of Heaven: Finding Rest in the Coming of the Lord

2. Overcoming Troubles: Relying on the Strength of the Lord

1. Revelation 21:3-4 - And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.”

2. Psalm 55:22 - Cast your burden on the Lord, and he will sustain you; he will never permit the righteous to be moved.

2 Thessalonian 1:8 In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ:

God will take vengeance upon those who do not know or obey Him.

1. Let us not be counted among those who do not know or obey God.

2. The Lord will judge those who do not acknowledge His authority.

1. Matthew 18:23-35 - Parable of the Unforgiving Servant

2. Romans 2:12-16 - God's Judgment of Sinners

2 Thessalonian 1:9 Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power;

Those who do not obey God's will will be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and from his glory and power.

1. The Consequences of Disobedience: Understanding the Severity of God's Punishment

2. A Call to Righteousness: A Warning of the Everlasting Destruction of God's Wrath

1. Romans 2:5-9 But because of your hard and impenitent heart you are storing up wrath for yourself on the day of wrath when God's righteous judgment will be revealed.

2. Hebrews 10:31 It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

2 Thessalonian 1:10 When he shall come to be glorified in his saints, and to be admired in all them that believe (because our testimony among you was believed) in that day.

On the day of Christ's return, the believers who have believed in the testimony of the

saints will be glorified and admired by all.

1. The Day of Glory: Preparing for Christ's Return

2. What It Means to Believe: Celebrating the Testimony of the Saints

1. 2 Corinthians 5:10 - For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.

2. Romans 8:17 - And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together.

2 Thessalonian 1:11 Wherefore also we pray always for you, that our God would count you worthy of this calling, and fulfil all the good pleasure of his goodness, and the work of faith with power:

Paul prayed that God would help the Thessalonians to live up to their calling and fulfill God's good purposes for them.

1. God's Good Purposes: How to Live Up to Our Calling

2. The Power of Faith: What it Means to Follow God

1. Ephesians 2:10 - For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

2. Romans 12:1-2 - I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

2 Thessalonian 1:12 That the name of our Lord Jesus Christ may be glorified in you, and ye in him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.

The name of Jesus should be glorified in us and us in him, according to the grace of God and Jesus.

1. Living by Grace: How the Grace of the Lord Jesus Christ Can Change Your Life

2. Glorifying Christ: The Power of Praising the Lord Jesus Christ

1. Ephesians 2:8-9 - For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God.

2. 1 Peter 4:11 - Whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God; whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies—in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ.

2 Thessalonians 2 is the second chapter of the second letter written by the apostle Paul to the believers in Thessalonica. In this chapter, Paul addresses concerns and clarifies misconceptions regarding the coming of the Lord and warns against deception.

1st Paragraph: Paul begins by addressing false teachings that had caused confusion among the Thessalonian believers (2 Thessalonians 2:1-4). He urges them not to be easily alarmed or deceived by reports claiming that the day of the Lord had already come. He explains that before Christ's return, a rebellion and an unveiling of a man of lawlessness—commonly referred to as "the Antichrist"—must occur. This figure will exalt himself above God and perform signs and wonders, deceiving those who do not love the truth.

2nd Paragraph: Paul reminds the Thessalonians about his previous teachings concerning these matters (2 Thessalonians 2:5-12). He tells them that they should remember what he had told them while he was with them. The mystery of lawlessness was already at work, but there was a restraining force holding it back until its appointed time. When that restraint is removed, then this man of lawlessness will be revealed. However, his reign will be temporary as Jesus will ultimately destroy him with His glorious coming.

3rd Paragraph: The chapter concludes with an encouragement for steadfastness and a reminder of God's love (2 Thessalonians 2:13-17). Paul expresses gratitude to God for choosing the Thessalonian believers for salvation through sanctification by His Spirit and belief in truth. He encourages them to stand firm in their faith, holding fast to his teachings whether written or spoken. Finally, he prays for their comfort and strength from God's grace and encourages their hearts in every good work.

In summary,

Chapter two of 2 Thessalonians addresses concerns about the coming of the Lord and warns against deception.

Paul clarifies that before Christ's return, a rebellion and the revelation of a man of

lawlessness must occur. He urges the believers not to be easily deceived by false reports. This figure will exalt himself above God and deceive those who do not love the truth.

Paul reminds them of his previous teachings on these matters, assuring them that this man's reign will be temporary as Jesus will ultimately destroy him. He encourages steadfastness in faith and gratitude for God's love and salvation.

The chapter concludes with a prayer for comfort, strength, and encouragement from God's grace. This chapter highlights the importance of discernment, standing firm in faith, and finding assurance in God's promises amidst potential deception.

2 Thessalonian 2:1 Now we beseech you, brethren, by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by our gathering together unto him,

The apostle Paul is appealing to the brethren to be ready for the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ and the gathering together unto him.

1. The Coming of the Lord: Are You Ready?

2. Preparing Our Hearts for the Gathering Together Unto Christ

1. Matthew 24:44, “Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.”

2. Hebrews 10:25, “Not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.”

2 Thessalonian 2:2 That ye be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as from us, as that the day of Christ is at hand.

The passage reminds Christians not to be misled by false teachings that the day of Christ is near.

1. Stand Firm in the Face of False Teaching

2. Don't Be Deceived by Deceitful Messages

1. 1 Corinthians 16:13 - Be watchful, stand firm in the faith, act like men, be strong.

2. Matthew 24:24 - For false christs and false prophets will arise and perform great signs and wonders, so as to lead astray, if possible, even the elect.

2 Thessalonian 2:3 Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition;

Passage This passage warns against being deceived, as the return of Christ will not come until the falling away and the man of sin are revealed.

1. The Danger of Deception: Understanding the Timing of Christ's Return

2. Recognizing the Signs of the End: The Falling Away and the Man of Sin

1. Romans 16:17-18 - Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them. For they that are such serve not our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly; and by good words and fair speeches deceive the hearts of the simple.

2. Ephesians 5:11-12 - And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them. For it is a shame even to speak of those things which are done of them in secret.

2 Thessalonian 2:4 Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God.

The passage talks about a person who opposes and exalts himself above God and sits in the temple of God, showing himself to be God.

1. The Dangers of Pride: A Warning from 2 Thessalonians 2:4

2. Beware of False Gods: Understanding the Implications of 2 Thessalonians 2:4

1. Proverbs 16:18 - "Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall."

2. Isaiah 14:12-14 - "How you are fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! How you are cut down to the ground, You who weakened the nations! For you have said in your heart: 'I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; I will also sit on the mount of the congregation On the farthest sides of the north; I will ascend above the heights of the clouds, I will be like the Most High.'"

2 Thessalonian 2:5 Remember ye not, that, when I was yet with you, I told you these things?

Paul reminded the Thessalonians of the warnings and information he had shared with them while with them in person.

1. The Power of Memory: How to Remember What Matters Most

2. Paul's Example: The Importance of Reviewing God's Truth

1. Psalm 119:11 - "I have stored up your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you."

2. 2 Timothy 3:16 - "All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness."

2 Thessalonian 2:6 And now ye know what withholdeth that he might be revealed in his time.

This passage refers to a mysterious figure that will be revealed in the future, when the time is right.

1: God has a plan for each of us, and we must remain patient and trust in His timing.

2: We should have faith that God will reveal this figure at the right time and prepare for his coming.

1: Isaiah 55:8-9 “For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.”

2: Psalm 27:14 “Wait on the Lord: be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the Lord.”

2 Thessalonian 2:7 For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only he who now letteth will let, until he be taken out of the way.

The mystery of evil is already at work, but it is being restrained until the restrainer is removed.

1. "The Unseen Power of Evil"

2. "The Restrainer of Evil"

1. Matthew 8:28-34 - Jesus' power to cast out demons

2. 2 Corinthians 10:4-5 - The spiritual weapons used to fight against evil forces

2 Thessalonian 2:8 And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming:

The Lord will bring an end to the wicked when He returns.

1. The Lord's Return: Our Hope in Wicked Times

2. Our Protection in the Lord's Coming

1. Isaiah 11:4 - "But with righteousness He shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; He shall strike the earth with the rod of His mouth, and with the breath of His lips He shall slay the wicked."

2. Romans 12:19 - "Never take your own revenge, beloved, but leave room for the wrath of God, for it is written, “Vengeance is Mine, I will repay,” says the Lord."

2 Thessalonian 2:9 Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders,

Paul warned the Thessalonians to be aware of false teachers and prophets whose teachings are inspired by Satan and are accompanied by miraculous signs and wonders.

1. Don't be deceived by false prophets - 2 Thessalonians 2:9

2. Discern truth from lies - 2 Thessalonians 2:9

1. Proverbs 14:15 - “The simple believes everything, but the prudent gives thought to his steps.”

2. 1 John 4:1 - “Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world.”

2 Thessalonian 2:10 And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved.

People who do not receive the love of the truth will perish because of unrighteousness and deceit.

1. The Power of Truth: A Call to Receive the Love of Truth

2. Deceit and Unrighteousness: The Danger of Ignoring the Truth

1. Romans 1:18-32 - For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness.

2. John 8:31-32 - Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, "If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.

2 Thessalonian 2:11 And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie:

God will send a strong delusion to those who do not believe the truth, causing them to believe a lie.

1. The Danger of Being Deceived - How to Recognize and Resist False Teachings

2. The Power of the Truth - Why Believing the Truth is Essential for Salvation

1. Proverbs 14:12 - "There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death."

2. John 8:31-32 - "If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."

2 Thessalonian 2:12 That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness.

God will condemn those who refuse to accept the truth and take pleasure in unrighteousness.

1. Rejecting the Truth: God's Wrath on Those Who Take Pleasure in Unrighteousness

2. Righteousness over Unrighteousness: God's Judgement on Those Who Do Not Believe the Truth

1. Romans 1:18-25 - Paul's description of God's wrath on those who reject the truth

2. John 3:16-17 - God's love for those who believe in Jesus Christ and His judgement on those who do not

2 Thessalonian 2:13 But we are bound to give thanks alway to God for you, brethren beloved of the Lord, because God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth:

God has chosen the Thessalonians to receive salvation through belief in the truth and sanctification of the Spirit.

1. God's Amazing Love for His People: How God Has Chosen Us for Salvation

2. The Power of the Spirit: Experiencing Sanctification and Belief in the Truth

1. Romans 8:28-30 - And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.

2. Ephesians 2:8-10 - For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— not by works, so that no one can boast.

2 Thessalonian 2:14 Whereunto he called you by our gospel, to the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The Lord Jesus Christ has called us to obtain His glory through the gospel.

1. The Power of the Gospel to Obtain Glory

2. The Calling of the Lord: To Obtain His Glory

1. Romans 8:17-19 - And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together.

2. Colossians 3:4 - When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory.

2 Thessalonian 2:15 Therefore, brethren, stand fast, and hold the traditions which ye have been taught, whether by word, or our epistle.

Christians are encouraged to remain firm in their faith and to abide by the teachings they have been taught, whether by word of mouth or by written letter.

1. "Stand Fast in Faith: Abide by the Teachings of God"

2. "Remain Steadfast in Belief: Uphold the Traditions of the Lord"

1. John 8:31-32 “Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, ‘If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.’”

2. Hebrews 10:23-25 “Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful. And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.”

2 Thessalonian 2:16 Now our Lord Jesus Christ himself, and God, even our Father, which hath loved us, and hath given us everlasting consolation and good hope through grace,

Our Lord Jesus Christ and God, our Father, have provided us with everlasting consolation and good hope through grace.

1. The Everlasting Comfort of Grace - Exploring the reassurance and hope found in God's promises.

2. The Power of Love - Examining God's love and how it provides strength in times of need.

1. Romans 8:37-39 - No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

2. Isaiah 40:31 - But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.

2 Thessalonian 2:17 Comfort your hearts, and stablish you in every good word and work.

The passage encourages believers to be comforted in their faith and to be established in good words and deeds.

1. "Comfort in Faith"

2. "Good Deeds and Words"

1. John 14:27 - "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid."

2. James 2:14-17 - "What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save them? Suppose a brother or a sister is without clothes and daily food. If one of you says to them, “Go in peace; keep warm and well fed,” but does nothing about their physical needs, what good is it? In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead."

2 Thessalonians 3 is the third and final chapter of the second letter written by the apostle Paul to the believers in Thessalonica. In this chapter, Paul addresses specific issues related to idleness, disorderly conduct, and false teaching within the church.

1st Paragraph: Paul urges the Thessalonian believers to pray for him and his companions (2 Thessalonians 3:1-5). He asks for their prayers that God's message may spread rapidly and be honored among others. He expresses confidence in the Lord's faithfulness to protect them from evil and strengthen them in every good work. Paul also encourages them to follow his example by diligently working rather than being idle.

2nd Paragraph: Paul addresses concerns about disorderly conduct within the church (2 Thessalonians 3:6-15). He reminds them of his own behavior while he was with them—how he worked hard day and night, not being a burden on anyone. He warns against those who are idle and do not live according to the tradition they received from him. Paul instructs that if anyone is unwilling to work, they should not eat. He urges them not to grow weary in doing what is right but rather admonishes those who are unruly.

3rd Paragraph: The chapter concludes with final exhortations for unity, peace, and perseverance (2 Thessalonians 3:16-18). Paul prays that the Lord of peace Himself would give them peace at all times and in every way. He emphasizes that his greeting is written with his own hand as a sign of authenticity. Finally, he blesses them with grace from Jesus Christ.

In summary,

Chapter three of 2 Thessalonians addresses idleness, disorderly conduct, and false teaching within the church.

Paul urges prayer for God's message to spread rapidly among others while expressing confidence in His faithfulness to protect and strengthen believers. He encourages diligent work and warns against idleness.

Paul addresses disorderly conduct, reminding them of his own example of hard work. He instructs that those who are unwilling to work should not eat and urges them not to grow weary in doing what is right. He emphasizes the importance of unity, peace, and perseverance.

The chapter concludes with a prayer for peace, an authentic greeting from Paul, and a blessing of grace from Jesus Christ. This chapter highlights the importance of diligence, orderliness, and adherence to sound teaching within the church community.

2 Thessalonian 3:1 Finally, brethren, pray for us, that the word of the Lord may have free course, and be glorified, even as it is with you:

The author encourages the readers to pray for them, so that the Word of the Lord can spread and be glorified as it is among them.

1. The Power of Prayer: How We Can Help Spread the Word of the Lord

2. The Importance of the Word of the Lord: How It Should Be Glorified

1. Luke 18:1 - "And he spake a parable unto them to this end, that men ought always to pray, and not to faint;"

2. Psalm 138:2 - "I will worship toward thy holy temple, and praise thy name for thy lovingkindness and for thy truth: for thou hast magnified thy word above all thy name."

2 Thessalonian 3:2 And that we may be delivered from unreasonable and wicked men: for all men have not faith.

Paul is praying that the Thessalonian church be saved from those who do not have faith.

1. God's Protection - How God shields us from the wickedness of the world

2. Faith - The power of faith in God to protect and sustain us

1. Psalm 91:11 - For he will command his angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways.

2. 2 Corinthians 12:9 - But he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.”

2 Thessalonian 3:3 But the Lord is faithful, who shall stablish you, and keep you from evil.

The Lord is faithful and will protect us from evil.

1: God's faithfulness is a source of comfort and security.

2: We can trust the Lord to protect us from evil.

1: Isaiah 46:4 - Even to your old age I am he; and even to hoar hairs will I carry you: I have made, and I will bear; even I will carry, and will deliver you.

2: Psalm 91:10 - No evil shall befall thee, neither shall any plague come nigh thy dwelling.

2 Thessalonian 3:4 And we have confidence in the Lord touching you, that ye both do and will do the things which we command you.

The author expresses confidence in the Thessalonians' obedience to the commands given to them.

1. Staying True to God's Commands: Living a Life of Faithfulness

2. A Life of Obedience: The Power of Following God's Will

1. James 1:22-25 - “But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man observing his natural face in a mirror; for he observes himself, goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of man he was. But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does.”

2. Matthew 7:21-23 - “Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven will enter. Many will say to me on that day, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and in your name cast out demons, and in your name perform many miracles?’ And then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from me, you who practice lawlessness.’”

2 Thessalonian 3:5 And the Lord direct your hearts into the love of God, and into the patient waiting for Christ.

The Lord is asking us to direct our hearts into loving God and patiently waiting for Christ.

1. “The Power of Love and Patience”

2. “Living in the Lord's Will”

1. Romans 5:8 “But God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ

died for us.”

2. James 5:7-8 “Be patient, therefore, brothers, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient about it, until it receives the early and the late rains. You also, be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand.”

2 Thessalonian 3:6 Now we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye withdraw yourselves from every brother that walketh disorderly, and not after the tradition which he received of us.

Paul commands the Thessalonians to separate from those who do not follow the teachings of Jesus.

1. The Power of Separation: Learning to Discerningly Disconnect from Those Who Refuse to Follow Jesus

2. The Blessing of Obedience: Embracing the Discipline of Discerningly Disconnecting from Those Who Refuse to Follow Jesus

1. Joshua 24:15 “And if it seem evil unto you to serve the LORD, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.”

2. Proverbs 11:28 “He that trusteth in his riches shall fall: but the righteous shall flourish as a branch.”

2 Thessalonian 3:7 For yourselves know how ye ought to follow us: for we behaved not ourselves disorderly among you;

Paul instructs the Thessalonian church to follow his example, as he acted in an orderly manner while among them.

1. The Power of a Good Example - How Paul's Behavior Impacted the Thessalonians

2. Walking the Walk - Following the Example of Paul and Jesus

1. John 13:15 - “For I have given you an example, that ye should do as I have done to

you.”

2. 1 Peter 5:3 - “Neither as being lords over God’s heritage, but being ensamples to the flock.”

2 Thessalonian 3:8 Neither did we eat any man's bread for nought; but wrought with labour and travail night and day, that we might not be chargeable to any of you:

The apostles worked hard day and night so that they would not be a financial burden to the Thessalonians.

1. The Value of Hard Work: A Study of 2 Thessalonians 3:8

2. Working Hard for the Lord: How to Live Out 2 Thessalonians 3:8

1. Proverbs 14:23 - “In all toil there is profit, but mere talk tends only to poverty.”

2. Galatians 6:9 - “And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up.”

2 Thessalonian 3:9 Not because we have not power, but to make ourselves an ensample unto you to follow us.

The apostle Paul encourages the Thessalonians to follow his example of hard work and perseverance, despite the fact that he is not being forced to do so.

1. Working Hard Despite Challenges: The Example of Paul

2. Persevere with Joy: The Example of Paul

1. 1 Corinthians 9:24-27

2. Hebrews 12:1-3

2 Thessalonian 3:10 For even when we were with you, this we commanded you, that if any would not work, neither should he eat.

This passage encourages the working of labor in order to receive sustenance.

1. The Reward of Hard Work - Discussing the importance of labor and the blessings of industry.

2. Contentment Through Faith - Appreciating the value of rest and trusting in God.

1. Proverbs 14:23 - All hard work brings a profit, but mere talk leads only to poverty.

2. Philippians 4:11-13 - I am not saying this because I am in need, for I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want.

2 Thessalonian 3:11 For we hear that there are some which walk among you disorderly, working not at all, but are busybodies.

Paul is warning the church at Thessalonica about some people in the church who are not working and instead are busybodies.

1. "The Danger of Being a Busybody"

2. "Living an Orderly Life in the Church"

1. Proverbs 16:27-28 - "An ungodly man diggeth up evil: and in his lips there is as a burning fire. A froward man soweth strife: and a whisperer separateth chief friends."

2. Galatians 6:7-8 - "Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting."

2 Thessalonian 3:12 Now them that are such we command and exhort by our Lord Jesus Christ, that with quietness they work, and eat their own bread.

Paul commands and exhorts the Thessalonians to work and eat their own bread with quietness according to the Lord Jesus Christ.

1. "The Power of Work in Faith"

2. "Earning and Enjoying the Bread of Life"

1. Galatians 6:9-10 - "And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not. As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith."

2. John 6:35 - "And Jesus said unto them, I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst."

2 Thessalonian 3:13 But ye, brethren, be not weary in well doing.

The passage encourages believers to remain faithful and steadfast in their good works.

1. "The Power of Perseverance"

2. "Do Not Grow Weary in Doing Good"

1. Galatians 6:9 And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.

2. Hebrews 10:36 For ye have need of patience, that, after ye have done the will of God, ye might receive the promise.

2 Thessalonian 3:14 And if any man obey not our word by this epistle, note that man, and have no company with him, that he may be ashamed.

Christians should not associate with those who do not obey the teachings of the Bible.

1. Living a Life of Obedience to the Word of God

2. The Importance of Separating Yourself from the Unbeliever

1. Romans 12:2 - "Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his

good, pleasing and perfect will."

2. Ephesians 5:11 - "Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather expose them."

2 Thessalonian 3:15 Yet count him not as an enemy, but admonish him as a brother.

We should not view our fellow Christians as enemies, but instead should admonish them as brothers.

1. How To Love One Another as Brothers and Sisters in Christ

2. The Value of Admonition in Loving Community

1. John 13:34-35 - “A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”

2. Colossians 3:12-14 - “Put on then, as God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.”

2 Thessalonian 3:16 Now the Lord of peace himself give you peace always by all means. The Lord be with you all.

The Lord encourages us to find peace through all means and wishes peace upon us all.

1. Rest in the Peace of the Lord - How to Find Lasting Peace in Troubled Times

2. The Peace of the Lord - Letting Go and Trusting in God's Plan

1. Philippians 4:7 - "And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."

2. Isaiah 26:3 - "You will keep in perfect peace those whose minds are steadfast, because they trust in you."

2 Thessalonian 3:17 The salutation of Paul with mine own hand, which is the token in every epistle: so I write.

Paul's letter to the Thessalonians concludes with his own handwriting as a token of authenticity.

1. The Importance of Authenticity in Christian Living

2. Living a Life of Faithfulness in the Sight of God

1. Hebrews 10:22 - Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water.

2. 1 Corinthians 4:2 - Moreover it is required in stewards that one be found faithful.

2 Thessalonian 3:18 The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen.

Paul wishes the Thessalonian Christians the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ.

1. The Power of Grace: How God's Unmerited Favor Changes Lives

2. The Unconditional Love of the Lord: Experiencing the Power of Jesus' Grace

1. Ephesians 2:8-9 - For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— not by works, so that no one can boast.

2. Romans 5:17 - For if, by the trespass of the one man, death reigned through that one man, how much more will those who receive God’s abundant provision of grace and of the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man, Jesus Christ!

1 Timothy 1 is the first chapter of the first letter written by the apostle Paul to his young protégé, Timothy. In this chapter, Paul addresses false teachings and emphasizes the importance of sound doctrine and genuine love.

1st Paragraph: Paul begins by reminding Timothy of his purpose in Ephesus (1 Timothy 1:1-11). He identifies himself as an apostle of Christ Jesus and urges Timothy to remain in

Ephesus to confront those spreading false doctrines. Paul emphasizes that the goal of his instruction is love that comes from a pure heart, a good conscience, and sincere faith. He warns against people who have deviated from these principles and have turned to meaningless talk, desiring to be teachers but lacking understanding.

2nd Paragraph: Paul reflects on his own conversion experience as an example of God's grace (1 Timothy 1:12-17). He acknowledges that he was once a blasphemer, persecutor, and violent man but received mercy because he acted ignorantly in unbelief. He highlights God's abundant grace poured out on him through faith in Jesus Christ. Paul declares that Christ came into the world to save sinners, emphasizing his own position as an example for those who would believe in Him for eternal life.

3rd Paragraph: The chapter concludes with instructions for Timothy regarding combating false teaching (1 Timothy 1:18-20). Paul charges him to fight the good fight by holding fast to faith and a good conscience. He mentions individuals like Hymenaeus and Alexander who had shipwrecked their faith and were handed over to Satan as discipline. This serves as a warning against straying from sound doctrine.

In summary,

Chapter one of 1 Timothy focuses on addressing false teachings, emphasizing sound doctrine, and reflecting on God's grace.

Paul urges Timothy to confront those spreading false doctrines in Ephesus while highlighting the importance of love rooted in purity, conscience, and faith.

He shares his own conversion as an example of God's grace, emphasizing Christ's purpose to save sinners. Paul charges Timothy to hold fast to faith and a good conscience, warning against straying from sound doctrine.

The chapter concludes with a cautionary note about individuals who have shipwrecked their faith and were disciplined. This chapter highlights the importance of combating false teaching, embracing God's grace, and remaining steadfast in sound doctrine for effective ministry.

1 Timothy 1:1 Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the commandment of God our Saviour, and Lord Jesus Christ, which is our hope;

Paul reminds Timothy that God is our savior and Lord Jesus Christ is our hope.

1: We can find hope in Jesus Christ, even in times of trouble.

2: We must always remember that God is our savior and protector.

1: Isaiah 40:31 - “But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.”

2: Titus 2:13 - “while we wait for the blessed hope—the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ.”

1 Timothy 1:2 Unto Timothy, my own son in the faith: Grace, mercy, and peace, from God our Father and Jesus Christ our Lord.

The passage encourages Timothy to seek grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and Jesus Christ.

1. The Amazing Grace of God - Exploring the power of grace and how it brings peace to our lives.

2. Mercy Triumphs Over Judgment - Looking at how mercy is the ultimate demonstration of God's love.

1. Colossians 3:12-15 - Exploring how to put on the qualities of mercy and grace.

2. Romans 5:1-5 - Examining how grace and peace come through Jesus Christ.

1 Timothy 1:3 As I besought thee to abide still at Ephesus, when I went into Macedonia, that thou mightest charge some that they teach no other doctrine,

Paul instructs Timothy to stay in Ephesus and to ensure that no other doctrines are taught.

1. Obeying God's Instructions - 1 Timothy 1:3

2. Faithfulness and Diligence - 1 Timothy 1:3

1. Colossians 3:17 - And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him.

2. Hebrews 13:7 - Remember them which have the rule over you, who have spoken unto you the word of God: whose faith follow, considering the end of their conversation.

1 Timothy 1:4 Neither give heed to fables and endless genealogies, which minister questions, rather than godly edifying which is in faith: so do.

This passage warns against paying attention to useless speculation and instead encourages building faith.

1. "The Power of Faith: Building a Foundation of Spiritual Strength"

2. "The Vanity of Fables: Debunking Unhelpful Speculations"

1. Romans 10:17 - "So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ."

2. Hebrews 11:1 - "Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen."

1 Timothy 1:5 Now the end of the commandment is charity out of a pure heart, and of a good conscience, and of faith unfeigned:

The commandment is to have charity with a pure heart, good conscience, and genuine faith.

1. Loving others with a pure heart.

2. The importance of a good conscience.

1. 1 John 4:7-8 - Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God. He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love.

2. Romans 12:9-10 - Let love be without dissimulation. Abhor that which is evil; cleave to that which is good. Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another.

1 Timothy 1:6 From which some having swerved have turned aside unto vain jangling;

Some have strayed from the gospel and focused on useless debates.

1. “Staying the Course: Staying True to the Gospel”

2. “The Power of Words: Choosing Our Words Carefully”

1. James 3:17 - But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy.

2. Colossians 3:15-17 - And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord. And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.

1 Timothy 1:7 Desiring to be teachers of the law; understanding neither what they say, nor whereof they affirm.

Some people desire to be teachers of the law, but do not understand what they are saying or affirming.

1. Do Not Pursue What You Do Not Understand

2. Do Not Entertain False Teachings

1. Proverbs 3:5-7 - Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding.

2. Isaiah 5:20 - Woe to those who call evil good and good evil, who put darkness for light and light for darkness.

1 Timothy 1:8 But we know that the law is good, if a man use it lawfully;

The law is good when used properly.

1. "Living Lawfully: Goodness in Following the Law"

2. "Using the Law for Good: How Righteousness Comes From Within"

1. Romans 8:4 - "That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit."

2. Matthew 5:17-20 - "Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfill. For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled. Whosoever therefore shall break one of these least commandments, and shall teach men so, he shall be called the least in the kingdom of heaven: but whosoever shall do and teach them, the same shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven."

1 Timothy 1:9 Knowing this, that the law is not made for a righteous man, but for the lawless and disobedient, for the ungodly and for sinners, for unholy and profane, for murderers of fathers and murderers of mothers, for manslayers,

The law is not made for the righteous, but for the lawless, ungodly, sinners, unholy, profane, murderers, and manslayers.

1: "The Power of Righteousness"

2: "The Consequence of Unrighteousness"

1: Romans 8:1-4 - There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.

2: 1 John 1:5-10 - If we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanseth us from all sin.

1 Timothy 1:10 For whoremongers, for them that defile themselves with mankind, for menstealers, for liars, for perjured persons, and if there be any other thing that is contrary to sound doctrine;

This passage from 1 Timothy 1:10 lists a number of sins that are contrary to sound doctrine.

1. "The Sin of Defiling Ourselves: A Warning from 1 Timothy 1:10"

2. "The Power of Sound Doctrine: A Lesson from 1 Timothy 1:10"

1. Proverbs 6:16-19 - "There are six things the Lord hates, seven that are detestable to him: haughty eyes, a lying tongue, hands that shed innocent blood, a heart that devises wicked schemes, feet that are quick to rush into evil, a false witness who pours out lies and a person who stirs up conflict in the community."

2. Romans 12:2 - "Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will."

1 Timothy 1:11 According to the glorious gospel of the blessed God, which was committed to my trust.

Paul was given the responsibility of preaching the gospel, which is the glorious message of the blessed God.

1. The Power of the Gospel: Uncovering God's Glorious Message

2. Commitment to the Gospel: Receiving and Sharing the Blessing

1. Romans 1:16 - For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes.

2. 2 Corinthians 5:14 - For the love of Christ compels us, because we judge thus: that if One died for all, then all died.

1 Timothy 1:12 And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who hath enabled me, for that he counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry;

Paul gives thanks to Christ Jesus for enabling him to serve as a minister.

1. A Call to Service: Understanding the Power of Faith and Ministry

2. Recognizing God's Hand in Our Lives: Expressing Gratitude for His Gifts

1. Psalm 37:23-24 - The steps of a good man are ordered by the LORD: and he delighteth in his way. Though he fall, he shall not be utterly cast down: for the LORD upholdeth him

with his hand.

2. Matthew 25:21 - His lord said unto him, Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord.

1 Timothy 1:13 Who was before a blasphemer, and a persecutor, and injurious: but I obtained mercy, because I did it ignorantly in unbelief.

Paul's testimony of his transformation from blasphemer and persecutor to one who obtained mercy shows the power of repentance and faith.

1: God's Mercy: Repentance and Faith

2: Recognizing our Ignorance and Turning to God

1: Isaiah 55:6-7 Seek ye the Lord while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near: Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the Lord, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.

2: Luke 15:11-32 The Parable of the Prodigal Son

1 Timothy 1:14 And the grace of our Lord was exceeding abundant with faith and love which is in Christ Jesus.

The grace of the Lord was abundant, overflowing with faith and love in Christ Jesus.

1. Learning to Rely on the Abundance of God's Grace

2. Living in the Abundance of Faith and Love in Christ Jesus

1. Ephesians 2:8-9 - For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast.

2. John 3:16 - For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

1 Timothy 1:15 This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptation, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief.

Christ Jesus came to the world to save sinners.

1. God's Grace is for Everyone: No Matter How Sinful You Are

2. Jesus is the Savior of the World

1. Romans 5:8-10 - But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

2. John 3:16-17 - For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

1 Timothy 1:16 Howbeit for this cause I obtained mercy, that in me first Jesus Christ might shew forth all longsuffering, for a pattern to them which should hereafter believe on him to life everlasting.

Paul was given mercy by Jesus Christ so that he could be an example of longsuffering to those who would come to believe in Him for eternal life.

1. "The Example of Longsuffering"

2. "The Mercy of Jesus Christ"

1. 1 John 4:10-11 - In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

2. Romans 5:8 - But God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

1 Timothy 1:17 Now unto the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only wise God, be honour and glory for ever and ever. Amen.

The King eternal, immortal, and invisible is the only wise God and is worthy of honor and

glory forever.

1: Our God is Eternal, Immortal and Invisible

2: Glorifying God: Honoring His Majesty

1: Isaiah 6:3 - “And one called out to another and said, “Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory.”

2: Romans 11: 33-36 - “Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways! For who has known the mind of the Lord, or who has been his counselor? Or who has given a gift to him that he might be repaid? For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be glory forever. Amen.”

1 Timothy 1:18 This charge I commit unto thee, son Timothy, according to the prophecies which went before on thee, that thou by them mightest war a good warfare;

Paul encourages Timothy to use the prophecies given to him to fight a good spiritual battle.

1. God has given us all the tools we need to fight a spiritual battle.

2. The prophecies of God empower us to be victorious in our spiritual battles.

1. Ephesians 6:10-18 - Paul's instructions on how to put on the armor of God.

2. 2 Corinthians 10:4-5 - Paul's instruction to use the weapons of God to destroy spiritual strongholds.

1 Timothy 1:19 Holding faith, and a good conscience; which some having put away concerning faith have made shipwreck:

Paul encourages believers to hold on to their faith and have a good conscience, warning that those who have let go of their faith have experienced destruction.

1. The Importance of Faith and a Good Conscience

2. Rejecting Faith Leads to Destruction

1. Hebrews 10:35-39 - Therefore do not throw away your confidence, which has great reward. For you have need of endurance, so that when you have done the will of God you may receive the promise.

2. James 1:22-25 - But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man observing his natural face in a mirror; for he observes himself, goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of man he was.

1 Timothy 1:20 Of whom is Hymenaeus and Alexander; whom I have delivered unto Satan, that they may learn not to blaspheme.

Paul delivered Hymenaeus and Alexander to Satan in order to teach them not to blaspheme.

1. The Danger of Blasphemy

2. The Power of Accountability

1. Proverbs 12:22 - “Lying lips are an abomination to the Lord, but those who act faithfully are his delight.”

2. James 3:10 - “From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers, these things ought not to be so.”

1 Timothy 2 is the second chapter of the first letter written by the apostle Paul to his young protégé, Timothy. In this chapter, Paul provides instructions regarding prayer, proper conduct in worship, and gender roles within the church.

1st Paragraph: Paul emphasizes the importance of prayer for all people (1 Timothy 2:1-7). He urges that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for everyone, including kings and those in authority. This is because God desires all people to be saved and come to a knowledge of the truth. Paul highlights Jesus Christ as the mediator between God and humanity who gave Himself as a ransom for all.

2nd Paragraph: Paul addresses proper conduct during worship gatherings (1 Timothy 2:8-

15). He instructs that men should pray with holy hands lifted up in a manner that reflects reverence and without anger or quarreling. Women are instructed to dress modestly with decency and propriety, adorning themselves with good works rather than extravagant hairstyles or jewelry. Paul also states that women should learn quietly and not have authority over men but remain in submission.

3rd Paragraph: The chapter concludes with teachings on women's roles within the church (1 Timothy 2:11-15). Paul explains that he does not permit women to teach or have authority over men but should learn in silence. He refers back to Eve's deception as an example of why women should not exercise authority over men. However, he assures them that they will be saved through childbearing if they continue in faith, love, holiness, and self-control.

In summary,

Chapter two of 1 Timothy provides instructions regarding prayer, proper conduct during worship gatherings, and gender roles within the church.

Paul emphasizes praying for all people—supplications made for everyone including those in authority—because God desires their salvation through Jesus Christ.

He addresses appropriate conduct during worship, instructing men to pray with reverence and without anger or quarreling, while women are instructed to dress modestly and learn quietly without having authority over men.

Paul further explains that women should not teach or have authority over men based on the example of Eve's deception. However, he assures them of salvation through childbearing if they continue in faith, love, holiness, and self-control. This chapter highlights the significance of prayer, proper conduct in worship gatherings, and the roles of men and women within the church.

1 Timothy 2:1 I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men;

We should pray for all people and give thanks for them.

1. Prayers of Gratitude: A Call to Thankfulness for All People

2. Interceding for Others: Making Supplications for All Mankind

1. James 5:16 - "Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much."

2. 1 John 5:16 - "If any man see his brother sin a sin which is not unto death, he shall ask, and he shall give him life for them that sin not unto death. There is a sin unto death: I do not say that he shall pray for it."

1 Timothy 2:2 For kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty.

This verse encourages believers to pray for those in authority so that Christians may lead a peaceful life honoring God.

1. How to Lead a Quiet and Peaceable Life in Godliness and Honesty

2. The Power of Prayer for Those in Authority

1. Romans 13:1-7

2. 1 Peter 2:13-17

1 Timothy 2:3 For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour;

Passage:

God desires us to pray for all people, not just those we know or like. In 1 Timothy 2:3-4 it says: “This is good, and pleases God our Savior, who wants all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth.”

God wants us to pray for all people, so that they may be saved and come to know the truth.

1. Prayer: A Gift to Give to All People

2. Opening Hearts and Minds to the Truth through Prayer

1. 1 Timothy 2:3-4

2. John 3:16-17 - For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

1 Timothy 2:4 Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth.

Passage: The Bible teaches that everyone can be saved. In the New Testament book of 1 Timothy 2:4, it is written that God “wants all people to be saved and come to a knowledge of the truth.”

God desires for all people to be saved and to gain knowledge of the truth.

1. God's Grace is for Everyone: A on God's Love for All His People

2. The Path of Truth: A on the Way to Salvation

1. John 3:16 - For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

2. Romans 10:13 - For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.

1 Timothy 2:5 For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus;

There is only one God and one mediator between God and humanity, which is Jesus Christ.

1. "The Importance of Jesus Christ as Our Mediator"

2. "The Power of Jesus Christ's Mediation"

1. Romans 8:34 - "Christ Jesus, who died—more than that, who was raised to life—is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us."

2. Isaiah 59:16 - "He saw that there was no one, he was appalled that there was no one to intervene; so his own arm brought him victory, and his righteousness upheld him."

1 Timothy 2:6 Who gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time.

God gave himself as a ransom for all people, and this will be testified in due time.

1. God's Sacrifice of Himself: Understanding and Appreciating the Atonement

2. How Can We Be Testifying to God's Grace in Our Lives?

1. Isaiah 53:5 - "But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed."

2. John 3:16-17 - "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him."

1 Timothy 2:7 Whereunto I am ordained a preacher, and an apostle, (I speak the truth in Christ, and lie not;) a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and verity.

Paul was ordained as a preacher, apostle, and teacher of the Gentiles in faith and truth.

1. The Call to Preach: Living a Life of Faith and Truth

2. Following Our Calling: Living a Life of Dedication and Obedience

1. Colossians 4:3-4 - Praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints.

2. 1 Corinthians 15:10 - But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me was not in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them, though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me.

1 Timothy 2:8 I will therefore that men pray every where, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and doubting.

Paul encourages men to pray everywhere with holy hands, free from anger and doubt.

1. Recognizing God's Power to Answer Prayers

2. Praying with Faith and Humility

1. James 5:16 - The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.

2. Philippians 4:6-7 - Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.

1 Timothy 2:9 In like manner also, that women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with shamefacedness and sobriety; not with broided hair, or gold, or pearls, or costly array;

Women should dress modestly and not with expensive jewelry or clothing.

1. Our Value Is Not Found In Our Apparel

2. How To Dress Modestly

1. 1 Peter 3:3-4 - “Do not let your adorning be external—the braiding of hair and the putting on of gold jewelry, or the clothing you wear— but let your adorning be the hidden person of the heart with the imperishable beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which in God's sight is very precious.”

2. Proverbs 11:22 - “Like a gold ring in a pig’s snout is a beautiful woman without discretion.”

1 Timothy 2:10 But (which becometh women professing godliness) with good works.

Women who profess godliness should demonstrate good works.

1. "Living Out Your Faith: Practicing Good Works"

2. "Godliness Exemplified: A Call to Good Works"

1. Proverbs 19:17 - He who is kind to the poor lends to the Lord, and he will reward him

for what he has done.

2. Galatians 6:9-10 - Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.

1 Timothy 2:11 Let the woman learn in silence with all subjection.

Women should learn in a quiet and respectful way.

1. A Call to Silence: Learning to Respect Authority

2. The Beauty of Submissiveness: Embracing the Power of a Quiet Strength

1. Proverbs 11:2 - When pride comes, then comes disgrace, but with humility comes wisdom.

2. 1 Peter 3:4 - But let your adorning be the hidden person of the heart with the imperishable beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which in God's sight is very precious.

1 Timothy 2:12 But I suffer not a woman to teach, nor to usurp authority over the man, but to be in silence.

Women are not allowed to teach or have authority over men in the church, but should remain silent.

1. "The Place of Women in the Church: Biblical Authority and Submission"

2. "The Power of a Quiet Spirit: Learning to Live in Submission to God's Word"

1. 1 Corinthians 14:33-35 - "For God is not a God of confusion but of peace. As in all the churches of the saints, the women should keep silent in the churches. For they are not permitted to speak, but should be in submission, as the Law also says. If there is anything they desire to learn, let them ask their husbands at home. For it is shameful for a woman to speak in church."

2. Ephesians 5:22-24 - "Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church, his body, and is

himself its Savior. Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit in everything to their husbands."

1 Timothy 2:13 For Adam was first formed, then Eve.

The Bible passage states that God created Adam first, then Eve.

1. The importance of God's order in creation - how God's plan always comes first.

2. How God's plan is perfect, and how it is essential to follow it.

1. Genesis 1:26-27 - God created man in His image, male and female He created them.

2. Proverbs 14:12 - There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death.

1 Timothy 2:14 And Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived was in the transgression.

Adam was not deceived by the serpent, but Eve was deceived and committed the transgression.

1. The Danger of Deception

2. God's Forgiveness for Transgression

1. Genesis 3:1-7 - The account of the serpent deceiving Eve.

2. Isaiah 1:18 - God's forgiveness of transgression.

1 Timothy 2:15 Notwithstanding she shall be saved in childbearing, if they continue in faith and charity and holiness with sobriety.

Paul encourages Christian women to continue in faith, charity, holiness, and sobriety in order to be saved through childbearing.

1. The Power of Faith, Charity, Holiness, and Sobriety in Christian Women's Lives

2. Living Out the Truth of 1 Timothy 2:15 in Our Lives

1. Galatians 5:22-23 - “But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control.”

2. 1 Peter 3:1-2 - “Likewise, wives, be subject to your own husbands, so that even if some do not obey the word, they may be won without a word by the conduct of their wives.”

1 Timothy 3 is the third chapter of the first letter written by the apostle Paul to his young protégé, Timothy. In this chapter, Paul provides qualifications for overseers and deacons within the church and offers guidance on their roles and responsibilities.

1st Paragraph: Paul outlines the qualifications for overseers, also known as bishops or elders (1 Timothy 3:1-7). He states that overseers must be above reproach, married to one spouse, temperate, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, not given to drunkenness or violence but gentle and not quarrelsome. They should manage their own households well and have a good reputation both inside and outside of the church. Additionally, they should not be recent converts but individuals who have demonstrated maturity in their faith.

2nd Paragraph: Paul then addresses the qualifications for deacons (1 Timothy 3:8-13). Deacons are also required to be worthy of respect, sincere in their faith, not indulging in much wine or pursuing dishonest gain. They should hold the mystery of faith with a clear conscience. Similar to overseers, deacons must also be tested first before being appointed to serve in their role. They should be faithful in managing their own households well.

3rd Paragraph: The chapter concludes with a summary statement emphasizing the significance of these instructions (1 Timothy 3:14-16). Paul expresses his desire to visit Timothy soon but writes these things so that if he delays coming, Timothy will know how people ought to conduct themselves in God's household—the church—which is described as "the pillar and foundation of truth." He highlights the mystery of godliness revealed through Jesus Christ—His incarnation, vindication by the Spirit, proclamation among nations by angels and received by faith.

In summary,

Chapter three of 1 Timothy provides qualifications for overseers (elders) and deacons within the church and emphasizes the importance of their roles and responsibilities.

Paul outlines the qualifications for overseers, emphasizing their character, conduct, and ability to teach. They should be mature believers with good reputations.

He then addresses the qualifications for deacons, highlighting their sincerity of faith, self-control, and faithful management of households.

The chapter concludes with a summary statement underscoring the significance of these instructions for proper conduct in God's household—the church. Paul highlights Jesus Christ as the central figure in the mystery of godliness revealed through His incarnation, vindication by the Spirit, proclamation among nations by angels, and received by faith. This chapter emphasizes the importance of qualified leaders within the church who uphold sound doctrine and exhibit godly character.

1 Timothy 3:1 This is a true saying, If a man desire the office of a bishop, he desireth a good work.

Paul encourages those who wish to become bishops to recognize that it is a noble and good endeavor.

1. The Responsibility of the Bishop: Living up to the Standards of God

2. Exploring the Call to Ministry: What it Means to Serve as a Bishop

1. James 3:1 - “Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness.”

2. 1 Peter 5:2-3 - “Be shepherds of God’s flock that is under your care, serving as overseers—not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; not greedy for money, but eager to serve; not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock.”

1 Timothy 3:2 A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, vigilant, sober, of good behaviour, given to hospitality, apt to teach;

Paul instructs Timothy on the qualities of a bishop, such as being blameless, the husband of one wife, vigilant, sober, of good behaviour, and given to hospitality, and apt to teach.

1. The Qualities of a Bishop: The Requirements of Leadership

2. Living a Life of Hospitality: The Spirit of God in Action

1. Ephesians 4:1-2 - “I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called, With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love”

2. 1 Peter 5:2-3 - “Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind; Neither as being lords over God’s heritage, but being ensamples to the flock.”

1 Timothy 3:3 Not given to wine, no striker, not greedy of filthy lucre; but patient, not a brawler, not covetous;

This passage speaks of a character trait of not being given to wine, not being a striker, not being greedy of money, being patient, not being a brawler, and not being covetous.

1. "The Power of Patience: Overcoming Temptations of Greed and Violence"

2. "The Responsibility of Self-Control: Rejecting Temptations of Alcohol and Conflict"

Cross-

1. Proverbs 16:32 - "He who is slow to anger is better than the mighty, And he who rules his spirit than he who takes a city."

2. Galatians 5:22-23 - "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law."

1 Timothy 3:4 One that ruleth well his own house, having his children in subjection with all gravity;

A leader should be able to manage his household and keep his children disciplined in a dignified manner.

1. The Qualities of a Good Leader

2. The Responsibility of Parents

1. Ephesians 6:4 - Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.

2. Proverbs 15:20 - A wise son makes a glad father, but a foolish man despises his mother.

1 Timothy 3:5 (For if a man know not how to rule his own house, how shall he take care of the church of God?)

Passage:

Paul’s letter to Timothy discusses the qualifications that an overseer of the church should have. He mentions that one of the most important qualities is that the overseer should know how to rule his own house well.

Paul emphasizes the importance of having an overseer of the church who is capable of ruling his own house well.

1. "The Qualifications of a Church Leader"

2. "The Responsibilities of a Christian Leader"

1. Ephesians 5:21-33 - Submission and love in the home

2. Titus 1:5-9 - The qualifications of a church leader

1 Timothy 3:6 Not a novice, lest being lifted up with pride he fall into the condemnation of the devil.

Timothy is warned not to appoint a novice as a leader in the church, as they might become prideful and incur God's condemnation.

1. Pride Comes Before a Fall: Learning from the Example of 1 Timothy 3:6

2. The Value of Humility: Growing in the Wisdom of 1 Timothy 3:6

1. James 4:6 - "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble."

2. Proverbs 11:2 - "When pride comes, then comes disgrace, but with humility comes wisdom."

1 Timothy 3:7 Moreover he must have a good report of them which are without; lest he fall into reproach and the snare of the devil.

The importance of having a good report from those outside the church is highlighted in this passage, as it can help a person avoid falling into the snare of the devil.

1. The Power of a Good Testimony: How Our Reputation Can Help Us Avoid Temptation

2. Staying Above Reproach: The Necessity of a Good Name in the Eyes of Outsiders

1. Proverbs 22:1 - A good name is to be chosen rather than great riches, and favor is better than silver or gold.

2. 1 Peter 2:12 - Keep your conduct among the Gentiles honorable, so that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day of visitation.

1 Timothy 3:8 Likewise must the deacons be grave, not doubletongued, not given to much wine, not greedy of filthy lucre;

The deacons must be dignified, honest, and temperate, avoiding greed.

1. The Dignity of Service: a Study of 1 Timothy 3:8

2. Living a Life of Integrity: a Look at 1 Timothy 3:8

1. 1 Peter 4:10 - As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace.

2. Proverbs 21:20 - Precious treasure and oil are in a wise man's dwelling, but a foolish man devours it.

1 Timothy 3:9 Holding the mystery of the faith in a pure conscience.

Paul encourages Timothy to hold the mystery of faith with a pure conscience.

1. "Living Faithfully: Living with a Pure Conscience"

2. "Trusting God with the Mysteries of Life"

1. Acts 24:16 - "So I strive always to keep my conscience clear before God and man."

2. Philippians 4:8 - "Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things."

1 Timothy 3:10 And let these also first be proved; then let them use the office of a deacon, being found blameless.

Paul instructs Timothy to ensure that deacons must be proven to be blameless before they can take office.

1. "Living as a Blameless Example"

2. "The Qualities of a Deacon"

1. 1 Peter 2:12 - "Having your conduct honorable among the Gentiles, that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may, by your good works which they observe, glorify God in the day of visitation."

2. Titus 1:6-7 - "If any be blameless, the husband of one wife, having faithful children not accused of riot or unruly. For a bishop must be blameless, as the steward of God; not self-willed, not soon angry, not given to wine, no striker, not given to filthy lucre."

1 Timothy 3:11 Even so must their wives be grave, not slanderers, sober, faithful in all things.

This passage from 1 Timothy 3:11 instructs that the wives of deacons must be grave, not slanderers, sober, and faithful in all things.

1. The Importance of Faithfulness in Marriage

2. The Role of Women in the Church

1. Ephesians 5:22-33 - Wives, submit to your husbands as to the Lord

2. Proverbs 31:10-31 - The Virtuous Wife

1 Timothy 3:12 Let the deacons be the husbands of one wife, ruling their children and their own houses well.

Paul instructs that deacons should be men of one wife and should rule their children and households well.

1. "The Role of Deacons in the Church"

2. "Living Out the Gospel: A Deacon's Responsibility"

1. Ephesians 5:21-33 - Submission and Love in Marriage

2. Titus 1:5-9 - Qualifications for Leaders in the Church

1 Timothy 3:13 For they that have used the office of a deacon well purchase to themselves a good degree, and great boldness in the faith which is in Christ Jesus.

1 Timothy 3:13 encourages deacons to serve faithfully in order to gain a good standing and strong faith in Jesus Christ.

1. Achieving Greatness Through Serving Faithfully

2. The Power of Bold Faith in Christ

1. Mark 10:45 - For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.

2. Hebrews 11:1 - Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.

1 Timothy 3:14 These things write I unto thee, hoping to come unto thee shortly:

Paul is writing a letter to Timothy, hoping to visit him soon.

1. The importance of building relationships with others.

2. The power of hope in our lives.

1. Romans 12:9-10 - "Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good. Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor."

2. Psalm 33:20-22 - "Our soul waits for the Lord; he is our help and our shield. For our heart is glad in him, because we trust in his holy name. Let your steadfast love, O Lord, be upon us, even as we hope in you."

1 Timothy 3:15 But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.

The church of the living God is the pillar and ground of truth, and we should behave ourselves in a manner that represents that truth.

1. Our Behavior in the House of God

2. The Church: Pillar and Ground of Truth

1. John 14:6 - Jesus said to him, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.

2. Ephesians 4:15 - But, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ—

1 Timothy 3:16 And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was

manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory.

The mystery of godliness is that God was revealed in human form, justified by the Spirit, seen by angels, preached to the Gentiles, accepted in the world, and taken to glory.

1. Believe in the Mystery of Godliness

2. The Revealing of Jesus in Flesh

1. John 1:14 - And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

2. Colossians 2:9 - For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily,

1 Timothy 4 is the fourth chapter of the first letter written by the apostle Paul to his young protégé, Timothy. In this chapter, Paul addresses false teachings and encourages Timothy in his ministry.

1st Paragraph: Paul warns against false teachings and doctrines of demons (1 Timothy 4:1-5). He states that in later times, some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and teachings that forbid marriage and certain foods. Paul emphasizes that everything created by God is good if received with thanksgiving. He reminds Timothy to teach and exhort these things to the believers so they may be nourished in sound doctrine.

2nd Paragraph: Paul instructs Timothy to set an example for others in speech, conduct, love, faithfulness, and purity (1 Timothy 4:6-10). He encourages him to be a good servant of Christ Jesus by nourishing himself with words of faith and good teaching. Paul emphasizes that godliness has value for all things—both in this life and the life to come—and urges Timothy to labor and strive because he has set his hope on the living God.

3rd Paragraph: The chapter concludes with instructions for Timothy's ministry (1 Timothy 4:11-16). Paul charges him not to let anyone despise him because of his youth but rather be an example in speech, conduct, love, faithfulness, and purity. He encourages him to devote himself to public reading of Scripture, exhortation, and teaching. Paul advises him not neglecting his spiritual gift but rather using it diligently. He urges him to practice these things so that his progress may be evident to all.

In summary,

Chapter four of 1 Timothy addresses false teachings while providing instructions for

ministry.

Paul warns against false doctrines forbidding marriage and certain foods while emphasizing gratitude for all things created by God.

He instructs Timothy on setting an example through speech, conduct, love, faithfulness, and purity. Paul emphasizes the value of godliness and encourages Timothy to labor and strive in his ministry.

The chapter concludes with instructions for Timothy's ministry, advising him to be an example in various areas and devote himself to Scripture reading, exhortation, and teaching. Paul encourages him not to neglect his spiritual gift but use it diligently. This chapter highlights the importance of sound doctrine, personal example, and dedication in Christian ministry.

1 Timothy 4:1 Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils;

The Spirit warns that in the end times, some will leave faith to follow the teachings of evil spirits.

1. The Danger of Apostasy: How to Resist Seduction by False Teachings

2. Guarding Against Deception: Standing Firm in Faith and Truth

1. Ephesians 6:10-17 - Put on the full armor of God to stand against the schemes of the devil.

2. 2 Corinthians 11:14 - Satan disguises himself as an angel of light and his servants as servants of righteousness.

1 Timothy 4:2 Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron;

The passage talks about people speaking lies in a hypocritical manner, having their conscience no longer able to tell right from wrong.

1. "The Danger of Hypocrisy: How to Be Authentic in Your Faith"

2. "The Power of Truth: Being Honest with Yourself and Others"

1. Proverbs 12:22 - "Lying lips are an abomination to the Lord, but those who deal faithfully are his delight."

2. Ephesians 4:25 - "Therefore, having put away falsehood, let each one of you speak the truth with his neighbor, for we are members one of another."

1 Timothy 4:3 Forbidding to marry, and commanding to abstain from meats, which God hath created to be received with thanksgiving of them which believe and know the truth.

Paul warns against teaching doctrines that forbid marriage and forbid the consumption of certain kinds of food, as these are both created by God to be enjoyed with thanksgiving by those who are believers and understand the truth.

1. The Blessings of Marriage and Eating: Celebrating the Gifts of God

2. Abstaining from False Teachings: Embracing the Truth of God's Word

1. Genesis 2:24 Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh.

2. Matthew 15:11 Not that which goeth into the mouth defileth a man; but that which cometh out of the mouth, this defileth a man.

1 Timothy 4:4 For every creature of God is good, and nothing to be refused, if it be received with thanksgiving:

All of God's creation is good and should be accepted with gratitude.

1: We should thank God for His gifts and never take them for granted.

2: Give thanks for all of God's blessings, no matter how small.

1: Psalm 28:7 The LORD is my strength and my shield; my heart trusted in him, and I am helped: therefore my heart greatly rejoiceth; and with my song will I praise him.

2: Colossians 3:17 And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him.

1 Timothy 4:5 For it is sanctified by the word of God and prayer.

Paul encourages Timothy to use the word of God and prayer to live a sanctified life.

1. Living a Life of Holiness: How the Word of God and Prayer Can Transform Our Lives

2. Cultivating a Sanctified Life: The Power of the Word of God and Prayer

1. Colossians 3:16-17 - Let the Word of God dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, and singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God.

2. Ephesians 6:18 - Praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints.

1 Timothy 4:6 If thou put the brethren in remembrance of these things, thou shalt be a good minister of Jesus Christ, nourished up in the words of faith and of good doctrine, whereunto thou hast attained.

Timothy is encouraged to be a good minister of Jesus Christ by reminding the brethren of the words of faith and good doctrine.

1. The Importance of Faith and Good Doctrine

2. Reminding Others of the Words of Faith and Good Doctrine

1. Hebrews 11:6 - "But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him."

2. Titus 1:8-9 - "But a lover of hospitality, a lover of good men, sober, just, holy, temperate; Holding fast the faithful word as he hath been taught, that he may be able by sound doctrine both to exhort and to convince the gainsayers."

1 Timothy 4:7 But refuse profane and old wives' fables, and exercise thyself rather unto godliness.

We must reject false teachings and instead seek to grow in godliness.

1. "The Power and Necessity of Rejecting What is False"

2. "A Life of Godliness: A Path to True Fulfillment"

1. Titus 1:14 - Not giving heed to Jewish fables, and commandments of men, that turn from the truth.

2. 1 John 2:15-17 - Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

1 Timothy 4:8 For bodily exercise profiteth little: but godliness is profitable unto all things, having promise of the life that now is, and of that which is to come.

This passage highlights the importance of godliness over physical exercise, with the promise of a life both now and in the future.

1. "Godliness is the Key to Life"

2. "The Promise of Godliness"

1. 1 Peter 2:11 - "Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul"

2. Ecclesiastes 12:13 - "Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man"

1 Timothy 4:9 This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptation.

Paul commands Timothy to proclaim that the message of faith is to be accepted by all.

1. "The Essential of Faith: Accepting God's Message of Love"

2. "The Power of Faith: Living a Life of Worthy Acceptance"

1. Romans 10:17 - So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.

2. Ephesians 4:1-3 - I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

1 Timothy 4:10 For therefore we both labour and suffer reproach, because we trust in the living God, who is the Saviour of all men, specially of those that believe.

Paul is reminding Timothy that all people are saved by the living God, but especially those who believe in Him.

1. The Saving Power of Faith

2. Trusting in the Living God

1. Romans 10:8-10 – “But what does it say? “The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart” (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); 9 because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. 10 For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved.”

2. Philippians 4:19 – “And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus.”

1 Timothy 4:11 These things command and teach.

Paul commands and instructs Timothy to teach and command others.

1. "Living as an Example of Faith: What it Means to Follow God's Commandments"

2. "The Power of Teaching: What We Can Learn From Paul's Instructions to Timothy"

1. Matthew 28:19-20 - "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you."

2. Colossians 3:17 - "And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him."

1 Timothy 4:12 Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity.

Timothy is told to be an example of a believer in all aspects of his life, such as word, conversation, charity, spirit, faith, and purity.

1. Living a Life of Faith and Purity

2. Being an Example of a Believer

1. James 1:22-25 - But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves. For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass: For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was. But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed.

2. 1 Peter 2:11-12 - Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul; Having your conversation honest among the Gentiles: that, whereas they speak against you as evildoers, they may by your good works, which they shall behold, glorify God in the day of visitation.

1 Timothy 4:13 Till I come, give attendance to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine.

Paul tells Timothy to focus on reading, exhorting, and teaching until he returns.

1. "Be Diligent in Learning: The Importance of Reading, Exhorting, and Teaching"

2. "The Power of Focus: The Rewards of Dedication to Spiritual Growth"

1. Colossians 3:10-17 - Put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator.

2. 1 Peter 5:5-7 - Be humble and obedient to God, and He will exalt you in due time.

1 Timothy 4:14 Neglect not the gift that is in thee, which was given thee by prophecy, with the laying on of the hands of the presbytery.

Do not forsake the gifts that have been given to you by God through prophecy and the laying on of hands.

1. The Importance of Using Your Gifts for God

2. How to Recognize and Utilize the Gifts God has Given You

1. Ephesians 4:11-12; And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ.

2. Romans 12:6-8; Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, whether prophecy, let us prophesy according to the proportion of faith; or ministry, let us wait on our ministering: or he that teacheth, on teaching; Or he that exhorteth, on exhortation: he that giveth, let him do it with simplicity; he that ruleth, with diligence; he that sheweth mercy, with cheerfulness.

1 Timothy 4:15 Meditate upon these things; give thyself wholly to them; that thy profiting may appear to all.

Paul encourages Timothy to devote himself to the teachings of the Lord so that his progress may be seen by all.

1. The Power of Dedication: How Devoting Yourself to God Leads to Profound Growth

2. Making an Impression: How Following the Lord's Teachings Can Allow Others to See Your Faith

1. Psalm 1:1-3 - Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers; but his delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law he meditates day and night.

2. James 1:22-25 - But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks intently at his natural face in a mirror. For he looks at himself and goes away and at once forgets

what he was like. But the one who looks into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and perseveres, being no hearer who forgets but a doer who acts, he will be blessed in his doing.

1 Timothy 4:16 Take heed unto thyself, and unto the doctrine; continue in them: for in doing this thou shalt both save thyself, and them that hear thee.

Christians should take heed to their own doctrine and continue in it, as this will benefit both themselves and those they teach.

1) The Importance of Teaching the Bible and its Doctrines

2) The Power of the Gospel: How it Benefits both the Teacher and the Listener

1) 2 Timothy 3:16 - All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness.

2) Psalm 19:7-8 - The law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple. The statutes of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart: the commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes.

1 Timothy 5 is the fifth chapter of the first letter written by the apostle Paul to his young protégé, Timothy. In this chapter, Paul provides instructions regarding the treatment of various groups within the church, including widows, elders, and slaves.

1st Paragraph: Paul addresses how to treat widows within the church community (1 Timothy 5:1-16). He instructs Timothy to treat older women as mothers and younger women as sisters with absolute purity. Paul specifically addresses widows who are truly in need and have no family support. He advises that if a widow has children or grandchildren, they should care for her instead of burdening the church. However, if a widow is truly alone and has set her hope on God, she may be enrolled in a list for financial assistance from the church.

2nd Paragraph: Paul provides guidelines for dealing with accusations against elders (1 Timothy 5:17-25). He emphasizes that elders who lead well should be considered worthy of double honor—especially those who labor in preaching and teaching. However, he also warns against receiving accusations against an elder without proper evidence or investigation. If an elder is found guilty of sinning persistently, they should be rebuked publicly as a warning to others.

3rd Paragraph: The chapter concludes with instructions regarding slaves and their

masters (1 Timothy 6:1-2). Paul advises slaves to honor their believing masters so that God's name and teaching may not be blasphemed. He urges Timothy to teach these principles with all authority so that believers would show true godliness in their conduct.

In summary,

Chapter five of 1 Timothy provides instructions regarding the treatment of widows, elders accused of wrongdoing, and slaves within the church community.

Paul instructs on how to treat widows appropriately based on their circumstances—caring for those without family support but encouraging self-sufficiency when possible.

He provides guidelines for handling accusations against elders, emphasizing the need for evidence and caution in receiving accusations. Persistent sin should be addressed publicly.

The chapter concludes with instructions for slaves to honor their believing masters, ensuring that God's name and teaching are not blasphemed. Paul urges Timothy to teach these principles with authority. This chapter highlights the importance of proper care for widows, accountability within leadership, and godly conduct in various social relationships within the church community.

1 Timothy 5:1 Rebuke not an elder, but intreat him as a father; and the younger men as brethren;

Respect and treat elders as fathers and younger men as brothers.

1. "Honoring the Elderly: Respect and Love in the Church"

2. "Living in Unity: Treating Others as Brothers and Sisters"

1. Proverbs 16:31 "Gray hair is a crown of glory; it is gained in a righteous life."

2. Ephesians 6:1-3 "Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. “Honor your father and mother”—which is the first commandment with a promise— “so that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth.”

1 Timothy 5:2 The elder women as mothers; the younger as sisters, with all purity.

Older women should be respected and treated as mothers, while younger women should be respected and treated as sisters with purity.

1. Respect and Honor: The Importance of Respecting Older and Younger Women

2. Purity in Relationships: Maintaining Holiness in Interactions with Women

1. Proverbs 31:28-29 "Her children rise up and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praises her: 'Many daughters have done well, but you excel them all.'"

2. 1 Peter 3:7 "Likewise, husbands, live with your wives in an understanding way, showing honor to the woman as the weaker vessel, since they are heirs with you of the grace of life, so that your prayers may not be hindered."

1 Timothy 5:3 Honour widows that are widows indeed.

Widows should be honored and taken care of.

1. "Honoring the Widow: A Call to Compassion"

2. "Caring for the Widow: A Commandment of Love"

1. Psalm 68:5 - "A father to the fatherless, a defender of widows, is God in his holy dwelling."

2. James 1:27 - "Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unstained from the world."

1 Timothy 5:4 But if any widow have children or nephews, let them learn first to shew piety at home, and to requite their parents: for that is good and acceptable before God.

Widows with children or nephews should teach them to show piety and respect towards their parents, as this pleases God.

1. The Power of Respect: Teaching our Children to Honor their Parents

2. The Blessing of Piety: How We Can Pleasing God Through Our Actions

1. Ephesians 6:1-3 - Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. “Honor your father and mother,” which is the first commandment with promise: “that it may be well with you and you may live long on the earth.”

2. Proverbs 1:8 - Hear, my son, your father’s instruction, and forsake not your mother’s teaching.

1 Timothy 5:5 Now she that is a widow indeed, and desolate, trusteth in God, and continueth in supplications and prayers night and day.

Widows who are truly desolate can find solace in trusting in God and continually praying.

1. Not Alone: Finding Strength in God's Love

2. The Power of Prayer: How Connecting With God Can Comfort Even the Most Desolate

1. Psalm 46:1 - "God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble."

2. Isaiah 41:10 - “So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.”

1 Timothy 5:6 But she that liveth in pleasure is dead while she liveth.

Living a life of pleasure and indulgence can lead to spiritual death.

1. The Dangers of an Indulgent Lifestyle

2. Rejecting Pleasure in Favor of Faithfulness

1. Proverbs 11:19 - As righteousness leads to life, so he who pursues evil pursues it to his own death.

2. Romans 6:23 - For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

1 Timothy 5:7 And these things give in charge, that they may be blameless.

Paul instructed Timothy to ensure that the people he is responsible for remain blameless.

1. The Power of Responsibility: What it Means to Be Blameless

2. Biblical Accountability: The Obligation of Remaining Blameless

1. Ephesians 4:17-32 - Walking in truth and love.

2. Matthew 5:48 - Perfection through Christ.

1 Timothy 5:8 But if any provide not for his own, and specially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel.

It is a person's responsibility to provide for their own family. If they do not, it is seen as a denial of their faith and they are worse than those who do not have a faith.

1. Providing for your family is an essential part of being faithful to God.

2. Disregarding your family's needs is a sign of spiritual weakness.

1. 1 John 3:17-18 - "But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him? Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth."

2. 1 Timothy 5:4 - "But if a widow has children or grandchildren, they must first learn to practice piety in regard to their own family and to make some return to their parents, for this is pleasing in the sight of God."

1 Timothy 5:9 Let not a widow be taken into the number under threescore years old, having been the wife of one man,

The passage speaks about not including widows who are under sixty years old, who have only been married to one man in the number.

1. The importance of cherishing and caring for those in our community who have been widowed.

2. The value of honoring God's law and wisdom in caring for those who are widowed.

1. James 1:27 - Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their trouble, and to keep oneself unspotted from the world.

2. Isaiah 1:17 - Learn to do good; seek justice, rebuke the oppressor; defend the fatherless, plead for the widow.

1 Timothy 5:10 Well reported of for good works; if she have brought up children, if she have lodged strangers, if she have washed the saints' feet, if she have relieved the afflicted, if she have diligently followed every good work.

Paul encourages Timothy to honor and support widows who have exhibited good works, such as raising children, hosting strangers, washing the feet of saints, relieving the afflicted, and pursuing every good work.

1. The Power of Good Works: How Widows Can Show Us the Way

2. The Importance of Supporting Widows: Fulfilling the Vision of Paul

1. Galatians 6:9-10 – "Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers."

2. James 1:27 – "Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world."

1 Timothy 5:11 But the younger widows refuse: for when they have begun to wax wanton against Christ, they will marry;

The passage advises younger widows to avoid remarrying and encourages them to remain devoted to Christ.

1. Growing in Faith: Learning the Value of Devotion to Christ

2. Widowhood: Finding Comfort and Strength in God

1. Proverbs 3:5-6 - Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.

2. Isaiah 40:31 - But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.

1 Timothy 5:12 Having damnation, because they have cast off their first faith.

People who have forsaken their original faith are deserving of condemnation.

1. "Abandoning Your Faith: The Consequences We Face"

2. "The Importance of Staying True to Your Beliefs"

1. Hebrews 10:26-31 - "For if we go on sinning deliberately after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, but a fearful expectation of judgment, and a fury of fire that will consume the adversaries."

2. Galatians 5:1-4 - "For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery."

1 Timothy 5:13 And withal they learn to be idle, wandering about from house to house; and not only idle, but tattlers also and busybodies, speaking things which they ought not.

People are learning to be idle and gossiping about things they should not.

1. The Power of Gossip: How to Stop Rumors and Speak Life

2. Idleness: Understanding the Consequences of Doing Nothing

1. Matthew 12:36-37 “I tell you, on the day of judgment people will give account for

every careless word they speak, for by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned.”

2. Proverbs 18:8 “The words of a whisperer are like delicious morsels; they go down into the inner parts of the body.”

1 Timothy 5:14 I will therefore that the younger women marry, bear children, guide the house, give none occasion to the adversary to speak reproachfully.

Paul encourages young women to marry, have children, and manage their households in order to avoid giving their adversaries a reason to slander them.

1. The Importance of Marriage and Family in Proactive Faith

2. Increasing Our Faithfulness in the Home to Honor God

1. Proverbs 31:10-31

2. Ephesians 5:22-33

1 Timothy 5:15 For some are already turned aside after Satan.

Some members of the church have been led astray by Satan.

1. "Don't Be Led Astray: Living a Life of Faith in a Sinful World"

2. "God's Warning: Don't Follow the Path of Sin"

1. James 1:14-15 - But each person is tempted when they are dragged away by their own evil desire and enticed. Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death.

2. 1 Corinthians 10:13 - No temptation has overtaken you except what is common to mankind. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can endure it.

1 Timothy 5:16 If any man or woman that believeth have widows, let them relieve them, and let not the church be charged; that it may relieve them that are widows indeed.

Believers should take care of widows, and the church should help those who are truly widows.

1. Honoring Widows: Compassion and Support in the Church

2. The Power of Caring: A Call to Action for the Church

1. James 1:27 - Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world.

2. Isaiah 1:17 - Learn to do well; seek judgment, relieve the oppressed, judge the fatherless, plead for the widow.

1 Timothy 5:17 Let the elders that rule well be counted worthy of double honour, especially they who labour in the word and doctrine.

Elders who lead well and work hard in preaching and teaching God's Word are worthy of a double honor.

1. The Value of Eldership: The Blessing of Double Honor

2. Leadership in the Church: Worthy of Double Honor

1. Hebrews 13:17 - Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you.

2. 1 Thessalonians 5:12-13 - And we beseech you, brethren, to know them which labour among you, and are over you in the Lord, and admonish you; And to esteem them very highly in love for their work's sake. And be at peace among yourselves.

1 Timothy 5:18 For the scripture saith, Thou shalt not muzzle the ox that treadeth out the corn. And, The labourer is worthy of his reward.

The scripture teaches us that the laborer deserves his wages.

1. "Be Just: Reap What You Sow"

2. "The Value of Work and Wages"

1. Matthew 20:1-16

2. Galatians 6:7-10

1 Timothy 5:19 Against an elder receive not an accusation, but before two or three witnesses.

Accusations should not be brought against an elder without two or three witnesses present.

1. The Power of Witnesses: Why We Need Witnesses When Accusations are Made.

2. Standing Alongside the Elder: How to Respect and Support Our Leaders.

1. Proverbs 18:17, "The one who states his case first seems right, until the other comes and examines him."

2. James 5:16, "Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working."

1 Timothy 5:20 Them that sin rebuke before all, that others also may fear.

Sinning should be rebuked in public in order to encourage others to fear sin.

1. The Cost of Sin: Why Rebuking Sin is Necessary

2. The Value of Fear: Why it is Important to Fear Sin

1. Proverbs 3:7 - "Be not wise in thine own eyes: fear the LORD, and depart from evil."

2. Hebrews 12:11 - "Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby."

1 Timothy 5:21 I charge thee before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, and the elect angels, that thou observe these things without preferring one before another, doing nothing by partiality.

Paul commands Timothy to act without bias or partiality when making decisions.

1. "Living Without Favoritism: The Duty of a Christian"

2. "The Importance of Impartiality: Finding Balance in a Divided World"

1. James 2:1-13

2. Romans 2:1-11

1 Timothy 5:22 Lay hands suddenly on no man, neither be partaker of other men's sins: keep thyself pure.

We should not be quick to judge or become involved in the wrong doings of others and we should strive to maintain purity.

1. The Power of Refraining: Why We Should Not Be Quick to Judge Others

2. Staying True: The Importance of Maintaining Purity

1. James 4:11-12 - Do not speak evil against one another, brothers. The one who speaks against a brother or judges his brother, speaks evil against the law and judges the law. But if you judge the law, you are not a doer of the law but a judge.

2. 1 Peter 1:15-16 - But as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, since it is written, "You shall be holy, for I am holy."

1 Timothy 5:23 Drink no longer water, but use a little wine for thy stomach's sake and

thine often infirmities.

Paul advises Timothy to drink wine for his health.

1. Taking Care of Your Body: The Physical and Spiritual Benefits of Heeding Biblical Advice

2. The Power of Moderation: How to Balance Healthy Living with Biblical Wisdom

1. Ephesians 5:18, "And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit."

2. Proverbs 31:6-7, "Give strong drink to him who is perishing, and wine to those who are bitter of heart. Let him drink and forget his poverty, and remember his misery no more."

1 Timothy 5:24 Some men's sins are open beforehand, going before to judgment; and some men they follow after.

Paul is warning Timothy that some people's sins will come to light before they are judged, while others will be revealed after judgment.

1. "The Consequences of Sin"

2. "God's Judgment and Mercy"

1. Proverbs 16:25 - "There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death."

2. 1 John 1:9 - "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

1 Timothy 5:25 Likewise also the good works of some are manifest beforehand; and they that are otherwise cannot be hid.

Some people's good works are evident to all while others are not as obvious.

1. The Good Samaritan: How to Show God's Love to Others

2. The Importance of Good Works: Living a Life That Glorifies God

1. Galatians 6:9-10 - "And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not. As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith."

2. Matthew 5:16 - "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven."

1 Timothy 6 is the sixth and final chapter of the first letter written by the apostle Paul to his young protégé, Timothy. In this chapter, Paul addresses various topics including false teachers, contentment, and the pursuit of godliness.

1st Paragraph: Paul warns against false teachers and their desire for material gain (1 Timothy 6:1-10). He instructs slaves to honor their masters, especially those who are believers. He cautions against anyone teaching a different doctrine or promoting controversies that breed envy, strife, and evil suspicions. Paul emphasizes that godliness with contentment is great gain and warns against the love of money as a root of all kinds of evil. He urges Timothy to flee from these temptations and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance, and gentleness.

2nd Paragraph: Paul charges Timothy to fight the good fight of faith (1 Timothy 6:11-16). He encourages him to pursue righteousness while avoiding greediness. Paul reminds him of his confession before many witnesses when he received his ministry charge. He emphasizes God's sovereignty and describes Him as immortal and dwelling in unapproachable light. Paul urges Timothy to keep God's commandments without stain or reproach until Christ's appearing.

3rd Paragraph: The chapter concludes with instructions for wealthy believers (1 Timothy 6:17-21). Paul advises those who are rich in this present age not to be arrogant or place their hope in uncertain riches but in God who richly provides everything for our enjoyment. They are encouraged to do good works with their wealth and be generous in sharing. Finally, Paul charges Timothy to guard what has been entrusted to him while avoiding irreverent babble and contradictions falsely called knowledge.

In summary,

Chapter six of 1 Timothy covers topics such as false teachers, contentment versus greediness,

and instructions for wealthy believers.

Paul warns against false teachings and the love of money, urging Timothy to pursue godliness with contentment.

He charges Timothy to fight the good fight of faith, emphasizing God's sovereignty and the importance of keeping His commandments.

The chapter concludes with instructions for wealthy believers to be generous and avoid placing their hope in riches. Paul encourages Timothy to guard what has been entrusted to him while avoiding empty chatter. This chapter emphasizes the pursuit of godliness, contentment, and responsible stewardship of wealth within the context of false teachings prevalent in that time.

1 Timothy 6:1 Let as many servants as are under the yoke count their own masters worthy of all honour, that the name of God and his doctrine be not blasphemed.

Paul instructs servants to honor their masters in order to bring glory to God's name and teachings.

1. The Importance of Honor: A Study of 1 Timothy 6:1

2. Serving with Honor: How to Glorify God in Your Everyday Life

1. Colossians 3:22-24 - "Slaves, obey your earthly masters in everything; and do it, not only when their eye is on you and to curry their favor, but with sincerity of heart and reverence for the Lord. 23 Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, 24 since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving."

2. Ephesians 6:5-7 - "Slaves, obey your earthly masters with respect and fear, and with sincerity of heart, just as you would obey Christ. 6 Obey them not only to win their favor when their eye is on you, but like slaves of Christ, doing the will of God from your heart. 7 Serve wholeheartedly, as if you were serving the Lord, not people."

1 Timothy 6:2 And they that have believing masters, let them not despise them, because they are brethren; but rather do them service, because they are faithful and beloved, partakers of the benefit. These things teach and exhort.

Believers should not despise their masters, but should serve them faithfully, because they are faithful and beloved, partakers of the benefit.

1. Serving Our Masters with Faithfulness and Love

2. The Benefits of Serving Our Masters Faithfully

1. Colossians 3:22-25 - "Servants, obey in all things your masters according to the flesh; not with eyeservice, as menpleasers; but in singleness of heart, fearing God; And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men; Knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ. But he that doeth wrong shall receive for the wrong which he hath done: and there is no respect of persons."

2. Ephesians 6:5-8 - "Servants, be obedient to them that are your masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in singleness of your heart, as unto Christ; Not with eyeservice, as menpleasers; but as the servants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart; With good will doing service, as to the Lord, and not to men: Knowing that whatsoever good thing any man doeth, the same shall he receive of the Lord, whether he be bond or free."

1 Timothy 6:3 If any man teach otherwise, and consent not to wholesome words, even the words of our Lord Jesus Christ, and to the doctrine which is according to godliness;

This passage is saying that if anyone teaches anything contrary to the words of Jesus Christ and to a godly doctrine, then it is not wholesome.

1. "Godly Teaching: A Foundation for Righteous Living"

2. "The Words of Jesus: A Path to Holiness"

1. Matthew 7:24-27 - "Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock"

2. Proverbs 2:1-8 - "My son, if thou wilt receive my words, and hide my commandments with thee; So that thou incline thine ear unto wisdom, and apply thine heart to understanding;"

1 Timothy 6:4 He is proud, knowing nothing, but doting about questions and strifes of words, whereof cometh envy, strife, railings, evil surmisings,

A person is prideful and ignorant, and they engage in debates which lead to envy, strife, and malicious words.

1. Pride Leads to Destruction - Proverbs 16:18

2. The Danger of Strife - Proverbs 17:14

1. James 3:16 - For where envying and strife is, there is confusion and every evil work.

2. Proverbs 26:17 - He that passeth by, and meddleth with strife belonging not to him, is like one that taketh a dog by the ears.

1 Timothy 6:5 Perverse disputings of men of corrupt minds, and destitute of the truth, supposing that gain is godliness: from such withdraw thyself.

Paul instructs Timothy to avoid those who claim that gaining material wealth is a form of godliness.

1. "Godliness and Gain: What is the True Path?"

2. "The Danger of Corrupt Minds and False Teachings"

1. Matthew 6:24 - "No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon."

2. Mark 10:23-25 - And Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, "How difficult it is for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God!" And the disciples were astonished at his words. But Jesus said to them again, "Children, how difficult it is to enter the kingdom of God! It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the kingdom of God."

1 Timothy 6:6 But godliness with contentment is great gain.

Believing in God and being content with one's life is a great blessing.

1. The Blessing of Contentment

2. Reaping the Rewards of Godliness

1. Psalm 37:3-4 - Trust in the Lord and do good; dwell in the land and enjoy safe pasture. Delight yourself in the Lord and He will give you the desires of your heart.

2. Philippians 4:11-13 - I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. I can do all this through Him who gives me strength.

1 Timothy 6:7 For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out.

We come into this world with nothing and will leave with nothing.

1. The Vanity of Life and Possessions

2. The Impermanence of Life

1. Ecclesiastes 5:15 - As he came from his mother's womb, naked shall he return, to go as he came; and he shall take nothing of his labour, which he may carry away in his hand.

2. Matthew 6:19-21 - Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

1 Timothy 6:8 And having food and raiment let us be therewith content.

We should be content with what we have, including food and clothing.

1. Contentment: A Blessing for Our Lives

2. Contentment: Freedom from Worry and Anxiety

1. Proverbs 19:23 - The fear of the Lord leads to life; then one rests content, untouched by trouble.

2. Philippians 4:11-12 - I am not saying this because I am in need, for I have learned to

be content whatever the circumstances. I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want.

1 Timothy 6:9 But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition.

The pursuit of riches can lead to temptation and bring destruction.

1: Be careful not to become too focused on wealth, as it can lead to destruction.

2: Do not be deceived by the pursuit of riches, for it can be the downfall of many.

1: Proverbs 11:28 - He that trusteth in his riches shall fall, but the righteous shall flourish as a branch.

2: Ecclesiastes 5:10 - He that loveth silver shall not be satisfied with silver; nor he that loveth abundance with increase: this is also vanity.

1 Timothy 6:10 For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.

The love of money can lead people away from their faith and bring sorrow.

1. Don’t Let Money Control You

2. The Dangers of Greed

1. Ecclesiastes 5:10 “He who loves money will not be satisfied with money, nor he who loves abundance with its income”

2. 1 John 2:16 “For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world.”

1 Timothy 6:11 But thou, O man of God, flee these things; and follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness.

The passage encourages us to flee from worldly desires and to follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, and meekness.

1. "Fleeing From Sin and Following After God's Desires"

2. "The Pursuit of Righteousness and a Life of Holiness"

1. Romans 12:9-13 - Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves. Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer.

2. Colossians 3:12-15 - Therefore, as God’s chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.

1 Timothy 6:12 Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses.

Paul encourages Timothy to live a life of faith and to hold fast to eternal life, which he has publicly professed before many witnesses.

1. The Power of Faithful Living: How to Fight the Good Fight

2. Standing Firm in Your Profession of Faith

1. Hebrews 10:35-36 Therefore do not throw away your confidence, which has great reward. For you have need of endurance, so that when you have done the will of God, you may receive what is promised.

2. 1 Peter 5:8-9 Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world.

1 Timothy 6:13 I give thee charge in the sight of God, who quickeneth all things, and before Christ Jesus, who before Pontius Pilate witnessed a good confession;

Paul charges Timothy, in the presence of God and Christ Jesus, to make a good confession before Pontius Pilate.

1. The Power of a Good Confession

2. The Importance of Witnessing for Christ

1. Matthew 10:32-33 - "Therefore whoever confesses Me before men, him I will also confess before My Father who is in heaven. But whoever denies Me before men, him I will also deny before My Father who is in heaven."

2. Matthew 16:24-25 - "Then Jesus said to His disciples, “If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it."

1 Timothy 6:14 That thou keep this commandment without spot, unrebukeable, until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ:

Christians are called to be obedient to God's commandments until the return of Jesus Christ.

1. Living a Life of Obedience - 1 Timothy 6:14

2. The Return of Christ - Our Hope and Expectation

1. Ephesians 5:1-2 - Follow God's example, therefore, as dearly loved children and walk in the way of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

2. 1 Peter 1:13-14 - Therefore, with your minds ready for action, be sober-minded and set your hope completely on the grace to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ. As obedient children, do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance.

1 Timothy 6:15 Which in his times he shall shew, who is the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings, and Lord of lords;

This passage speaks of God as the one and only ruler of the universe, the King of kings

and Lord of lords.

1. God is the Supreme Ruler of All: A Study on 1 Timothy 6:15

2. Proclaiming the Majesty of the Almighty: Teaching on 1 Timothy 6:15

1. Isaiah 9:6-7 - For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counseller, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.

2. Revelation 19:16 - And he hath on his vesture and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS.

1 Timothy 6:16 Who only hath immortality, dwelling in the light which no man can approach unto; whom no man hath seen, nor can see: to whom be honour and power everlasting. Amen.

The passage describes God as having immortality, dwelling in the light which is inaccessible to humans, and deserving of everlasting honour and power.

1. The Unfathomable Majesty of God

2. Recognizing God's Immutability and Unfading Glory

1. Isaiah 6:1-5 - Isaiah's vision of God's holiness

2. John 1:1-18 - Jesus is God's true light

1 Timothy 6:17 Charge them that are rich in this world, that they be not highminded, nor trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy;

Paul instructs the wealthy to not be prideful and to put their trust in God, who has provided them with all they need.

1. God has given us everything we need, so let us be thankful and not prideful.

2. Put your trust in the living God, who provides for all our needs.

1. Psalm 24:1 - The earth is the Lord's, and all its fullness, The world and those who dwell therein.

2. James 1:17 - Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.

1 Timothy 6:18 That they do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to distribute, willing to communicate;

Believers should be generous and help others with their wealth.

1. Generosity Through Wealth: How To Use Your Money To Help Others

2. Good Works and Giving: The Benefits of Using Your Wealth To Bless Others

1. Acts 20:35 - “In all things I have shown you that by working hard in this way we must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he himself said, ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’”

2. Proverbs 11:24-25 - “One gives freely, yet grows all the richer; another withholds what he should give, and only suffers want. Whoever brings blessing will be enriched, and one who waters will himself be watered.”

1 Timothy 6:19 Laying up in store for themselves a good foundation against the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life.

This passage encourages readers to store up a good foundation and lay hold on eternal life.

1. The importance of laying a good foundation for our lives to ensure we receive eternal life.

2. The need to prepare for the future and the rewards that come from it.

1. Matthew 6:19-21 - "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures

in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves do not break in or steal; for where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

2. Proverbs 3:5-6 - "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight."

1 Timothy 6:20 O Timothy, keep that which is committed to thy trust, avoiding profane and vain babblings, and oppositions of science falsely so called:

Timothy is instructed to guard what has been entrusted to him, avoiding false and empty arguments and theories.

1. Understanding the importance of guarding your trust

2. Avoiding false teachings and arguments

1. Titus 1:9 - Holding fast the faithful word as he hath been taught, that he may be able by sound doctrine both to exhort and to convince the gainsayers.

2. 2 Corinthians 10:5 - Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ.

1 Timothy 6:21 Which some professing have erred concerning the faith. Grace be with thee. Amen.

The passage is about faith and the fact that some have gone astray from it. It ends with a wish of grace for the reader.

1. "The Path of Faith: Staying On Course"

2. "The Power of Grace: A Guide to Faithfulness"

1. Proverbs 3:5-6 - Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding.

2. James 1:2-4 - Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance.

2 Timothy 1 is the first chapter of the second letter written by the apostle Paul to his beloved co-worker and disciple, Timothy. In this chapter, Paul encourages and exhorts Timothy to remain steadfast in his faith and ministry despite challenges and hardships.

1st Paragraph: Paul expresses his deep affection for Timothy (2 Timothy 1:1-7). He identifies himself as an apostle of Christ Jesus by God's will and addresses Timothy as his beloved child in the faith. Paul recalls their shared heritage of sincere faith, which he also sees in Timothy's grandmother Lois and mother Eunice. He encourages Timothy to fan into flame the gift of God that was bestowed upon him through the laying on of hands. Paul reminds him that God has not given a spirit of fear but of power, love, and self-discipline.

2nd Paragraph: Paul emphasizes the importance of remaining faithful despite suffering (2 Timothy 1:8-12). He urges Timothy not to be ashamed or afraid to testify about their Lord or about Paul who is imprisoned for preaching the Gospel. Instead, he encourages him to join in suffering for the sake of Christ according to God's purpose and grace. Paul affirms that it is God who saved them through Christ Jesus and called them with a holy calling—not because of their works but because of His own purpose.

3rd Paragraph: The chapter concludes with a reminder to hold fast to sound teaching (2 Timothy 1:13-18). Paul urges Timothy to follow the pattern of sound words taught by him in faith and love. He warns against those who have turned away from him, including Phygelus and Hermogenes. However, he highlights Onesiphorus as an example of someone who provided great encouragement during difficult times.

In summary,

Chapter one of 2 Timothy begins with expressions of affection between Paul and Timothy.

Paul reminds him not to be fearful but instead embrace God's gift of power, love, and self-discipline.

He emphasizes the importance of remaining faithful in the face of suffering and encourages Timothy to hold fast to sound teaching. The chapter concludes with examples of those who have turned away from Paul and those who have been a source of encouragement. This chapter serves as an exhortation for Timothy to remain steadfast in his faith, embrace God's gifts, endure suffering, and cling to sound doctrine.

2 Timothy 1:1 Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, according to the promise of life which is in Christ Jesus,

Paul, an apostle of God, speaks of the promise of eternal life in Jesus Christ.

1. The Promise of Eternal Life through Jesus Christ

2. God's Will and the Abundant Life

1. Romans 6:23 - For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

2. John 10:10 - The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.

2 Timothy 1:2 To Timothy, my dearly beloved son: Grace, mercy, and peace, from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.

The passage speaks of the grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and Jesus Christ.

1. The Power of Grace: Trusting in God's Unconditional Love and Mercy

2. Practicing Peace: How to Live in Harmony with the Father and the Son

1. Ephesians 2:8-9 - For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— not by works, so that no one can boast.

2. Romans 5:1-5 - Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we boast in the hope of the glory of God.

2 Timothy 1:3 I thank God, whom I serve from my forefathers with pure conscience, that without ceasing I have remembrance of thee in my prayers night and day;

Paul expresses his gratitude to God for his prayers and service to God, and his unceasing remembrance of Timothy in his prayers throughout day and night.

1. Cultivating a Heart of Gratitude to God

2. Unceasing Prayers for Others

1. Colossians 4:2 - "Continue earnestly in prayer, being vigilant in it with thanksgiving;"

2. 1 Thessalonians 5:17 - "Pray without ceasing;"

2 Timothy 1:4 Greatly desiring to see thee, being mindful of thy tears, that I may be filled with joy;

Paul expresses his desire to see Timothy and remembers Timothy's tears, which he hopes will be replaced by joy.

1. A Call to Joy: Finding Comfort in the Lord

2. Rejoice in the Lord's Presence: Renewing Our Faith

1. Romans 15:13 - "Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope."

2. Isaiah 12:2-3 - "Behold, God is my salvation, I will trust and not be afraid; For the Lord God is my strength and song, and He has become my salvation."

2 Timothy 1:5 When I call to remembrance the unfeigned faith that is in thee, which dwelt first in thy grandmother Lois, and thy mother Eunice; and I am persuaded that in thee also.

Paul commends Timothy's faith, which he inherited from his grandmother Lois and mother Eunice, and believes it remains in Timothy as well.

1. The importance of family in developing faith and passing it on to future generations.

2. The power of faith and the assurance it can bring.

1. Psalm 27:1, "The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?"

2. Romans 10:17, "So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ."

2 Timothy 1:6 Wherefore I put thee in remembrance that thou stir up the gift of God, which is in thee by the putting on of my hands.

Paul encourages Timothy to use the gift of God that was given to him through the laying on of hands.

1. The Power of a Gift from God: How to Harness and Use Your God-Given Abilities

2. Stirring up the Gift of God: Using the Blessings of the Lord to Serve Him.

1. Romans 12:6-8 - Having different gifts according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; if service, in our serving; or he who teaches, in his teaching; or he who exhorts, in his exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness.

2. Ephesians 4:11-13 - And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ.

2 Timothy 1:7 For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.

God has given us a spirit of power, love, and a sound mind, instead of a spirit of fear.

Best

1. "A Spirit of Power"

2. "Love and A Sound Mind"

Best

1. Romans 8:15-17 - For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you received a spirit of adoption, by which we cry out, “Abba, Father.”

2. 1 John 4:16-18 - So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us.

God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him.

2 Timothy 1:8 Be not thou therefore ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me his prisoner: but be thou partaker of the afflictions of the gospel according to the power of God;

Paul encourages Timothy to remain firm in his faith and be an example of God's power.

1. The Strength of Our Testimony: Being an Example of God's Power

2. Standing Firm in Our Faith: Participating in the Afflictions of the Gospel

1. Romans 1:16 - For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth;

2. 2 Corinthians 12:9-10 - And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

2 Timothy 1:9 Who hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began,

Paul encourages Timothy to remember that God saved them and called them with a holy calling, not because of their own works, but because of His own purpose and grace given through Christ Jesus.

1) God's Grace Is Sufficient: Exploring the Depths of God's Love and Mercy

2) Living a Life of Holiness: Answering the Call of God

1) Ephesians 2:8-9 - For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast.

2) Romans 8:28-30 - And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose. For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren. Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them

he also glorified.

2 Timothy 1:10 But is now made manifest by the appearing of our Saviour Jesus Christ, who hath abolished death, and hath brought life and immortality to light through the gospel:

Jesus Christ appeared to bring life and immortality to light through the Gospel.

1. Jesus Abolished Death and Brought Life and Immortality

2. The Power of the Gospel: Bringing Life and Immortality

1. Romans 6:23 - For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

2. John 3:16-17 - For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.

2 Timothy 1:11 Whereunto I am appointed a preacher, and an apostle, and a teacher of the Gentiles.

Paul is appointed as a preacher, apostle, and teacher of the Gentiles.

1. The Call to Preach - Facing the Fear and Faithfully Pursuing God's Call

2. Called to be an Apostle - How to Properly Represent the Gospel

1. Acts 9:15-16 - The Conversion of Saul and His Appointment to Preach

2. Matthew 28:18-20 - The Great Commission to Preach and Disciple the Nations

2 Timothy 1:12 For the which cause I also suffer these things: nevertheless I am not ashamed: for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day.

Paul affirms his belief in God and His ability to protect him and what he has committed to Him.

1. The Strength of Our Faith - Drawing on Paul's example in 2 Timothy 1:12, this examines how we can rely on God in times of distress and difficulty.

2. The Power of Commitment - This explores the importance of making sincere commitments to God and trusting Him to keep them.

1. Romans 8:25-27 - Paul's assurance in God's faithfulness, even during difficulty

2. Hebrews 11:1 - The definition of faith and the hope it brings.

2 Timothy 1:13 Hold fast the form of sound words, which thou hast heard of me, in faith and love which is in Christ Jesus.

Passage: Apostle Paul encourages Timothy to remember and keep the sound doctrine he has been taught in faith and love in Christ Jesus.

1. The Power of Sound Doctrine in our Faith

2. Abiding in Faith and Love through Sound Doctrine

1. 2 Timothy 1:13

2. Ephesians 4:14-15 - That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive; But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ.

2 Timothy 1:14 That good thing which was committed unto thee keep by the Holy Ghost which dwelleth in us.

The passage encourages believers to stay true to their faith and to rely on the Holy Spirit within them.

1. The Power of the Holy Spirit in Our Lives

2. The Importance of Upholding Our Faith

1. Romans 8:14-17 - For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.

2. John 14:15-17 - If ye love me, keep my commandments.

2 Timothy 1:15 This thou knowest, that all they which are in Asia be turned away from me; of whom are Phygellus and Hermogenes.

Paul mentions to Timothy that many people from Asia have turned away from him, specifically naming two people, Phygellus and Hermogenes.

1. The Power of Rejection: Examining Paul's Experience in Asia.

2. Staying Faithful to God Despite Opposition.

1. Hebrews 11:24-27 - By faith Moses, when he was come to years, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh’s daughter;

2. Romans 8:31-35 - What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us?

2 Timothy 1:16 The Lord give mercy unto the house of Onesiphorus; for he oft refreshed me, and was not ashamed of my chain:

Onesiphorus was a great example of faithfulness and kindness to Paul, even in the midst of his suffering.

1. God's Faithfulness: Learning from the Example of Onesiphorus

2. The Power of Kindness: How Onesiphorus Refreshed Paul in Suffering

1. John 13:35 - "By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another."

2. Galatians 6:2 - "Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ."

2 Timothy 1:17 But, when he was in Rome, he sought me out very diligently, and found me.

Paul sought out Timothy while in Rome and found him.

1. The importance of seeking out the lost.

2. We can be found if we look for God.

1. Luke 19:10 - “For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.”

2. Matthew 7:7-8 - “Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened.”

2 Timothy 1:18 The Lord grant unto him that he may find mercy of the Lord in that day: and in how many things he ministered unto me at Ephesus, thou knowest very well.

Paul is praying that the Lord will show mercy to Timothy and reminds him of the ministry they shared together in Ephesus.

1. The Power of Prayer: How God Answers in His Mercy

2. The Importance of Serving Together: How Ministry Unites Us

1. James 5:16 - "The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective."

2. Acts 20:17-38 - Paul's farewell to the elders of the church in Ephesus.

2 Timothy 2 is the second chapter of the second letter written by the apostle Paul to his beloved co-worker and disciple, Timothy. In this chapter, Paul imparts important instructions to Timothy regarding endurance, responsibility, and sound teaching.

1st Paragraph: Paul encourages Timothy to be a faithful and disciplined soldier of Christ (2 Timothy 2:1-7). He urges him to be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus and entrusts him with the task of passing on what he has learned to reliable people who will in turn teach others. Paul uses metaphors such as a soldier, an athlete, and a hardworking farmer to illustrate the need for discipline, perseverance, and focus in ministry. He emphasizes that those who compete according to the rules will receive their share of rewards.

2nd Paragraph: Paul emphasizes the importance of handling God's word accurately (2 Timothy 2:8-19). He reminds Timothy about Jesus Christ's resurrection from the dead as central to their preaching. Despite facing imprisonment and suffering for proclaiming the Gospel, Paul states that God's word cannot be chained. He warns against quarreling over words that only lead to ruin but encourages diligent study of Scripture for approved workmen who correctly handle it.

3rd Paragraph: The chapter concludes with instructions on avoiding false teachings and pursuing righteousness (2 Timothy 2:20-26). Paul urges Timothy to flee from youthful passions while pursuing righteousness along with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart. He warns against foolish arguments that breed quarrels but advises gentleness when correcting opponents so they may come to repentance. Paul highlights God's desire for everyone's salvation and calls for purity, avoiding entanglements with worldly desires.

In summary,

Chapter two of 2 Timothy focuses on endurance in ministry responsibilities while emphasizing accurate handling of God's Word.

Paul encourages Timothy to be disciplined like a soldier or an athlete, entrusting him with the task of passing on his teachings to reliable people.

He emphasizes the importance of handling God's word accurately and warns against quarreling over words. Paul encourages diligent study and correct handling of Scripture.

The chapter concludes with instructions on avoiding false teachings, pursuing righteousness, and correcting opponents with gentleness. Paul highlights the desire for salvation and calls for purity in Christian living. This chapter serves as a call to endurance, responsibility in teaching, and pursuit of righteousness within the context of challenges faced in ministry.

2 Timothy 2:1 Thou therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus.

Paul encourages Timothy to stay strong in his faith in Christ and to rely on his grace.

1. God's Grace Is Enough - Romans 8:28-39

2. A Call To Stand Firm - Ephesians 6:10-20

1. 2 Corinthians 12:9-10 - Paul's reliance on God's grace and strength in the face of suffering.

2. Hebrews 12:1-3 - The need for endurance in the face of hardship.

2 Timothy 2:2 And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also.

Timothy is encouraged to commit the things he has heard from Paul to faithful men, who will in turn be able to teach others.

1. The Power of Passing on God's Word

2. The Responsibility of Being Faithful to God

1. Proverbs 11:30 - The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life; and he that winneth souls is wise.

2. 2 Peter 1:12 - Wherefore I will not be negligent to put you always in remembrance of these things, though ye know them, and be established in the present truth.

2 Timothy 2:3 Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ.

Passage Paul encourages Timothy to endure hardships as a good soldier of Jesus Christ.

1. Enduring Hardships for the Sake of Jesus

2. Being a Good Soldier of Christ

1. Romans 8:35-39 - Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?

2. James 1:2-4 - Count it all joy when you fall into various trials.

2 Timothy 2:4 No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier.

Paul advises Timothy that a person who is in a spiritual battle should not be distracted by the affairs of this life, so that he can please God who has chosen him to fight.

1. Don't Let Life Distract You from Serving God

2. Don't be Entangled by the Affairs of This Life

1. 1 Corinthians 10:31 - Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God.

2. Galatians 5:1 - Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage.

2 Timothy 2:5 And if a man also strive for masteries, yet is he not crowned, except he strive lawfully.

Winning is not guaranteed unless the process is done lawfully.

1. The Road to Success is Through Legal Means

2. Hard Work Does Not Guarantee Success

1. Romans 12:10-11 - Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving p to one another; not lagging in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord;

2. Proverbs 21:5 - The thoughts of the diligent tend only to plenty; but of every one that is hasty only to want.

2 Timothy 2:6 The husbandman that laboureth must be first partaker of the fruits.

Paul encourages hard work, as the laborer should be rewarded for their effort.

1. ?The Blessing of Diligence??

2. ?The Power of Hard Work??

1. Proverbs 13:4 ???The soul of the sluggard desireth, and hath nothing: but the soul of the diligent shall be made fat.??

2. Colossians 3:23 ???And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men.??

2 Timothy 2:7 Consider what I say; and the Lord give thee understanding in all things.

Paul encourages Timothy to be attentive to his instructions and to ask for God's understanding.

1. Seek God's Wisdom in All Things: A Study of 2 Timothy 2:7

2. Growing in Faith: Consider What Paul Says in 2 Timothy 2:7

1. James 1:5 - "If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him."

2. Proverbs 3:5-6 - "Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths."

2 Timothy 2:8 Remember that Jesus Christ of the seed of David was raised from the dead according to my gospel:

Paul reminds Timothy that Jesus was resurrected according to the gospel.

1. The Power of the Gospel: How Jesus' Resurrection Demonstrates its Strength

2. The Resurrected Christ: A Reflection on the Resurrection of Jesus

1. Romans 1:3-4 - "Concerning his Son Jesus Christ our Lord, which was made of the seed

of David according to the flesh; And declared to be the Son of God with power, according to the spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead"

2. Acts 13:30-31 - "But God raised him from the dead: And he was seen many days of them which came up with him from Galilee to Jerusalem, who are his witnesses unto the people. And we declare unto you glad tidings, how that the promise which was made unto the fathers, God hath fulfilled the same unto us their children, in that he hath raised up Jesus again; as it is also written in the second psalm"

2 Timothy 2:9 Wherein I suffer trouble, as an evil doer, even unto bonds; but the word of God is not bound.

Paul suffered for preaching the Word of God and was even put in prison, but the Word of God was not bound and could not be stopped.

1. The Power of the Word of God: How the Gospel Can Endure Anything

2. Standing Firm in the Faith: Encouragement for Difficult Times

1. Hebrews 11:1 - Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

2. Luke 4:18-19 - The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised.

2 Timothy 2:10 Therefore I endure all things for the elect's sakes, that they may also obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory.

Paul endured all things for the sake of the elect, so that they may receive salvation through Jesus Christ and experience eternal glory.

1. The Power of Endurance ??How Paul?□ Willingness to Persevere Paved the Way For the Elect?□ Salvation

2. The Rewards of Sacrifice ??How Paul?□ Unselfish Actions Led to Eternal Glory for the Elect

1. Philippians 3:10-14 ??Paul?□ Pursuit of Righteousness and Eternal Reward

2. Hebrews 12:1-3 ??The Power of Endurance in Faith

2 Timothy 2:11 It is a faithful saying: For if we be dead with him, we shall also live with him:

It is a faithful saying that if we die with Jesus, we will also live with Him.

1. Living with Jesus: The Hope of Eternal Life

2. Dying with Jesus: The Cost of Eternal Life

1. Romans 6:8-11 - Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him.

2. John 11:25-26 - Jesus said to her, ?□ am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die.??

2 Timothy 2:12 If we suffer, we shall also reign with him: if we deny him, he also will deny us:

Suffering can be part of a Christian's life, but it can ultimately lead to reigning with Christ. Denying Christ will result in Him denying us.

1. "The Path of Suffering: A Road to Eternal Rewards"

2. "The Choice Is Yours: Deny or Reign with Christ"

1. Romans 8:17 - "And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together."

2. Hebrews 10:32-39 - "But call to remembrance the former days, in which, after ye were illuminated, ye endured a great fight of afflictions; Partly, whilst ye were made a gazingstock both by reproaches and afflictions; and partly, whilst ye became companions of them that were so used. For ye had compassion of me in my bonds, and took joyfully the spoiling of your goods, knowing in yourselves that ye have in heaven a better and an enduring substance. Cast not away therefore your confidence, which hath great

recompence of reward. For ye have need of patience, that, after ye have done the will of God, ye might receive the promise. For yet a little while, and he that shall come will come, and will not tarry. Now the just shall live by faith: but if any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him. But we are not of them who draw back unto perdition; but of them that believe to the saving of the soul."

2 Timothy 2:13 If we believe not, yet he abideth faithful: he cannot deny himself.

Paul encourages believers to remain faithful, even if others do not believe, as God is always faithful and cannot deny Himself.

1. God's Faithfulness in the Face of Unbelief

2. The Power of Believing in God

1. Ephesians 2:8-10 - For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God? ot the result of works, so that no one may boast.

2. Romans 8:28 - And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.

2 Timothy 2:14 Of these things put them in remembrance, charging them before the Lord that they strive not about words to no profit, but to the subverting of the hearers.

Paul encourages Timothy to remind the church to focus on spiritual matters rather than dispute over unimportant words.

1. "The Power of Unity: What We Can Achieve When We Come Together"

2. "Focus on What Matters Most: Understanding the Spiritual Significance of Our Words"

1. Philippians 2:14-15 - "Do all things without grumbling or disputing, that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world."

2. James 3:13-18 - "Who is wise and understanding among you? By his good conduct let him show his works in the meekness of wisdom."

2 Timothy 2:15 Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

Timothy is encouraged to diligently study and accurately interpret the Bible in order to please God.

1. The Path to True Approval: Rightly Dividing the Word of Truth

2. The Importance of Understanding the Bible: Equipping Ourselves for God's Will

1. Proverbs 3:5-6 - Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.

2. 2 Peter 1:20-21 - Knowing this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone's own interpretation. For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

2 Timothy 2:16 But shun profane and vain babblings: for they will increase unto more ungodliness.

Christians should avoid profane and empty conversations, as they lead to further ungodliness.

1. ?□hun Evil: Keeping Away From Wicked Speech??

2. ?□he Power of Your Words: Avoiding Profane and Vain Babblings??

1. James 3:5-6 - ?□ven so the tongue is a little member, and boasteth great things. Behold, how great a matter a little fire kindleth! And the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity: so is the tongue among our members, that it defileth the whole body, and setteth on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire of hell.??

2. Proverbs 15:4 - ?□ wholesome tongue is a tree of life: but perverseness therein is a breach in the spirit.??

2 Timothy 2:17 And their word will eat as doth a canker: of whom is Hymenaeus and Philetus;

Hymenaeus and Philetus spread false teaching which is likened to a cancer.

1. The Danger of False Teaching - Proverbs 19:27

2. Guarding Against False Teaching - Acts 20:28-31

1. Ephesians 4:14 - That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive.

2. Titus 1:9 - Holding fast the faithful word as he hath been taught, that he may be able by sound doctrine both to exhort and to convince the gainsayers.

2 Timothy 2:18 Who concerning the truth have erred, saying that the resurrection is past already; and overthrow the faith of some.

This passage discusses the dangers of false teachings about the resurrection, which can lead to the faith of some being overthrown.

1. The Truth of the Resurrection: How to Avoid False Teachings.

2. The Power of False Teachings: How They Can Undermine Faith.

1. Matthew 22:23-32 - The Sadducees' Unbelief in the Resurrection.

2. John 11:25-26 - Jesus' Promise of Eternal Life Through the Resurrection.

2 Timothy 2:19 Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, The Lord knoweth them that are his. And, Let every one that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity.

God's foundation is strong and we should strive to live in a way that is pleasing to Him.

1. Let us remember that God's love and faithfulness are firm, and we should live according to His will.

2. We must be obedient to God's commands and leave behind our sin to live a life of faith.

1. Psalm 36:5 - Your steadfast love, O LORD, extends to the heavens, your faithfulness to the clouds.

2. Romans 12:1-2 - I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

2 Timothy 2:20 But in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and of silver, but also of wood and of earth; and some to honour, and some to dishonour.

In a great house, there are many different kinds of vessels, some of which are used for honorable purposes and some of which are used for dishonorable purposes.

1. God has a plan for every vessel in His house

2. Our choices determine which kind of vessel we will become

1. Romans 9:21 - Hath not the potter power over the clay, of the same lump to make one vessel unto honour, and another unto dishonour?

2. Proverbs 16:9 - A man's heart deviseth his way: but the LORD directeth his steps.

2 Timothy 2:21 If a man therefore purge himself from these, he shall be a vessel unto honour, sanctified, and meet for the master's use, and prepared unto every good work.

In order to be prepared for every good work, a man must purify himself from all unrighteousness.

1. Purifying Ourselves for the Master's Use

2. Being Prepared for Every Good Work

1. 1 Peter 1:13-17 - Therefore, with minds that are alert and fully sober, set your hope on

the grace to be brought to you when Jesus Christ is revealed at his coming. As obedient children, do not conform to the evil desires you had when you lived in ignorance. But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; for it is written: ?□e holy, because I am holy.??

2. Romans 12:2 - Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God?□ will is?□ is good, pleasing and perfect will.

2 Timothy 2:22 Flee also youthful lusts: but follow righteousness, faith, charity, peace, with them that call on the Lord out of a pure heart.

Throughout our lives, we must resist the temptations of youth and instead seek righteousness, faith, charity, and peace with those who faithfully call on the Lord.

1. The Power of Righteousness - how to live a life of righteousness through faith and charity.

2. Living in Peace - how to find peace in the world through faith and charity.

1. 1 John 2:15-17 - Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

2. Galatians 5:22-23 - But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.

2 Timothy 2:23 But foolish and unlearned questions avoid, knowing that they do gender strifes.

It is important to avoid foolish and unlearned questions as they can cause arguments or disagreements.

1. The Power of Discernment - Understanding when to avoid certain conversations

2. The Power of Wisdom - Knowing when to engage in meaningful dialogue

1. Proverbs 15:2 - The tongue of the wise useth knowledge aright: but the mouth of fools poureth out foolishness.

2. James 3:17 - But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be entreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy.

2 Timothy 2:24 And the servant of the Lord must not strive; but be gentle unto all men, apt to teach, patient,

The servant of the Lord must be gentle, patient, and able to teach.

1) The Power of Patience; 2) The Benefits of Gentleness

1) Galatians 5:22-23 - "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, 23Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law." 2) Colossians 3:12-14 - "Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering; 13Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye. 14And above all these things put on charity, which is the bond of perfectness."

2 Timothy 2:25 In meekness instructing those that oppose themselves; if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth;

In order to bring about repentance and acknowledgement of the truth, Timothy is instructed to be meek and instruct those who oppose themselves.

1. Making Meekness Our Mission: How to Win People to Christ with Gentleness and Love

2. Transforming Opposition to Opportunity: How to Lead People to the Truth with Kindness

1. Galatians 5:22-23 - But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.

2. Ephesians 4:2 - With all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love.

2 Timothy 2:26 And that they may recover themselves out of the snare of the devil, who are taken captive by him at his will.

This passage from 2 Timothy 2:26 speaks to how believers can be freed from the devil's snare by relying on God's will.

1. God's Will: The Key to Freedom From the Devil's Snares

2. Standing Strong in the Face of Temptation: How to Overcome the Devil's Traps

1. Romans 12:2 - Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.

2. James 1:12-13 - Blessed is the one who perseveres under trial because, having stood the test, that person will receive the crown of life that the Lord has promised to those who love him.

2 Timothy 3 is the third chapter of the second letter written by the apostle Paul to his beloved co-worker and disciple, Timothy. In this chapter, Paul warns about the difficult times that will come and encourages Timothy to remain steadfast in his faith and adherence to Scripture.

1st Paragraph: Paul describes the characteristics of people in the last days (2 Timothy 3:1-9). He warns that in these times, people will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to parents, ungrateful, unholy, without self-control, brutal, not loving what is good. They will be treacherous and slanderous. Paul advises Timothy to stay away from such people who have an appearance of godliness but deny its power. He reminds him that these individuals will not succeed in their deception as their folly will become evident.

2nd Paragraph: Paul emphasizes the value and authority of Scripture (2 Timothy 3:10-17). He commends Timothy for following his teaching and example despite facing persecution. Paul reminds him that all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will face persecution. He highlights the importance of continuing in what he has learned from childhood—the sacred writings which are able to make one wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. Paul asserts that all Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, reproofing correcting and training in righteousness so that believers may be equipped for every good work.

3rd Paragraph: The chapter concludes with a charge to preach the Word faithfully (2 Timothy 3:14-17). Paul urges Timothy to continue in what he has learned and firmly believed since childhood because he knows those from whom he learned it—referring to his grandmother Lois and mother Eunice. He encourages him not only because Scripture is inspired but also because it equips believers for every good work. Paul charges him to preach the Word in season and out of season, reproving, rebuking, and exhorting with great patience and teaching.

In summary,

Chapter three of 2 Timothy warns about the characteristics of people in the last days while emphasizing the value and authority of Scripture.

Paul describes the behaviors that will be prevalent in difficult times, advising Timothy to avoid such individuals who have an appearance of godliness but deny its power.

He emphasizes the importance of Scripture as inspired by God, profitable for teaching and equipping believers for every good work. Paul charges Timothy to continue in what he has learned from childhood and faithfully preach the Word with patience and teaching. This chapter serves as a warning against moral decline, an affirmation of Scripture's authority, and a charge to remain steadfast in faith while fulfilling ministry responsibilities.

2 Timothy 3:1 This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come.

In the last days, difficult times will come.

1. "Enduring Difficult Times: The Hope of the Gospel"

2. "Navigating Troubled Times: Strength in the Lord"

1. Isaiah 40:29-31 - He gives power to the faint, and to him who has no might he increases strength.

2. Psalm 46:1-2 - God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

2 Timothy 3:2 For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy,

People will become selfish, greedy, boastful, proud, and disrespectful to parents, ungrateful, and unholy.

1. The Danger of Selfishness: How to Avoid Becoming Greedy, Boastful, and Disrespectful

2. The Power of Gratitude: How to Live a Life of Holiness and Honor

1. Proverbs 11:25 - A generous person will prosper; whoever refreshes others will be refreshed.

2. Romans 12:10 - Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves.

2 Timothy 3:3 Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good,

People who are without natural affection, break truces, falsely accuse others, are unable to control their passions, are fierce, and despise those who are good are condemned.

1. The Power of Love: Why Compassion and Kindness Matter

2. The Danger of Contempt: Why We Should Respect Others

1. Romans 12:9-10 - Let love be without dissimulation. Abhor that which is evil; cleave to that which is good.

2. James 3:14-18 - But if you have bitter envying and strife in your hearts, glory not, and lie not against the truth. This wisdom descends not from above, but is earthly, sensual, devilish.

2 Timothy 3:4 Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God;

People who are traitors, headstrong, and arrogant and who prioritize pleasure over their devotion to God are condemned.

1. God's Love is Greater than the Pleasures of the World

2. The Dangers of Being High-Minded and Self-Centered

1. Ephesians 4:17-19 - Walk not as other Gentiles walk, in the vanity of their mind, 18 Having the understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart: 19 Who being past feeling have given themselves over unto lasciviousness, to work all uncleanness with greediness.

2. James 4:6-10 - But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble. 7 Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. 8 Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded. 9 Be afflicted, and mourn, and weep: let your laughter be turned to mourning, and your joy to heaviness. 10 Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up.

2 Timothy 3:5 Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away.

People may appear to have a godly form, but deny the power of God. It is important to turn away from such people.

1. The Power of God – How to recognize and embrace its gifts in our lives.

2. False Profits – Discerning between those who truly have the power of God and those who only appear to.

1. 1 John 4:1 – “Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world.”

2. Matthew 7:15-20 – “Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep’s clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves. You will recognize them by their fruits. Are grapes gathered from thornbushes, or figs from thistles? So, every healthy tree bears good fruit, but the diseased tree bears bad fruit. A healthy tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a diseased tree bear good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. Thus you will recognize them by their fruits.”

2 Timothy 3:6 For of this sort are they which creep into houses, and lead captive silly women laden with sins, led away with divers lusts,

False teachers are those who creep into houses and lead away women laden with sins and led away with various desires.

1. The Danger of False Teachers

2. Living a Life of Holiness Despite Temptation

1. James 1:14-15 - “But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire. Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death.”

2. Proverbs 5:3-5 - “For the lips of a forbidden woman drip honey, and her speech is smoother than oil, but in the end she is bitter as wormwood, sharp as a two-edged sword. Her feet go down to death; her steps follow the path to Sheol; she does not ponder the path of life; her ways wander, and she does not know it.”

2 Timothy 3:7 Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth.

People can spend much of their lives learning, but never come to the knowledge of the truth.

1. Why It is Important to Seek True Knowledge.

2. Pursuing Eternal Truths, Not Temporary Knowledge.

1. John 17:3 - And this is eternal life, that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent.

2. 2 Corinthians 4:3-4 - And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, in whose case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving so that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.

2 Timothy 3:8 Now as Jannes and Jambres withstood Moses, so do these also resist the truth: men of corrupt minds, reprobate concerning the faith.

Men of corrupt minds and reprobate concerning the faith are resisting the truth, just as Jannes and Jambres resisted Moses.

1. The Power of Resisting the Truth

2. Overcoming Obstacles to Faith

1. James 1:2-4 - Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking

anything.

2. Romans 5:3-5 - Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. And hope does not put us to shame, because God’s love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.

2 Timothy 3:9 But they shall proceed no further: for their folly shall be manifest unto all men, as theirs also was.

People who make foolish decisions will be exposed for the world to see.

1. God will always expose the truth in the end.

2. We should always strive to make wise decisions.

1. Proverbs 14:12 - There is a way that appears to be right, but in the end it leads to death.

2. Romans 12:2 - Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind.

2 Timothy 3:10 But thou hast fully known my doctrine, manner of life, purpose, faith, longsuffering, charity, patience,

Paul reminded Timothy of the qualities he had learned from him: his doctrine, manner of life, purpose, faith, longsuffering, charity, and patience.

1. Living a Life of Longsuffering and Patience

2. The Benefits of a Life of Charity and Faith

1. Galatians 5:22-23 - The Fruit of the Spirit: Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness, and Self-control

2. Romans 12:12-13 - Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality.

2 Timothy 3:11 Persecutions, afflictions, which came unto me at Antioch, at Iconium, at Lystra; what persecutions I endured: but out of them all the Lord delivered me.

Paul endured much hardship and persecution in his ministry, but the Lord delivered him from it all.

1. The Lord is our Deliverer in Times of Trouble

2. Persevering through Difficulties with Faith in God

1. Exodus 14:13-14 - And Moses said unto the people, Fear ye not, stand still, and see the salvation of the Lord, which he will shew to you to day: for the Egyptians whom ye have seen to day, ye shall see them again no more for ever. The Lord shall fight for you, and ye shall hold your peace.

2. Isaiah 55:8 - For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the Lord.

2 Timothy 3:12 Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.

Christians who live godly lives may face persecution.

1. "Living a Godly Life - The Strength to Endure Persecution"

2. "How to Persevere in the Face of Adversity"

1. 1 Peter 4:12-13 - Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened to you. But rejoice, inasmuch as you are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that, when his glory shall be revealed, you may be glad also with exceeding joy.

2. Romans 8:18 - For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.

2 Timothy 3:13 But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived.

Evil men will become increasingly worse in deceiving and being deceived.

1. Are You Being Deceived?

2. Seeing Through the Deception.

1. Matthew 24:11-13 “And many false prophets will arise and lead many astray. And because lawlessness will be increased, the love of many will grow cold.”

2. 1 John 4:1 “Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world.”

2 Timothy 3:14 But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned them;

Paul encourages Timothy to stay true to the teachings he has learned from Paul and to remember who taught them to him.

1. The Power of a Good Teacher

2. Perseverance Through the Power of Knowledge

1. John 8:31-32, So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in Him, “If you abide in My word, you are truly My disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”

2. Proverbs 2:3-5, Yes, if you cry out for discernment, and lift up your voice for understanding, if you seek her as silver, and search for her as for hidden treasures; then you will understand the fear of the Lord, and find the knowledge of God.

2 Timothy 3:15 And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.

Timothy was taught the scriptures from a young age, and they can lead to wisdom and salvation through faith in Jesus Christ.

1. How to Receive Salvation Through Scripture

2. Living a Life of Faith Through the Power of Scripture

1. Romans 10:17 - So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

2. Psalm 119:105 - Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.

2 Timothy 3:16 All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:

The Bible is given to us by God and can be used to teach us, guide us and help us to live a righteous life.

1. The Power of God's Word: How Scripture Can Impact Our Lives

2. Learning to Live Righteous Lives through Scripture

1. Proverbs 3:5-6 - Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.

2. Psalm 119:105 - Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.

2 Timothy 3:17 That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works.

The passage emphasizes the importance of equipping oneself with good works in order to serve the Lord.

1. "We are Called to Serve: The Importance of Doing Good Works for God"

2. "Perfecting Ourselves: Growing in Faith Through Good Works"

1. James 2:14-17, "What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him? If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food, and one of you says to them, “Go in peace, be warmed and filled,” without giving them the things needed for the body, what good is that? So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead."

2. Ephesians 2:8-10, "For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them."

2 Timothy 4 is the fourth and final chapter of the second letter written by the apostle Paul to his beloved co-worker and disciple, Timothy. In this chapter, Paul provides final instructions and encouragement to Timothy as he faces challenges in his ministry.

1st Paragraph: Paul charges Timothy to preach the Word faithfully (2 Timothy 4:1-5). He solemnly urges him to preach the word in light of Christ's future judgment. Paul emphasizes that a time will come when people will not endure sound teaching but will instead seek out teachers who tell them what they want to hear. He encourages Timothy to be sober-minded, endure suffering, and fulfill his ministry as an evangelist. He reminds him of his own imminent departure from this world but assures him that there is a crown of righteousness awaiting all who have loved Christ's appearing.

2nd Paragraph: Paul reflects on his personal experiences and requests for companionship (2 Timothy 4:6-18). He acknowledges that he is already being poured out as a drink offering and that his time of departure is near. Despite facing abandonment by many, he expresses gratitude for the presence of faithful friends such as Luke. Paul also mentions Alexander the coppersmith who did him much harm. Nevertheless, he affirms that the Lord stood by him and strengthened him during difficult times.

3rd Paragraph: The chapter concludes with personal greetings and final remarks (2 Timothy 4:19-22). Paul sends greetings from various individuals including Prisca, Aquila, Onesiphorus, Erastus, Trophimus, Eubulus, Pudens, Linus, Claudia, and all the brothers. He prays for God's grace upon them all. In closing remarks, Paul asks for God's peace to be with Timothy while expressing confidence in God's faithfulness.

In summary,

Chapter four of 2 Timothy contains final instructions and reflections from Paul.

He charges Timothy to preach the Word faithfully, warning of a time when people will reject sound teaching.

Paul reflects on his own imminent departure and expresses gratitude for faithful companionship while acknowledging those who have harmed him. He affirms God's presence and strength in difficult times.

The chapter concludes with personal greetings and prayers for God's grace and peace. This chapter serves as a charge to remain steadfast in preaching, a reflection on Paul's experiences, and a reminder of God's faithfulness in the midst of challenges.

2 Timothy 4:1 I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom;

Paul exhorts Timothy to obey God and Christ, who will judge the living and the dead when He appears.

1. The Judgment Day: Facing the Reality of Eternity

2. Living in the Light of Christ's Return

1. Hebrews 4:13 - “Nothing in all creation is hidden from God’s sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account.”

2. Romans 14:12 - “So then each of us will give an account of himself to God.”

2 Timothy 4:2 Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.

This passage encourages preachers to preach the word of God faithfully, regardless of the circumstances.

1: Preaching the Word of God Boldly

2: Preaching the Word of God with Patience

1: Acts 20:20-21 - "I kept back nothing that was helpful, but proclaimed it to you, and taught you publicly and from house to house, testifying to Jews, and also to Greeks, repentance toward God and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ."

2: Hebrews 4:12 - "For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart."

2 Timothy 4:3 For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears;

People will soon reject sound doctrine and seek teachers that will tell them what they want to hear.

1. Examine Your Hearts: Do Not Follow False Teaching

2. Reject False Teaching: Hold Tightly to the Word of God

1. 2 Peter 2:1-3 - But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction.

2. Proverbs 14:12 - There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death.

2 Timothy 4:4 And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.

People will turn away from the truth and instead follow fables.

1. "The Danger of Turning Away from the Truth"

2. "The Power of God's Word"

1. Psalm 119:105, "Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path."

2. John 14:6, "Jesus said to him, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me."

2 Timothy 4:5 But watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry.

Timothy is encouraged to watch, endure affliction, and fulfill his ministry as an evangelist.

1. Perseverance: Enduring Affliction for the Glory of God

2. Doing the Work: Fulfilling Your Ministry as an Evangelist

1. Romans 8:28 And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.

2. Philippians 1:6 Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ.

2 Timothy 4:6 For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand.

Paul expresses his readiness to be offered and states that his time of departure is near.

1. "A Heart of Readiness" - A about being prepared and ready for every situation in life.

2. "The Nearness of Death" - A about understanding death and living life to its fullest.

1. Matthew 6:34 - “Therefore do not be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble.”

2. Romans 14:8 - “For if we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord. So then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's.”

2 Timothy 4:7 I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith:

Paul encourages believers to finish their course and stay faithful.

1. Remain Steadfast in the Faith - 2 Timothy 4:7

2. The Strength to Persevere - 2 Timothy 4:7

1. 1 Corinthians 9:24-27 - Paul discusses running the race and striving for the prize.

2. Hebrews 12:1-3 - Paul encourages believers to run the race with endurance and fix their eyes on Jesus.

2 Timothy 4:8 Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.

Paul reminds Timothy of the crown of righteousness that awaits him and all believers who love Jesus' appearing.

1. The Crown of Righteousness: Rejoice, For Our Reward Is Sure

2. Love His Appearing: A Call to Be Ready

1. Romans 14:10-12 - But why do you pass judgement on your brother? Or you, why do you despise your brother? For we will all stand before the judgement seat of God; for it is written, "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God."

2. Revelation 22:12 – "Behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be."

2 Timothy 4:9 Do thy diligence to come shortly unto me:

Paul urges Timothy to come to him as soon as he can.

1. "The Importance of Diligence"

2. "The Urgency of Timely Obedience"

1. Ecclesiastes 9:10 - "Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with all your might..."

2. Hebrews 13:17 - "Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they are keeping watch over your souls, as those who will have to give an account."

2 Timothy 4:10 For Demas hath forsaken me, having loved this present world, and is departed unto Thessalonica; Crescens to Galatia, Titus unto Dalmatia.

Demas has forsaken Paul, loving the world more than Christ, and has gone to

Thessalonica, Crescens to Galatia, and Titus to Dalmatia.

1. Do Not Forsake the Lord for the World

2. Love the Lord Above All Else

1. 1 John 2:15-17 - Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

2. Hebrews 13:5 - Keep your life free from love of money, and be content with what you have, for he has said, “I will never leave you nor forsake you.”

2 Timothy 4:11 Only Luke is with me. Take Mark, and bring him with thee: for he is profitable to me for the ministry.

Paul instructs Timothy to take Mark with him, as he is beneficial to Paul's ministry.

1. The Value of Teamwork: How Working Together Can Help Our Ministry

2. The Power of Partnership: The Blessings of Working With Others

1. Proverbs 27:17 - As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another.

2. Ecclesiastes 4:9-10 - Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their toil. For if they fall, one will lift up his fellow. But woe to him who is alone when he falls and has not another to lift him up!

2 Timothy 4:12 And Tychicus have I sent to Ephesus.

Paul sent Tychicus to Ephesus.

1. The Power of Sending: What We Can Learn from Paul's Example

2. The Fruits of Faithfulness: The Rewards of Doing God's Will

1. Acts 20:17-38 - Paul's Farewell to the Ephesian Elders

2. Philippians 2:19-30 - Paul's Description of Timothy and Epaphroditus

2 Timothy 4:13 The cloke that I left at Troas with Carpus, when thou comest, bring with thee, and the books, but especially the parchments.

Paul instructs Timothy to bring the cloke and books that he left at Troas with Carpus when Timothy comes. In particular, Paul emphasizes the importance of the parchments.

1. The Importance of Obedience: Paul's directive to Timothy to bring the cloke and books to him underscores the importance of obedience in following God's will.

2. The Power of a Good Example: Paul's example of how he left the cloke and books with Carpus in Troas is a powerful lesson in leadership and setting a good example for others to follow.

1. Matthew 7:24 - "Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock"

2. Proverbs 13:13 - "He who despises the word will be destroyed, but he who fears the commandment will be rewarded."

2 Timothy 4:14 Alexander the coppersmith did me much evil: the Lord reward him according to his works:

Alexander the coppersmith has done harm to Timothy and Paul is requesting that the Lord reward him according to his works.

1. The Lord Will Have the Final Word - How God brings justice to those who harm us

2. The Power of Prayer - How God listens for our requests and answers them

1. Psalm 37:28-29 - For the Lord loves justice; he will not forsake his saints. They are preserved forever, but the children of the wicked shall be cut off.

2. Romans 12:19 - Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, “Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord.”

2 Timothy 4:15 Of whom be thou ware also; for he hath greatly withstood our words.

Paul is warning Timothy to be aware of a specific individual who has opposed Paul's teachings.

1. We should be aware of those who oppose the truth of God's Word.

2. We must remain vigilant in our faith and reject false teachings.

1. Colossians 2:8 - See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the elemental spiritual forces of this world rather than on Christ.

2. 1 John 4:1 - Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world.

2 Timothy 4:16 At my first answer no man stood with me, but all men forsook me: I pray God that it may not be laid to their charge.

Paul reflects on the lack of support he received when he was first arrested and hopes that God will not hold it against them.

1. Faithfulness in the Face of Adversity

2. Standing with the Oppressed

1. Psalm 27:10 “When my father and my mother forsake me, then the Lord will take me up.”

2. 1 Peter 4:19 “Therefore let those who suffer according to God's will entrust their souls to a faithful Creator while doing good.”

2 Timothy 4:17 Notwithstanding the Lord stood with me, and strengthened me; that by me the preaching might be fully known, and that all the Gentiles might hear: and I was delivered out of the mouth of the lion.

Paul was encouraged and strengthened by the Lord so that he could preach to all the gentiles and be delivered from a dangerous situation.

1. The Lord's Strength: Finding Courage and Comfort in Difficult Times

2. The Lord's Provision: Relying on God During Times of Persecution

1. Psalm 18:2 – The Lord is my rock, my fortress and my deliverer; my God is my rock, in whom I take refuge, my shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.

2. Isaiah 41:10 – So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.

2 Timothy 4:18 And the Lord shall deliver me from every evil work, and will preserve me unto his heavenly kingdom: to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

Paul encourages Timothy to remain faithful to the Lord, as He will deliver and protect him from all evil and bring him to his heavenly kingdom.

1. The Lord's Protection: Trusting in God During Times of Trouble

2. Unshakable Faith: Standing Firm in the Lord

1. Psalm 121:7-8 - The Lord shall preserve thee from all evil: he shall preserve thy soul. The Lord shall preserve thy going out and thy coming in from this time forth, and even for evermore.

2. 2 Peter 1:3-4 - According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue: Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.

2 Timothy 4:19 Salute Prisca and Aquila, and the household of Onesiphorus.

Paul sends greetings to Prisca, Aquila, and the household of Onesiphorus.

1. The Power of Kindness: How Prisca, Aquila, and Onesiphorus Demonstrate the Power of

Kindness and Generosity.

2. The Power of Encouragement: How Paul Encouraged the Church through Recognition and Affirmation.

1. Romans 16:3-4 - Greet Prisca and Aquila, my fellow workers in Christ Jesus, who risked their necks for my life, to whom not only I give thanks but all the churches of the Gentiles give thanks as well.

4. 1 Thessalonians 5:11 - Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing.

2 Timothy 4:20 Erastus abode at Corinth: but Trophimus have I left at Miletum sick.

Paul left Trophimus, a companion, at Miletum who was sick.

1. The Power of Companionship: Paul and Trophimus

2. The Strength of Friendship: Caring for Those in Need

1. Acts 20:4 - “And there accompanied him into Asia Sopater of Berea; and of the Thessalonians, Aristarchus and Secundus; and Gaius of Derbe, and Timotheus; and of Asia, Tychicus and Trophimus.”

2. Ecclesiastes 4:9-10 - “Two are better than one; because they have a good reward for their labour. For if they fall, the one will lift up his fellow: but woe to him that is alone when he falleth; for he hath not another to help him up.”

2 Timothy 4:21 Do thy diligence to come before winter. Eubulus greeteth thee, and Pudens, and Linus, and Claudia, and all the brethren.

Paul urges Timothy to make haste and visit before winter and sends his greetings to Eubulus, Pudens, Linus, Claudia, and the other brethren.

1. The Urgency of Paul's Message: Make Haste and Visit Before Winter

2. The Power of Brotherhood: Paul's Greetings to Eubulus, Pudens, Linus, Claudia, and the Other Brethren

1. Proverbs 19:2 - "Desire without knowledge is not good, and whoever makes haste with his feet misses his way."

2. Hebrews 10:24-25 - "And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near."

2 Timothy 4:22 The Lord Jesus Christ be with thy spirit. Grace be with you. Amen.

Paul expresses his blessings to Timothy, wishing him the Lord Jesus Christ's presence and grace.

1. The Power of the Blessing: Learning to Receive and Give God's Grace

2. Living in the Presence of the Lord: Renewing Our Commitment to Christ

1. Ephesians 5:1-2 - "Be imitators of God, therefore, as dearly loved children and live a life of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God."

2. Romans 12:1-2 - "Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will."

Titus 1 is the first chapter of the letter written by the apostle Paul to Titus, a fellow worker and companion in ministry. In this chapter, Paul provides instructions to Titus regarding the appointment of elders and warns against false teachers.

1st Paragraph: Paul emphasizes the qualifications and responsibilities of elders (Titus 1:1-9). He identifies himself as a servant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ, writing to Titus who shares a common faith. Paul encourages Titus to appoint elders in every town who are blameless, faithful husbands with believing children. These elders should be men known for their integrity, not given to drunkenness or violence but hospitable, self-controlled, upright, holy, and disciplined. They should hold firmly to the trustworthy message as taught so that they can encourage others in sound doctrine and refute those who oppose it.

2nd Paragraph: Paul warns against false teachers (Titus 1:10-16). He describes them as

rebellious people who disrupt whole households by teaching things they should not for dishonest gain. Paul urges Titus to rebuke them sharply so that they may be sound in faith and not pay attention to Jewish myths or human commands from those who reject the truth. He highlights that for those with defiled minds and consciences, nothing is pure; they profess to know God but deny Him by their actions. These false teachers are detestable, disobedient, unfit for any good work.

3rd Paragraph: The chapter concludes with instructions on dealing with specific groups within the church (Titus 1:10-16). Paul advises Titus regarding different groups such as circumcision party members from among Jews who promote legalistic practices contrary to the truth of grace. He instructs him not to pay attention or give credence to these divisive teachings but instead rebuke them firmly so that they may be sound in faith.

In summary,

Chapter one of Titus focuses on the appointment of elders and warns against false teachers within the church.

Paul provides instructions to Titus regarding the qualifications and responsibilities of elders, emphasizing their integrity and adherence to sound doctrine.

He warns against false teachers who disrupt households and promote teachings contrary to the truth. Paul urges Titus to rebuke them sharply and not give credence to their divisive teachings.

The chapter concludes with specific instructions on dealing with groups promoting legalistic practices. This chapter serves as a guide for appointing qualified leaders, a warning against false teaching, and instructions on maintaining sound doctrine within the church community.

Titus 1:1 Paul, a servant of God, and an apostle of Jesus Christ, according to the faith of God's elect, and the acknowledging of the truth which is after godliness;

Paul is an apostle of Jesus Christ, and a servant of God, who is sent to spread the faith of God's chosen people and the truth of godliness.

1. A Call to Follow God's Elect and Acknowledge the Truth of Godliness

2. Serving God and Living According to His Truth

1. Romans 1:17 - For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith, as it is written, “The righteous shall live by faith.”

2. Ephesians 4:1-3 - I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

Titus 1:2 In hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began;

This passage emphasizes God's promise of eternal life and His truthfulness.

1: God's Eternal Promise of Life

2: God's Unwavering Truthfulness

1: John 3:16 - For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

2: Hebrews 6:18 - God did this so that, by two unchangeable things in which it is impossible for God to lie, we who have fled to take hold of the hope set before us may be greatly encouraged.

Titus 1:3 But hath in due times manifested his word through preaching, which is committed unto me according to the commandment of God our Saviour;

Paul was given the commandment of God to preach the Word in due time.

1. The Power of Preaching and the Commandment of God

2. The Word of God: A Commandment to Be Preached

1. 2 Timothy 4:2 "Preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching."

2. Isaiah 40:8 "The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever."

Titus 1:4 To Titus, mine own son after the common faith: Grace, mercy, and peace, from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ our Saviour.

Paul wrote a letter to his son Titus, wishing him grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and Jesus Christ.

1. Learning from the example of Paul's faith.

2. Growing in grace, mercy, and peace.

1. 2 Timothy 1:5 - "I am reminded of your sincere faith, which first lived in your grandmother Lois and in your mother Eunice and, I am persuaded, now lives in you also."

2. Philippians 4:6-7 - "Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."

Titus 1:5 For this cause left I thee in Crete, that thou shouldest set in order the things that are wanting, and ordain elders in every city, as I had appointed thee:

Paul left Titus in Crete to organize what needed to be done and appoint elders in every city.

1. The Power of Purpose: Finding Your Place in God's Plan

2. The Great Commission: Reaching Out to Serve Others

1. Matthew 28:19-20 - Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.

2. Ephesians 4:11-12 - So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up.

Titus 1:6 If any be blameless, the husband of one wife, having faithful children not accused of riot or unruly.

The passage is about the qualification of an elder in the church, which includes being blameless and having a faithful wife and children who are not unruly.

1. "Living a Blameless Life: A Study in Titus 1:6"

2. "The Qualifications of an Elder: A Study in Titus 1:6"

1. Ephesians 5:1-2 - "Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God."

2. 1 Timothy 3:2-3 - "Therefore an overseer must be above reproach, the husband of one wife, sober-minded, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, not a drunkard, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money."

Titus 1:7 For a bishop must be blameless, as the steward of God; not selfwilled, not soon angry, not given to wine, no striker, not given to filthy lucre;

A bishop must lead an exemplary life of service to God.

1: In Titus 1:7, Paul reminds us that our lives must be worthy of the calling of being a bishop of the Lord.

2: We must be blameless in our actions, humble in our attitude, and free from greed and anger.

1: Ephesians 4:1-3 - I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called, with all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love; Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

2: James 3:17 - But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be intreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy.

Titus 1:8 But a lover of hospitality, a lover of good men, sober, just, holy, temperate;

1: We should all strive to be hospitable, good, sober, just, holy, and temperate.

2: Love and kindness are key attributes that every Christian should possess.

1: Philippians 4:8-9 - Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.

2: James 1:19-20 - Know this, my beloved brothers: let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger; for the anger of man does not produce the righteousness of God.

Titus 1:9 Holding fast the faithful word as he hath been taught, that he may be able by sound doctrine both to exhort and to convince the gainsayers.

This passage emphasizes holding onto the faithful word of God, so that people can be convinced to turn away from sin.

1. The Power of the Word: How Biblical Truth Can Transform Lives

2. Rejecting False Teachings: How God's Word Guides Us

1. 2 Timothy 3:16-17 - “All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.”

2. Hebrews 4:12-13 - “For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart. Nothing in all creation is hidden from God’s sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account.”

Titus 1:10 For there are many unruly and vain talkers and deceivers, specially they of the circumcision:

There are many people who are unruly and talk vainly, especially those of the Jewish faith.

1. The Danger of Unruly Talk - Exploring the dangers of speaking unruly words and the need to be careful with our words.

2. The Faith of the Circumcision - Exploring the faith of the Jewish people and its importance in our lives.

1. James 3:6 - "And the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity: so is the tongue among our members, that it defileth the whole body, and setteth on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire of hell."

2. Proverbs 15:28 - "The heart of the righteous studieth to answer: but the mouth of the wicked poureth out evil things."

Titus 1:11 Whose mouths must be stopped, who subvert whole houses, teaching things which they ought not, for filthy lucre's sake.

Those who teach false doctrine for personal gain must be silenced.

1. The Danger of False Doctrine

2. Greed and Its Perils

1. Ezekiel 13:18-19 - And say, Thus saith the Lord God; Woe to the women that sew pillows to all armholes, and make kerchiefs upon the head of every stature to hunt souls! Will ye hunt the souls of my people, and will ye save the souls alive that come unto you?

2. 1 Timothy 6:3-5 - If any man teach otherwise, and consent not to wholesome words, even the words of our Lord Jesus Christ, and to the doctrine which is according to godliness; He is proud, knowing nothing, but doting about questions and strifes of words, whereof cometh envy, strife, railings, evil surmisings, Perverse disputings of men of corrupt minds, and destitute of the truth, supposing that gain is godliness: from such withdraw thyself.

Titus 1:12 One of themselves, even a prophet of their own, said, The Cretians are alway liars, evil beasts, slow bellies.

The prophet of their own declared that the Cretians are liars, evil beasts, and slow bellies.

1. The Danger of Deceit

2. The Power of Good Character

1. Proverbs 10:9 - He who walks in integrity walks securely, but he who perverts his ways will become known.

2. Proverbs 11:3 - The integrity of the upright will guide them, but the perversity of the unfaithful will destroy them.

Titus 1:13 This witness is true. Wherefore rebuke them sharply, that they may be sound in the faith;

Paul instructs Titus to rebuke false teachers sharply so that they may remain firm in the faith.

1. The Power of Rebuke: How to Respond to False Teaching

2. Firm in the Faith: Staying Resolute in the Face of False Teachers

1. 2 Timothy 4:2-5 - Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.

2. Ephesians 4:14-15 - That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive.

Titus 1:14 Not giving heed to Jewish fables, and commandments of men, that turn from the truth.

Paul encourages Titus to disregard false teachings and instead focus on the truth.

1. The Power of Truth: Learning to Discern What is Real in an Age of Falsehoods

2. Turning from the Fables: Overcoming the Temptation to Follow the Commandments of Men

1. Proverbs 3:5-7 - Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths. Be not wise in thine own eyes: fear the Lord, and depart from evil.

2. Colossians 2:8 - Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ.

Titus 1:15 Unto the pure all things are pure: but unto them that are defiled and unbelieving is nothing pure; but even their mind and conscience is defiled.

All things are pure for those who are pure, but for those who are defiled and unbelieving, nothing is pure; even their mind and conscience is defiled.

1. Don't allow yourself to become defiled, for nothing will remain pure.

2. It is important to maintain purity of mind and conscience.

1. Ephesians 4:17-32 - Put off the old self and put on the new self.

2. Proverbs 4:23 - Guard your heart, for it is the wellspring of life.

Titus 1:16 They profess that they know God; but in works they deny him, being abominable, and disobedient, and unto every good work reprobate.

We should not be deceived by those who profess to know God, but deny Him through their bad works.

1: "Living Out Our Faith: A Call to Good Works."

2: "Living a Life of Faith: Actions Speak Louder than Words."

1: James 2:14-17 "What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save them? Suppose a brother or a sister is without clothes and daily food. If one of you says to them, “Go in peace; keep warm and well fed,” but does nothing about their physical needs, what good is it? In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead."

2: Matthew 7:21-23 "Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. Many will say to me on that day, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name and in your name drive out demons and in your name perform many miracles?’ Then I will tell them plainly, ‘I

never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!’"

Titus 2 is the second chapter of the letter written by the apostle Paul to Titus, a fellow worker and companion in ministry. In this chapter, Paul provides practical instructions for different groups within the church community, emphasizing godly living and sound doctrine.

1st Paragraph: Paul instructs Titus regarding various age groups within the church (Titus 2:1-10). He urges Titus to teach sound doctrine that aligns with the gospel of Jesus Christ. Specifically, he encourages older men to be sober-minded, dignified, self-controlled, and sound in faith. Older women are instructed to be reverent in behavior, not slanderers or slaves to much wine but teachers of what is good. Younger men are encouraged to be self-controlled and show integrity in their conduct. Slaves are instructed to be submissive and faithful servants.

2nd Paragraph: Paul highlights the redemptive work of Christ and its impact on believers' lives (Titus 2:11-14). He emphasizes that God's grace has appeared bringing salvation for all people. This grace trains believers to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions while living self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in this present age. Paul reminds Titus that believers eagerly await the blessed hope—the appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ—who gave Himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and purify for Himself a people for His own possession who are zealous for good works.

3rd Paragraph: The chapter concludes with specific instructions on how Titus should teach these things (Titus 2:15). Paul charges Titus to speak these things with authority so that no one disregards him. He advises him not to let anyone look down on him because of his youth but instead set an example in speech, conduct, love, faithfulness, and purity.

In summary,

Chapter two of Titus provides practical instructions for different groups within the church community, emphasizing godly living and sound doctrine.

Paul instructs Titus regarding the behavior and conduct of older men, older women, younger men, and slaves.

He highlights the redemptive work of Christ and its impact on believers' lives, emphasizing the need to renounce ungodliness and live in anticipation of Christ's return.

The chapter concludes with a charge to Titus to teach these things with authority, setting an example in his own life. This chapter serves as a guide for godly living within the church community, highlighting the transformative power of God's grace and urging believers to live in accordance with sound doctrine.

Titus 2:1 But speak thou the things which become sound doctrine:

1: Speak truth that is consistent with God's Word.

2: Share God's Word faithfully and accurately.

1: Proverbs 23:23-24 "Buy truth, and do not sell it; buy wisdom, instruction, and understanding.”

2: 2 Timothy 4:2 “Preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching.”

Titus 2:2 That the aged men be sober, grave, temperate, sound in faith, in charity, in patience.

Older men should live lives of sobriety, seriousness, temperance, faithfulness, charity, and patience.

1. The Virtue of Patience: Finding Calm in the Storm of Life

2. The Wisdom of Age: How To Live a Life of Integrity

1. Galatians 5:22-23 - But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.

2. James 1:2-4 - Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

Titus 2:3 The aged women likewise, that they be in behaviour as becometh holiness, not false accusers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things;

Older women should be holy in their behavior, avoiding false accusations and drunkenness and teaching good things.

1. Living Holy Lives as Older Women

2. Teaching Good Things and Avoiding the Bad

1. Ephesians 4:17-32 - Walking in a Manner Worthy of the Calling

2. Proverbs 20:1 - The Power of Wine and Strong Drink

Titus 2:4 That they may teach the young women to be sober, to love their husbands, to love their children,

This passage encourages us to teach young women to be self-controlled, to love their husbands, and to love their children.

1. "Living in Love: Caring for Our Families"

2. "The Power of Self-Control: A Blessing for Everyone"

1. Ephesians 5:21-33 - submit to one another out of reverence for Christ

2. Proverbs 31:10-31 - the ideal wife's qualities and conduct

Titus 2:5 To be discreet, chaste, keepers at home, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God be not blasphemed.

The passage emphasizes the importance for women to be discreet, chaste, keepers at home, good, and obedient to their husbands so that the word of God is not blasphemed.

1. Women: Living According to God's Word

2. The Power of a Godly Woman

1. Proverbs 31:10-31

2. 1 Peter 3:1-7

Titus 2:6 Young men likewise exhort to be sober minded.

The passage encourages young men to maintain a sober and sensible attitude.

1. Living a Life of Wisdom: The Value of Sober Mindedness

2. A Righteous Mind: Spiritual Sobriety for Young Men

1. Proverbs 23:19-20 - “Hear thou, my son, and be wise, and guide thine heart in the way. Be not among winebibbers; among riotous eaters of flesh: For the drunkard and the glutton shall come to poverty: and drowsiness shall clothe a man with rags.”

2. Proverbs 3:21-22 - “My son, let not them depart from thine eyes: keep sound wisdom and discretion: So shall they be life unto thy soul, and grace to thy neck.”

Titus 2:7 In all things shewing thyself a pattern of good works: in doctrine shewing uncorruptness, gravity, sincerity,

This passage encourages believers to demonstrate good works and uphold good doctrine.

1: Living a life of good works - Titus 2:7

2: Upholding sound doctrine - Titus 2:7

1: Ephesians 2:10 - For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

2: 2 Timothy 3:16-17 - All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

Titus 2:8 Sound speech, that cannot be condemned; that he that is of the contrary part may be ashamed, having no evil thing to say of you.

The importance of speaking words that are not condemnable and that will not bring shame to those who oppose us.

1: The Power of Our Words - How our words can be used for good, or cause harm.

2: The Responsibility of Our Words - How we have a responsibility to use words that will not reflect badly on us or bring shame to those who oppose us.

1: James 3:2-10 - The power of the tongue and its importance in our lives.

2: Proverbs 12:18 - The power of words to bring life or death.

Titus 2:9 Exhort servants to be obedient unto their own masters, and to please them well in all things; not answering again;

This passage encourages servants to be obedient and pleasing to their masters in all things, without answering back.

1: Living a Life of Obedience - Titus 2:9

2: Serving with Pleasing Attitudes - Titus 2:9

1: Ephesians 6:5-8 - Slaves, obey your earthly masters with respect and fear, and with sincerity of heart, just as you would obey Christ.

2: Colossians 3:22-24 - Slaves, obey your earthly masters in everything; and do it, not only when their eye is on you and to win their favor, but with sincerity of heart and reverence for the Lord.

Titus 2:10 Not purloining, but shewing all good fidelity; that they may adorn the doctrine of God our Saviour in all things.

1. The Power of Being Faithful

2. Adorning the Doctrine of God Our Saviour

1. Psalm 37:3, "Trust in the Lord and do good; dwell in the land and enjoy safe pasture."

2. Hebrews 13:5, "Keep your life free from love of money, and be content with what you

have, for he has said, “I will never leave you nor forsake you.”

Titus 2:11 For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men,

The grace of God has been revealed to everyone, bringing salvation.

1. The Unconditional Love of God - Exploring the Grace of Salvation

2. The Gift of Grace - How to Receive God's Salvation

1. John 3:16 - For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

2. Romans 6:23 - For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Titus 2:12 Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world;

Live a godly life in this world by denying worldly lusts.

1: Denying Unrighteousness and Worldly Lusts

2: Living Soberly, Righteously, and Godly in This Present World

1: 1 John 2:15-17 - Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

2: Romans 12:2 - Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind.

Titus 2:13 Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ;

The blessed hope is the glorious appearing of Jesus Christ.

1. Looking Ahead: Preparing for the Glorious Appearing of Jesus Christ

2. Hope in the Promised Return of Christ

1. Isaiah 25:9 - And it shall be said in that day, Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, and he will save us: this is the LORD; we have waited for him, we will be glad and rejoice in his salvation.

2. Romans 8:24-25 - For we were saved in this hope, but hope that is seen is not hope; for why does one still hope for what he sees? But if we hope for what we do not see, we eagerly wait for it with perseverance.

Titus 2:14 Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.

God gave Himself up for us to redeem us from all sin and to make us a special people eager to do good works.

1. The Power of Redemption: How God's Sacrifice Changed Our Lives

2. Becoming a People of Good Works: What It Means to Follow Jesus

1. Romans 3:24-25 - "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus."

2. Ephesians 2:10 - "For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do."

Titus 2:15 These things speak, and exhort, and rebuke with all authority. Let no man despise thee.

This passage encourages believers to be bold and not allow themselves to be despised.

1. Stand firm in your faith and do not let anyone look down on you.

2. Be courageous in your beliefs and do not be afraid to stand up for them.

1. Ephesians 6:10-11 - Be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might. Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil.

2. 1 Peter 3:15 - But in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect.

Titus 3 is the third chapter of the letter written by the apostle Paul to Titus, a fellow worker and companion in ministry. In this chapter, Paul emphasizes the importance of good works, godly behavior, and unity within the church community.

1st Paragraph: Paul reminds Titus of the believers' former state of sin and God's mercy (Titus 3:1-7). He urges them to be submissive to rulers and authorities, ready for every good work. Paul emphasizes that believers were once foolish, disobedient, deceived by passions and pleasures, living in malice and envy. However, God's kindness and love appeared through Jesus Christ who saved them through the washing of regeneration and renewal by the Holy Spirit. This salvation is not based on their own righteous deeds but according to God's mercy.

2nd Paragraph: Paul emphasizes the importance of good works (Titus 3:8-11). He encourages Titus to insist on these things so that believers may be careful to devote themselves to good works. These good works are excellent and profitable for people. However, Paul warns against foolish controversies, genealogies, dissensions, and quarrels about the law as they are unprofitable and worthless. He advises Titus to reject divisive people after giving them a warning.

3rd Paragraph: The chapter concludes with personal instructions and greetings (Titus 3:12-15). Paul informs Titus about his plans for either Artemas or Tychicus to join him in Nicopolis where he has decided to spend the winter. He urges Titus to diligently help Zenas the lawyer and Apollos on their journey so that they lack nothing. Finally, he instructs believers in Crete to learn how to devote themselves to good works for necessary needs so that they may not be unfruitful.

In summary,

Chapter three of Titus highlights God's mercy towards believers and the importance of good works and unity within the church community.

Paul reminds Titus of their former state of sin and God's saving grace through Jesus Christ, emphasizing that salvation is based on God's mercy rather than their own deeds.

He emphasizes the significance of good works, urging believers to be devoted to them while warning against divisive controversies. Paul concludes with personal instructions and greetings, encouraging believers in Crete to devote themselves to good works for necessary needs.

This chapter serves as a reminder of God's mercy, an exhortation towards good works, and a call for unity within the church community.

Titus 3:1 Put them in mind to be subject to principalities and powers, to obey magistrates, to be ready to every good work,

Remind people to submit to authority and to do what is good.

1. Obedience to Authority: A Pathway to Righteousness

2. The Power of Good Works: Living Out the Gospel

1. Romans 13:1-7

2. James 2:14-26

Titus 3:2 To speak evil of no man, to be no brawlers, but gentle, shewing all meekness unto all men.

Be gentle and show meekness to all people, avoiding speaking evil and brawling.

1. "The Power of Kindness: Making the Most of Our Words"

2. "The Blessing of Meekness: Choosing Humility Over Pride"

1. Proverbs 15:1 “A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger.”

2. Philippians 4:5 “Let your gentleness be evident to all.”

Titus 3:3 For we ourselves also were sometimes foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving divers lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful, and hating one another.

People have a tendency to be foolish, disobedient, and deceived, and can be driven by

lust and pleasure, resulting in living in malice and envy and hating one another.

1. The Danger of Sin and its Effects on Our Lives

2. Overcoming the Temptations of Sin

1. James 1:13-15 - Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am being tempted by God," for God cannot be tempted with evil, and he himself tempts no one. But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire. Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death.

2. Romans 6:12-14 - Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, to make you obey its passions. Do not present your members to sin as instruments for unrighteousness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and your members to God as instruments for righteousness. For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace.

Titus 3:4 But after that the kindness and love of God our Saviour toward man appeared,

God's kindness and love towards mankind has been revealed.

1. The Power of God's Love and Kindness

2. The Unconditional Love of God

1. John 3:16-17 - "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved."

2. Romans 5:8 - "But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us."

Titus 3:5 Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;

Through His mercy, God saved us through the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit.

1. The Mercy of God: Experiencing Redemption and Renewal

2. The Power of the Holy Spirit: Washing Away Our Sins

1. Romans 5:8-10 But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

2. Psalm 51:10 Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me.

Titus 3:6 Which he shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Saviour;

This passage speaks of God's grace, which is given to us through Jesus Christ our Saviour.

1. God's Amazing Grace: A Study of Titus 3:6

2. Jesus Christ: Our Source of Abundant Grace

1. Ephesians 2:8-9 - For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, 9 not a result of works, so that no one may boast.

2. Hebrews 4:16 - Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Titus 3:7 That being justified by his grace, we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

We are justified by God's grace, and through this, we can become heirs of eternal life.

1. God’s Amazing Grace and the Hope of Eternal Life

2. Justified by Grace: Becoming Heirs of Eternal Life

1. Romans 8:17 – “And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together.”

2. Ephesians 1:3 – “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ.”

Titus 3:8 This is a faithful saying, and these things I will that thou affirm constantly, that they which have believed in God might be careful to maintain good works. These things are good and profitable unto men.

This passage emphasizes the importance of good works as a result of faith in God.

1: Good works are not an optional add-on to faith in God, but rather an essential part of it.

2: We should be careful to practice good works as a result of our faith in God.

1: James 2:17 - "Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone."

2: Matthew 7:15-20 - "Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves. Ye shall know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles? Even so every good tree bringeth forth good fruit; but a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit. A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither can a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit. Every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire. Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them."

Titus 3:9 But avoid foolish questions, and genealogies, and contentions, and strivings about the law; for they are unprofitable and vain.

We should avoid foolish questions, genealogies, contentions, and arguments about the law because they are unprofitable and vain.

1. The Wisdom of Avoiding Unprofitable Discussions

2. The Value of Seeking Godly Discussions

1. James 3:13-17 - Who is wise and understanding among you? Let them show it by their good life, by deeds done in the humility that comes from wisdom.

2. Proverbs 14:7 - Go from the presence of a foolish man, when thou perceivest not in

him the lips of knowledge.

Titus 3:10 A man that is an heretick after the first and second admonition reject;

Rejecting divisiveness and embracing unity.

1: Working together for a common goal.

2: The importance of peace and unity.

1: Ephesians 4:1-3, “I, therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.”

2: Psalm 133:1, “Behold, how good and pleasant it is when brothers dwell in unity!”

Titus 3:11 Knowing that he that is such is subverted, and sinneth, being condemned of himself.

The passage warns that those who engage in immoral behavior are self-condemned and will suffer the consequences.

1: We must be aware that any immoral behavior we engage in will lead to our own condemnation and suffering.

2: Even though we are tempted to sin, we should be mindful of the consequences that come with it.

1: Romans 6:23 - For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

2: James 1:14-15 - But each person is tempted when they are dragged away by their own evil desire and enticed. Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death.

Titus 3:12 When I shall send Artemas unto thee, or Tychicus, be diligent to come unto me to Nicopolis: for I have determined there to winter.

Paul instructs Titus to be diligent to come to him in Nicopolis, where he has determined to winter.

1: God calls us to be diligent in our faith and walk.

2: We should be ready to respond to God's call.

1: James 4:17 - Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin.

2: Luke 12:35-38 - Let your loins be girded about, and your lights burning; And ye yourselves like unto men that wait for their lord, when he will return from the wedding; that when he cometh and knocketh, they may open unto him immediately.

Titus 3:13 Bring Zenas the lawyer and Apollos on their journey diligently, that nothing be wanting unto them.

Paul instructs Titus to ensure that Zenas the lawyer and Apollos have all the necessary items for their journey.

1. The Power of Diligence: Paul’s Instruction to Titus

2. The Importance of Preparation: An Example From Paul

1. Proverbs 21:5 - The plans of the diligent lead surely to abundance, but everyone who is hasty comes only to poverty.

2. Ephesians 5:15-16 - Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, making the best use of the time, because the days are evil.

Titus 3:14 And let ours also learn to maintain good works for necessary uses, that they be not unfruitful.

Christians should learn to do good works that are helpful to others, so that they will bear spiritual fruit.

1. "The Necessity of Good Works"

2. "Living a Life of Fruitfulness"

1. Matthew 5:16 - "Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven."

2. James 2:17 - "In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead."

Titus 3:15 All that are with me salute thee. Greet them that love us in the faith. Grace be with you all. Amen.

This verse encourages believers to greet each other in love and faith, and to extend grace to one another.

1: The Power of Greeting One Another in Love and Faith

2: The Importance of Extending Grace to All

1: Ephesians 4:2-3 “With all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.”

2: Colossians 3:14 “And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.”

Philemon 1 is a personal letter written by the apostle Paul to Philemon, a fellow believer and slave owner. In this letter, Paul appeals to Philemon on behalf of Onesimus, a runaway slave who had become a Christian while in Rome.

1st Paragraph: Paul expresses his gratitude for Philemon's faith and love (Philemon 1:1-7). He commends Philemon for his reputation as one who loves and encourages the saints. Paul acknowledges his prayers for him and mentions how he has heard of Philemon's love and faith towards the Lord Jesus Christ and all the saints. He prays that Philemon's participation in sharing his faith may become effective through the knowledge of every good thing they have in Christ.

2nd Paragraph: Paul appeals to Philemon on behalf of Onesimus (Philemon 1:8-16). He acknowledges that he could command him in what is right but prefers to appeal based on

love. Paul mentions that Onesimus, who was once unprofitable as a slave, has now become useful both to him and to Philemon. He requests that Philemon receive Onesimus back not as a mere slave but as a beloved brother in Christ. If Onesimus has wronged or owes anything, Paul offers to repay it himself.

3rd Paragraph: The letter concludes with personal greetings and requests (Philemon 1:17-25). Paul urges Philemon to prepare a guest room for him because he hopes through their prayers he will be granted freedom from prison soon. He sends greetings from fellow workers including Epaphras, Mark, Aristarchus, Demas, and Luke. In closing remarks, Paul prays for God's grace upon them all.

In summary,

The book of Philemon is a personal letter written by Paul appealing to Philemón regarding his runaway slave, Onesimus.

Paul expresses gratitude for Philemon's faith and love, commending his reputation as one who loves and encourages the saints.

He appeals to Philemon on behalf of Onesimus, requesting that he receives him back not as a slave but as a beloved brother in Christ. Paul offers to repay any wrong or debt owed by Onesimus.

Philemon 1:1 Paul, a prisoner of Jesus Christ, and Timothy our brother, unto Philemon our dearly beloved, and fellowlabourer,

Paul's letter to Philemon expressing his love and gratitude for him.

1. How to Show Love and Gratitude to Others

2. The Power of Friendship and Fellowship

1. Philippians 1:3-5 - I thank my God upon every remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine for you all making request with joy, for your fellowship in the gospel from the first day until now.

2. Proverbs 17:17 - A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for adversity.

Philemon 1:2 And to our beloved Apphia, and Archippus our fellowsoldier, and to the church in thy house:

Paul sends greetings to Apphia, Archippus and the church in Philemon's house.

1. The Importance of Fellowship in the Church

2. The Joy of Serving in the Lord's Army

1. Hebrews 10:24-25 - And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

2. Romans 12:9-13 - Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good. Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor. Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality.

Philemon 1:3 Grace to you, and peace, from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Paul sends his greetings of grace and peace from God the Father and Jesus Christ.

1. "Grace is Everywhere"

2. "Peace is a Gift from God"

1. Philippians 4:6-7 - "Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."

2. Ephesians 2:8-9 - "For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— not by works, so that no one can boast."

Philemon 1:4 I thank my God, making mention of thee always in my prayers,

The passage encourages us to thank God for our friends and remember them in our prayers.

1. "The Power of Gratitude: Blessing Our Friends Through Prayer"

2. "The Joy of Companionship: Remembering Our Loved Ones in Prayer"

1. Psalm 100:4-5 - "Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise. Give thanks to him; bless his name!"

2. Romans 12:10 - "Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor."

Philemon 1:5 Hearing of thy love and faith, which thou hast toward the Lord Jesus, and toward all saints;

Philemon is commended for his love and faith towards the Lord Jesus and all saints.

1. Living a Life of Love and Faith in Jesus

2. The Power of Faithfulness in Serving God

1. 1 Corinthians 13:13 “And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.”

2. Hebrews 11:6 “And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.”

Philemon 1:6 That the communication of thy faith may become effectual by the acknowledging of every good thing which is in you in Christ Jesus.

The communication of one's faith can be made effective through acknowledging the good in Christ Jesus.

1. The Power of Gratitude: Seeing the Good in Christ

2. Connecting with God: Effectiveness through Acknowledging the Good

1. Colossians 3:12-17

2. Philippians 4:4-9

Philemon 1:7 For we have great joy and consolation in thy love, because the bowels of the saints are refreshed by thee, brother.

The saints are filled with joy and comfort because of Philemon's love.

1: The Joy of Loving Others

2: Loving Others Refreshes the Soul

1: John 13:34-35 "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.”

2: Romans 12:10 "Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving p to one another.”

Philemon 1:8 Wherefore, though I might be much bold in Christ to enjoin thee that which is convenient,

Paul encourages Philemon to do what is best and convenient.

1: Do what is right even when it is difficult.

2: Put the needs of others before your own.

1: Philippians 2:3-5 - Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves.

2: Colossians 3:12-14 - Clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.

Philemon 1:9 Yet for love's sake I rather beseech thee, being such an one as Paul the

aged, and now also a prisoner of Jesus Christ.

Paul, an aged prisoner of Jesus Christ, appeals to Philemon out of love to take action.

1. The Power of Love: How Love Compels Us to Act

2. Aged but Still Passionate: Paul's Example of a Fervent Faith

1. Romans 5:5 - "And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us."

2. 1 Corinthians 13:13 - "And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity."

Philemon 1:10 I beseech thee for my son Onesimus, whom I have begotten in my bonds:

Paul is asking Philemon to welcome Onesimus, a former slave, back as a beloved brother in Christ.

1. The Power of Forgiveness: Jesus's Call to Accept Onesimus

2. A New Identity in Christ: Living As Brothers in Unity

1. Luke 6:37, "Judge not, and ye shall not be judged: condemn not, and ye shall not be condemned: forgive, and ye shall be forgiven."

2. Romans 12:10, "Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving p to one another."

Philemon 1:11 Which in time past was to thee unprofitable, but now profitable to thee and to me:

1: We can learn from our mistakes and use them for good.

2: God can turn our trials into joy if we trust Him.

1: Romans 8:28 - And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.

2: 2 Corinthians 5:17 - Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

Philemon 1:12 Whom I have sent again: thou therefore receive him, that is, mine own bowels:

Paul encourages Philemon to receive Onesimus with love and compassion.

1 - Love and Compassion: God's Commandment to Us

2 - Trusting in God's Plan for Us

1 - 1 John 4:19-21 - We love because he first loved us.

2 - Jeremiah 29:11 - For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.

Philemon 1:13 Whom I would have retained with me, that in thy stead he might have ministered unto me in the bonds of the gospel:

Paul requests that Philemon accept Onesimus, a former slave, back with love and forgiveness.

1. Accepting Onesimus with Love and Forgiveness: A Study of Philemon 1:13

2. Bonded by the Gospel: Forgiveness and Love in Philemon 1:13

1. John 13:34-35 - "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”

2. Ephesians 4:32 - “Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.”

Philemon 1:14 But without thy mind would I do nothing; that thy benefit should not be as it were of necessity, but willingly.

Paul wants Philemon to do something for him out of goodwill, rather than being obligated to do it.

1. The Power of Free Will

2. The Blessing of Mutual Benefit

1. Luke 6:38 - "Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you."

2. 2 Corinthians 8:7 – "But just as you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in your love for us—see that you also excel in this grace of giving."

Philemon 1:15 For perhaps he therefore departed for a season, that thou shouldest receive him for ever;

Paul encourages Philemon to receive Onesimus as a beloved brother in Christ, rather than a slave.

1. "Receiving Onesimus as a Beloved Brother in Christ"

2. "The Value of Reconciliation"

1. Colossians 3:12-15 - "Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful."

2. Luke 15:11-32 - "And he said, "There was a man who had two sons. And the younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of property that is coming to me.' And he divided his property between them. Not many days later, the younger son gathered all he had and took a journey into a far country, and there he squandered his property in reckless living. And when he had spent everything, a severe famine arose in that country,

and he began to be in need. So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him into his fields to feed pigs. And he was longing to be fed with the pods that the pigs ate, and no one gave him anything. But when he came to himself, he said, ‘How many of my father's hired servants have more than enough bread, but I perish here with hunger! I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Treat me as one of your hired servants.”’ And he arose and came to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him."

Philemon 1:16 Not now as a servant, but above a servant, a brother beloved, specially to me, but how much more unto thee, both in the flesh, and in the Lord?

Paul encourages Philemon to welcome Onesimus into his home as a beloved brother rather than as a servant.

1. The Power of Love: How to Welcome Others as Brothers in Christ

2. Accepting Everyone as Equals in the Eyes of God

1. Galatians 3:28 - “There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.”

2. Romans 12:10 - “Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor.”

Philemon 1:17 If thou count me therefore a partner, receive him as myself.

Paul requests Philemon to receive Onesimus as he would receive Paul himself.

1: We should treat others with the same kindness and acceptance that we would expect for ourselves.

2: We should accept and love others just as God accepts and loves us.

1: Luke 6:31 - "Do to others as you would have them do to you."

2: Romans 15:7 - "Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God."

Philemon 1:18 If he hath wronged thee, or oweth thee ought, put that on mine account;

Paul urges Philemon to place any wrongs or debts owed to him on Paul's account.

1. Forgiveness: The Power of Letting Go of Grudges

2. Being Generous with Others: The Rewards of Sacrificing for Others

1. Ephesians 4:32 - "Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you."

2. Matthew 6:12-14 - "And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one."

Philemon 1:19 I Paul have written it with mine own hand, I will repay it: albeit I do not say to thee how thou owest unto me even thine own self besides.

Paul is writing to Philemon, assuring him that he will repay his debt, though he does not specify what it is.

1. God's grace and mercy are greater than our debt.

2. Living with an attitude of gratitude in all circumstances.

1. Ephesians 2:4-5 “But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ —by grace you have been saved”

2. Colossians 3:15-17 “And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.”

Philemon 1:20 Yea, brother, let me have joy of thee in the Lord: refresh my bowels in the Lord.

Philemon was asking Onesimus to be reconciled with him in the Lord.

1. The Power of Reconciliation in the Lord

2. Being United in the Lord

1. Romans 15:5-6 - May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

2. Colossians 3:13-15 - Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.

Philemon 1:21 Having confidence in thy obedience I wrote unto thee, knowing that thou wilt also do more than I say.

Paul encourages Philemon to go beyond what he has asked of him.

1: Going Beyond Expectations - Philippians 3:13-14

2: Surpassing Faith - Hebrews 11:1-2

1: James 1:22-25

2: 1 John 3:18-19

Philemon 1:22 But withal prepare me also a lodging: for I trust that through your prayers I shall be given unto you.

Paul requested that Philemon prepare a place for him to stay, trusting in the power of prayer.

1. The Power of Prayer: How Prayer Can Change Lives

2. The Blessings of Obedience: How Obeying God Brings Rewards

1. James 5:16 - "The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective."

2. Philippians 4:6-7 - "Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."

Philemon 1:23 There salute thee Epaphras, my fellowprisoner in Christ Jesus;

Paul sends greetings to Philemon from his fellowprisoner Epaphras.

1. The Power of Fellowship and Unity Among the Brethren

2. Reaching Out to Brothers in Need

1. Ephesians 4:1-3 - I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

2. Hebrews 13:3 - Remember those who are in prison, as though in prison with them, and those who are mistreated, since you also are in the body.

Philemon 1:24 Marcus, Aristarchus, Demas, Lucas, my fellowlabourers.

This verse emphasizes the importance of being a good colleague and working together in harmony.

1. Together We Stand: The Power of Working Towards a Common Goal

2. The Fellowship of the Believers: The Blessing of Community

1. Ecclesiastes 4:9-12 - Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their toil. For if they fall, one will lift up his fellow. But woe to him who is alone when he falls and has not another to lift him up! Again, if two lie together, they keep warm, but how can one keep warm alone? And though a man might prevail against one who is

alone, two will withstand him—a threefold cord is not quickly broken.

2. Philippians 2:3-4 - Do nothing from rivalry or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.

Philemon 1:25 The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Amen.

The grace of Jesus Christ should be with us in our spirit.

1. God's grace is the greatest gift to those who believe in Him.

2. Appreciate the love of Jesus Christ and accept His grace.

1. Ephesians 4:7 - But to each one of us grace has been given as Christ apportioned it.

2. Romans 5:17 - For if, by the trespass of the one man, death reigned through that one man, how much more will those who receive God’s abundant provision of grace and of the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man, Jesus Christ!

Hebrews 1 is the first chapter of the book of Hebrews, an epistle written to Jewish Christians. In this chapter, the author highlights the superiority of Jesus Christ over all creation and emphasizes His divine nature and role as the Son of God.

1st Paragraph: The author establishes Jesus' supremacy over all creation (Hebrews 1:1-4). He begins by stating that in the past, God spoke to His people through prophets but in these last days, He has spoken to us through His Son. The Son is described as the heir of all things and through whom God created the world. The Son radiates God's glory and upholds all things by His powerful word. The author emphasizes that Jesus Christ is superior to angels, being exalted above them and having inherited a more excellent name than theirs.

2nd Paragraph: The author quotes several Old Testament passages to support his claim about Jesus' superiority (Hebrews 1:5-14). He quotes from Psalm 2:7, proclaiming that God has begotten Jesus as His Son. He also quotes from 2 Samuel 7:14 and Deuteronomy 32:43, affirming that God calls Jesus His firstborn and commands worship for Him from angels. The author further contrasts angels with Jesus by emphasizing their temporary nature while highlighting Jesus' eternal reign as King.

3rd Paragraph: The chapter concludes with a comparison between angels and their

ministerial role versus Jesus' position as the eternal Son (Hebrews 1:13-14). The author asks rhetorically if any angel has been told to sit at God's right hand until his enemies are made a footstool for his feet. This serves to emphasize that no angel holds such a lofty position or authority. Furthermore, angels are described as ministering spirits sent out to serve those who will inherit salvation.

In summary,

Chapter one of Hebrews establishes the superiority of Jesus Christ over all creation, including angels.

The author emphasizes that God has spoken to us through His Son in these last days, highlighting Jesus' role as the heir of all things and the creator of the world.

The chapter quotes Old Testament passages to support Jesus' superiority and contrasts Him with angels, emphasizing His eternal reign as King.

It concludes by highlighting that while angels have a ministerial role, Jesus holds a unique position as the eternal Son and rightful recipient of worship. This chapter serves to exalt Jesus Christ above all creation and establish His preeminence in both power and authority.

Hebrews 1:1 God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets,

God spoke to the fathers through various means in the past.

1: God is always present in our lives, even when we feel alone.

2: The power of God's love is shown through the way he speaks to us.

1: Romans 8:38-39 - For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

2: Matthew 28:20 - And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.

Hebrews 1:2 Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds;

God has spoken to us in the last days through His Son, whom He has appointed the heir of all and by whom He made the worlds.

1. Our Father, Our King: God's Role as Creator and Father

2. The Heir of All Things: Appointed by the Father

1. Psalm 89:27 "Also I will make him my firstborn, higher than the kings of the earth."

2. John 1:3 "All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made."

Hebrews 1:3 Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high;

God's glory and power is expressed in Jesus, who purified our sins and now sits at the right hand of God.

1: Jesus' Victory Over Sin

2: The Assurance of God's Power

1: Matthew 28:18-20 - Jesus has been given all authority in heaven and on earth

2: Romans 8:32 - God did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all

Hebrews 1:4 Being made so much better than the angels, as he hath by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they.

God has made Jesus more excellent than angels and has given Jesus an inheritance of a more excellent name.

1: We are blessed to have a Lord that is more excellent than the angels.

2: Let us be thankful for Jesus' inheritance of a more excellent name.

1: Philippians 2:9-11 - Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name.

2: Matthew 3:17 - And a voice from heaven said, ?□his is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased.??

Hebrews 1:5 For unto which of the angels said he at any time, Thou art my Son, this day have I begotten thee? And again, I will be to him a Father, and he shall be to me a Son?

God has established an exclusive relationship with His only Son, Jesus Christ.

1: Jesus Christ is God?□ beloved Son and our Savior.

2: We can trust and rely on God?□ promises to us through His Son.

1: John 3:16-17 ?□or God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.??

2: Isaiah 9:6-7 ?□or unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this.??

Hebrews 1:6 And again, when he bringeth in the firstbegotten into the world, he saith, And let all the angels of God worship him.

God has commanded all angels to worship his son, Jesus, the firstborn of creation.

1. Worshiping God's Son: How to Show Devotion and Reverence to Jesus

2. The Importance of Listening to God's Commands: The Example of the Angels

1. John 3:16 - For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

2. Colossians 1:15-17 - He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities?□ll things were created through him and for him. And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together.

Hebrews 1:7 And of the angels he saith, Who maketh his angels spirits, and his ministers a flame of fire.

God appoints angels and ministers to serve Him as spirits and flames of fire.

1. The Power of a Dedicated Servant

2. Living a Life of Fire and Passion

1. Psalm 103:20-22 "Bless the Lord, ye his angels, that excel in strength, that do his commandments, hearkening unto the voice of his word. Bless ye the Lord, all ye his hosts; ye ministers of his, that do his pleasure. Bless the Lord, all his works in all places of his dominion: bless the Lord, O my soul."

2. Matthew 25:31-46 "When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his glorious throne. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. He will put the sheep on his right and the goats on his left. Then the King will say to those on his right, ?□ome, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.??Then the righteous will answer him, ?□ord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you???The King will reply, ?□ruly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.??

Hebrews 1:8 But unto the Son he saith, Thy throne, O God, is for ever and ever: a sceptre of righteousness is the sceptre of thy kingdom.

God speaks to the Son, declaring that His throne is eternal and that His kingdom is a sceptre of righteousness.

1. God's Kingdom is Righteous - Hebrews 1:8

2. The Throne of God is Eternal - Hebrews 1:8

1. Psalm 45:6 - "Your throne, O God, will last for ever and ever."

2. Isaiah 9:7 - "The government will rest on his shoulders. And he will be called: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."

Hebrews 1:9 Thou hast loved righteousness, and hated iniquity; therefore God, even thy God, hath anointed thee with the oil of gladness above thy fellows.

This passage speaks of Jesus' love of righteousness and hatred of sin, and God rewarding him with anointment above his peers.

1. The Power of Righteousness: Embracing righteousness and rejecting sin brings God's favor.

2. God's Choosing: Jesus' example of obedience and faithfulness shows that God will always choose those who honor Him.

1. Ephesians 5:15-16 - Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, making the best use of the time, because the days are evil.

2. Matthew 6:33 - But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.

Hebrews 1:10 And, Thou, Lord, in the beginning hast laid the foundation of the earth; and the heavens are the works of thine hands:

God is the creator of the heavens and the earth.

1: We serve a God who has created everything and who desires us to bring Him glory and honor through our lives.

2: God is the author of life and all that we have is because of Him.

1: Colossians 1:16-17 - For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities?ll things were created through him and for him.

2: Isaiah 40:26 - Lift up your eyes on high and see: who created these? He who brings out their host by number, calling them all by name, by the greatness of his might, and because he is strong in power not one is missing.

Hebrews 1:11 They shall perish; but thou remainest; and they all shall wax old as doth a garment;

God's word remains forever, even when the physical world changes.

1: Don't put your faith in the things of this world, but trust in the Lord, for He remains forever.

2: When life feels like it is changing faster than you can keep up, remember that the Lord is unchanging and remains forever.

1: Isaiah 40:8 - The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever.

2: Matthew 24:35 - Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away.

Hebrews 1:12 And as a vesture shalt thou fold them up, and they shall be changed: but thou art the same, and thy years shall not fail.

God is unchanging and His years will never end.

1. The Unchanging Nature of God

2. The Enduring Power of God

1. Malachi 3:6 - "For I the Lord do not change; therefore you, O children of Jacob, are not consumed."

2. Psalm 102:27 - "But thou art the same, and thy years shall have no end."

Hebrews 1:13 But to which of the angels said he at any time, Sit on my right hand, until I make thine enemies thy footstool?

God declared to an angel to sit at His right hand until His enemies become a footstool.

1. How God's Sovereignty Points to Jesus

2. The Role of Angels in the Plan of Salvation

1. Daniel 7:13-14 - In my vision at night I looked, and there before me was one like a son of man, coming with the clouds of heaven. He approached the Ancient of Days and was led into his presence. He was given authority, glory and sovereign power; all nations and peoples of every language worshiped him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that will not pass away, and his kingdom is one that will never be destroyed.

2. Colossians 1:15-17 - He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For by him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together.

Hebrews 1:14 Are they not all ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation?

Angels are sent to minister to those who will be saved.

1. God's Grace and Love: How Angels Serve as Agents of His Will

2. The Hope of Salvation: How Angels Work to Bring Us Closer to God

1. Psalm 34:7 - The angel of the Lord encamps around those who fear him, and delivers them.

2. Luke 1:26-38 - The angel Gabriel visits Mary to tell her of her role in Jesus' birth.

Hebrews 2 is the second chapter of the book of Hebrews, where the author continues to emphasize the superiority of Jesus Christ. In this chapter, the author focuses on Jesus'

humanity, His role as our High Priest, and the importance of not neglecting our salvation.

1st Paragraph: The author highlights Jesus' humanity and His redemptive work (Hebrews 2:1-9). He urges the readers to pay close attention to what they have heard so that they do not drift away from it. The message delivered through angels proved reliable, but how much more important is it to heed the message brought by Jesus Himself? Although currently, we do not see everything subjected to Him, we see Jesus who was made lower than angels for a little while. Through His suffering and death on the cross, He tasted death for everyone and became the source of salvation for those who believe in Him.

2nd Paragraph: The author explains why it was fitting for Jesus to be made like us (Hebrews 2:10-18). It was appropriate for God to make Jesus perfect through suffering because He is bringing many sons and daughters to glory. Both Jesus and believers share a common origin since He calls them brothers and sisters. By becoming human, Jesus destroyed him who holds power over death—the devil—and freed those who were held in slavery by fear of death. As our compassionate High Priest, He became fully human in every way so that He could offer Himself as a sacrifice for sins and help those who are tempted.

3rd Paragraph: The chapter concludes with a warning against neglecting salvation (Hebrews 2:1-4). The author cautions against drifting away from such a great salvation announced by Christ Himself. If transgressions under lesser messages had severe consequences, how much more will neglecting this great salvation lead to judgment? God also bore witness through signs, wonders, miracles, and gifts of the Holy Spirit. The author emphasizes that God's testimony confirms the truth of the message, and it is crucial to pay attention to it.

In summary,

Chapter two of Hebrews continues to highlight Jesus' superiority while emphasizing His humanity and redemptive work.

The author urges the readers not to drift away from the message brought by Jesus Himself, who became lower than angels for a little while but tasted death for everyone, becoming the source of salvation.

The chapter explains why it was fitting for Jesus to be made like us, highlighting His role as our compassionate High Priest who destroyed the power of death and freed us from slavery. He became fully human in every way so that He could offer Himself as a sacrifice for sins and help those who are tempted.

The chapter concludes with a warning against neglecting this great salvation announced by Christ Himself. The author cautions against drifting away and emphasizes that God's testimony confirms its truth. This chapter serves as a reminder of Jesus' humanity, His redemptive work on our behalf, and the importance of not neglecting our salvation.

Hebrews 2:1 Therefore we ought to give the more earnest heed to the things which we have heard, lest at any time we should let them slip.

We should pay close attention to the teachings we have heard, so that we do not forget them.

1. The Importance of Heed: A on Hebrews 2:1

2. Remember God's Word: A on Hebrews 2:1

1. Deuteronomy 4:9 - Only take heed to yourself, and diligently keep yourself, lest you forget the things your eyes have seen, and lest they depart from your heart all the days of your life.

2. Psalm 119:11 - Your word I have hidden in my heart, That I might not sin against You.

Hebrews 2:2 For if the word spoken by angels was stedfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just recompence of reward;

God's word is steadfast and disobedience has consequences.

1: Be Steadfast in God's Word

2: The Consequences of Disobedience

1: 1 Corinthians 10:12-13 - Therefore let anyone who thinks that he stands take heed lest he fall. No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.

2: Proverbs 3:5-6 - Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.

Hebrews 2:3 How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation; which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard him;

Neglecting God's great salvation has dire consequences.

1: We must recognize the importance of God's salvation and take it seriously.

2: We should not take lightly the words of God, spoken through Jesus and confirmed by those who heard him.

1: 1 Thessalonians 5:9 - For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ.

2: John 3:16 - For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

Hebrews 2:4 God also bearing them witness, both with signs and wonders, and with divers miracles, and gifts of the Holy Ghost, according to his own will?

God bore witness to humanity with various miracles and gifts of the Holy Ghost in accordance with His will.

1. God's Will is Unfailing and Undeniable

2. God's Miracles are a Sign of His Presence

1. John 4:24 - God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.

2. Acts 4:29-30 - Now, Lord, consider their threats and enable your servants to speak your word with great boldness. Stretch out your hand to heal and perform signs and wonders through the name of your holy servant Jesus.

Hebrews 2:5 For unto the angels hath he not put in subjection the world to come, whereof we speak.

The world to come has not been put in subjection to angels.

1: We must place our trust, faith, and hope in God, not in angels.

2: We must be aware that the world to come is not governed by angels, but by God.

1: 1 Peter 1:3-5 - Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you, who through faith are shielded by God’s power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time.

2: Psalm 33:20-22 - We wait in hope for the LORD; he is our help and our shield. In him our hearts rejoice, for we trust in his holy name. May your unfailing love rest upon us, O LORD, even as we put our hope in you.

Hebrews 2:6 But one in a certain place testified, saying, What is man, that thou art mindful of him? or the son of man, that thou visitest him?

Man is of little significance and yet God still takes notice of him.

1. God's Grace and Man's Worthlessness

2. Man's Humility and God's Sovereignty

1. Psalm 8:4-5 - What is man, that thou art mindful of him? and the son of man, that thou visitest him? For thou hast made him a little lower than the angels, and hast crowned him with glory and honour.

2. Isaiah 40:17-18 - All nations before him are as nothing; and they are counted to him less than nothing, and vanity. To whom then will ye liken God? or what likeness will ye compare unto him?

Hebrews 2:7 Thou madest him a little lower than the angels; thou crownedst him with glory and honour, and didst set him over the works of thy hands:

God created humanity to be just a little lower than angels and crowned them with glory and honor, setting them over all of God's works.

1. The Unparalleled Worth of Humanity: Celebrating the Dignity of Being Created in the Image of God

2. The Majesty of Humility: Embracing Our Place in Creation as God's Handcrafted Image

Bearers

1. Genesis 1:26-27 - Then God said, “Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground.”

2. Psalm 8:4-5 - What is mankind that you are mindful of them, human beings that you care for them? You have made them a little lower than the angels and crowned them with glory and honor.

Hebrews 2:8 Thou hast put all things in subjection under his feet. For in that he put all in subjection under him, he left nothing that is not put under him. But now we see not yet all things put under him.

Jesus has been given authority over all things and has subjected them to himself, but not everything is under his authority yet.

1. The Authority of Jesus: Understanding the Power We've Been Given

2. The Kingdom of Heaven: The Subjugation of All Things to Jesus

1. Philippians 2:10 - "that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth"

2. Ephesians 1:22 - "And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church"

Hebrews 2:9 But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour; that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man.

Jesus was made lower than the angels and suffered death so that everyone could have salvation.

1. Jesus, Our Suffering Savior: Understanding the Grace of God

2. The Crown of Glory: Experiencing the Honor of Jesus

1. Isaiah 53:5 “But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed.”

2. Romans 5:8 “But God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”

Hebrews 2:10 For it became him, for whom are all things, and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons unto glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings.

God perfects the captain of our salvation through suffering, so that many sons can be brought into glory.

1. The Suffering of the Captain of Our Salvation

2. The Glorious Future Awaiting Many Sons

1. Romans 8:17 - And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together.

2. Matthew 16:24 - Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.

Hebrews 2:11 For both he that sanctifieth and they who are sanctified are all of one: for which cause he is not ashamed to call them brethren,

Jesus is not ashamed to call us his brothers and sisters, as we are all of one family in God.

1: Jesus calls us family - Hebrews 2:11

2: Living as family in God - Hebrews 2:11

1: Romans 8:15-17 - For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father.

2: Galatians 4:4-7 - But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son,

made of a woman, made under the law, To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons.

Hebrews 2:12 Saying, I will declare thy name unto my brethren, in the midst of the church will I sing praise unto thee.

The author of Hebrews declares God's name and praises Him in the midst of the church.

1. The Power of Praise: Celebrating God's Name in Community

2. A Call to Worship: Rejoicing in the Lord Together

1. Colossians 3:16 - Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts.

2. Ephesians 5:19-20 - Speak to one another with psalms, hymns and spiritual songs. Sing and make music in your heart to the Lord, always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Hebrews 2:13 And again, I will put my trust in him. And again, Behold I and the children which God hath given me.

The author of Hebrews is declaring his trust in God and acknowledging the children God has given him.

1. Trusting God in All Circumstances

2. Relying on God’s Promises

1. Isaiah 12:2 - "Behold, God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid: for the LORD JEHOVAH is my strength and my song; he also is become my salvation."

2. Proverbs 3:5-6 - "Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.”

Hebrews 2:14 Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had

the power of death, that is, the devil;

Jesus became human to save us from death and the devil.

1: Jesus gave up his Heavenly life to save us from death and the devil.

2: Jesus conquered death and the devil through his death as a human.

1: Philippians 2:5-11 - Jesus humbled himself, becoming obedient to death on the cross.

2: 1 Corinthians 15:26 - The last enemy to be destroyed is death.

Hebrews 2:15 And deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.

Hebrews 2:15 explains that Jesus came to redeem us from fear of death, which kept us in bondage our whole lives.

1. Victory over Fear: Jesus came to deliver us from the fear of death so that we can live in freedom and joy.

2. Redemption from Bondage: Through Jesus, we can be freed from the bondage of fear and experience the fullness of life.

1. John 8:36 - “So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.”

2. Romans 8:15 - “For you did not receive a spirit that makes you a slave again to fear, but you received the Spirit of sonship. And by him we cry, ‘Abba, Father.’”

Hebrews 2:16 For verily he took not on him the nature of angels; but he took on him the seed of Abraham.

Jesus became man to save humanity from their sins.

1. The Greatness of Jesus: Understanding his mission to become man and save us.

2. The Worth of the Human Race: Recognizing the value of man in the eyes of God.

1. Romans 5:8 - "But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us."

2. Galatians 4:4-5 - "But when the set time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those under the law, that we might receive adoption to sonship."

Hebrews 2:17 Wherefore in all things it behoved him to be made like unto his brethren, that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people.

Jesus became like his brothers and sisters in order to be a merciful and faithful high priest, and to reconcile people to God.

1. Jesus' Mercy and Faithfulness as High Priest

2. Reconciliation and the Atonement of Jesus

1. Isaiah 53:5 - But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.

2. 1 Peter 3:18 - For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit.

Hebrews 2:18 For in that he himself hath suffered being tempted, he is able to succour them that are tempted.

Jesus suffered and understands our struggles, so He can help us.

1: Jesus is a Friend in Need - Hebrews 2:18

2: Taking Comfort in the Compassion of Christ - Hebrews 2:18

1: Isaiah 53:3-5 - He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief; and as one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and

we esteemed him not.

2: 2 Corinthians 1:3-4 - Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.

Hebrews 3 is the third chapter of the book of Hebrews, where the author continues to exhort and warn the readers about the danger of unbelief and encourages them to hold fast to their faith in Christ.

1st Paragraph: The author compares Jesus with Moses and emphasizes Jesus' superiority (Hebrews 3:1-6). He describes Jesus as the apostle and high priest of our confession, worthy of greater glory than Moses. While Moses was faithful in God's house as a servant, Jesus is faithful over God's house as a Son. The author reminds the readers that they are partakers in Christ if they hold fast their confidence and hope until the end. He encourages them not to harden their hearts like their ancestors did during times of rebellion but rather to encourage one another daily.

2nd Paragraph: The author warns against unbelief using Israel's example in the wilderness (Hebrews 3:7-11). Quoting from Psalm 95, he reminds them of God's words when Israel rebelled in the wilderness. Their hearts were hardened, and they tested God despite witnessing His works for forty years. As a result, that generation could not enter God's rest. The author cautions against having an unbelieving heart but instead urges them to exhort one another daily so that none may be hardened by sin's deceitfulness.

3rd Paragraph: The chapter concludes with an exhortation based on Israel's disobedience (Hebrews 3:12-19). The author warns against falling away from the living God due to an evil, unbelieving heart. Instead, he urges them to encourage one another daily while it is still called "today" so that none may be hardened by sin. He points out that it was because of unbelief that Israel could not enter into God's rest promised through Joshua. Therefore, he exhorts his readers not to repeat the same mistake but to strive to enter that rest through faith.

In summary,

Chapter three of Hebrews emphasizes Jesus' superiority over Moses and warns against unbelief using Israel's example in the wilderness.

The author highlights Jesus as the faithful Son over God's house and encourages the readers to hold fast their confidence in Him.

He cautions against having a hardened, unbelieving heart like Israel did in the wilderness, urging them to exhort one another daily and not fall away from God due to sin's deceitfulness.

The chapter concludes with an exhortation based on Israel's disobedience, emphasizing the importance of faith and striving to enter into God's promised rest. This chapter serves as a reminder of Jesus' superiority, a warning against unbelief, and an encouragement for believers to persevere in their faith.

Hebrews 3:1 Wherefore, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling, consider the Apostle and High Priest of our profession, Christ Jesus;

This passage encourages us to consider Jesus as our Apostle and High Priest.

1. The Greatness of Our Lord Jesus Christ

2. Meditating on Jesus: Our High Priest

1. Philippians 2:5-11; Jesus humbled himself and was obedient to the point of death

2. Hebrews 4:14-16; Jesus is our great High Priest who sympathizes with us in our weaknesses

Hebrews 3:2 Who was faithful to him that appointed him, as also Moses was faithful in all his house.

The passage talks about the faithfulness of Moses in the house of God.

1: We must be faithful to God in our service to Him.

2: We can strive to be like Moses and be faithful in the house of God.

1: Luke 16:10 He that is faithful in that which is least is faithful also in much: and he that is unjust in the least is unjust also in much.

2: Galatians 5:22-23 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.

Hebrews 3:3 For this man was counted worthy of more glory than Moses, inasmuch as he who hath builded the house hath more honour than the house.

Jesus is more glorious than Moses because the builder of a house has more honour than the house itself.

1. The Glorification of Jesus - Examining Jesus' glory in Hebrews 3:3

2. The Wisdom of the Builder - Exploring the honour of the house builder in Hebrews 3:3

1. Isaiah 66:1 - Thus saith the Lord, The heaven is my throne, and the earth is my footstool: where is the house that ye build unto me?

2. Matthew 7:24-27 - Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock.

Hebrews 3:4 For every house is builded by some man; but he that built all things is God.

People build houses, but God created the entire universe.

1. God is the Master Builder: How God's Creative Power Can Transform Our Lives

2. The Nature of God is Love: How We Can Receive God's Blessing in Our Lives

1. Colossians 1:16-17 - For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities?□ll things were created through him and for him.

2. Isaiah 40:28 - Have you not known? Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable.

Hebrews 3:5 And Moses verily was faithful in all his house, as a servant, for a testimony of those things which were to be spoken after;

Moses was faithful in all his duties as a servant, setting an example for those who would come after him.

1. The Example of Moses: Living Faithfully in All We Do

2. How We Can Follow the Faithful Example of Moses

1. Proverbs 3:5-6 - Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.

2. Colossians 3:23 - Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men.

Hebrews 3:6 But Christ as a son over his own house; whose house are we, if we hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm unto the end.

We are the house of Christ if we remain steadfast in our faith and hope until the end.

1. "The Unwavering Faith: Keeping Our Hope in Christ"

2. "Standing Firm in Our Hope in Christ"

1. Romans 8:24-25; "For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience."

2. 1 Corinthians 15:58; "Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.??

Hebrews 3:7 Wherefore (as the Holy Ghost saith, To day if ye will hear his voice,

The Holy Spirit urges believers to listen to God's voice today.

1. To Hear God's Voice: The Call to Faithful Obedience

2. Listening to the Voice of the Holy Spirit

1. Isaiah 55:3 - "Incline your ear, and come unto me: hear, and your soul shall live."

2. John 10:27 - "My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me."

Hebrews 3:8 Harden not your hearts, as in the provocation, in the day of temptation in the wilderness:

The author of Hebrews warns readers not to harden their hearts as the Israelites did when tempted in the wilderness.

1. Don't let hardships harden your heart

2. Choosing faith in the midst of temptation

1. Psalm 95:7-8 ?□or he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand. Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts.??

2. Romans 11:20-22 ?□hat is true. They were broken off because of their unbelief, but you stand fast through faith. So do not become proud, but fear. For if God did not spare the natural branches, neither will he spare you.??

Hebrews 3:9 When your fathers tempted me, proved me, and saw my works forty years.

The author of Hebrews reflects on the actions of the fathers in the past, who tested and saw the works of God for 40 years.

1. ?□earning from the Fathers: The Power of Patient Faith??

2. ?□esting God Faithfully: The Enduring Legacy of the Fathers??

1. Deuteronomy 8:2, ?□nd thou shalt remember all the way which the Lord thy God led thee these forty years in the wilderness, to humble thee, and to prove thee, to know what was in thine heart, whether thou wouldest keep his commandments, or no.??

2. Psalm 95:10, ?□orty years long was I grieved with this generation, and said, It is a people that do err in their heart, and they have not known my ways.??

Hebrews 3:10 Wherefore I was grieved with that generation, and said, They do alway err

in their heart; and they have not known my ways.

This passage speaks of God's displeasure with his people who continuously make mistakes and do not follow his ways.

1. The Power of God's Word: Living by God's Ways

2. Repentance: Learning from Our Mistakes

1. Deuteronomy 8:3 - "And he humbled thee, and suffered thee to hunger, and fed thee with manna, which thou knewest not, neither did thy fathers know; that he might make thee know that man doth not live by bread only, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of the LORD doth man live."

2. Jeremiah 17:9 - "The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?"

Hebrews 3:11 So I sware in my wrath, They shall not enter into my rest.)

God warned the Israelites that they would not enter his rest if they did not heed his commands.

1. Obey God and Enter His Rest

2. The Consequences of Disobedience

1. Deuteronomy 1:19-33 - The Israelites??defiant refusal to follow God?□ commands.

2. Isaiah 11:10 - God?□ promise to bring rest to his people.

Hebrews 3:12 Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God.

Beware of having a heart of unbelief that turns away from God.

1: Our hearts are the gateway of our souls. Guard them carefully so that we may never

be tempted to turn away from the Lord.

2: Do not let unbelief take root in your heart, for it will lead you away from the living God.

1: Matthew 15:18-20 ?□ut what comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart, and this defiles a person. For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false witness, slander. These are what defile a person.??

2: Jeremiah 17:9-10 ?□he heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately sick; who can understand it? ?□ the Lord search the heart and test the mind, to give every man according to his ways, according to the fruit of his deeds.??

Hebrews 3:13 But exhort one another daily, while it is called To day; lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin.

We should encourage each other every day to stay away from the deceitfulness of sin.

1. Don't Get Fooled by Sin's Lies

2. Staying Strong in the Face of Sin

1. James 1:13-15 - When tempted, no one should say, ?□od is tempting me.??For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone; 14 but each person is tempted when they are dragged away by their own evil desire and enticed. 15 Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death.

2. Proverbs 24:16 - For though the righteous fall seven times, they rise again, but the wicked stumble when calamity strikes.

Hebrews 3:14 For we are made partakers of Christ, if we hold the beginning of our confidence stedfast unto the end;

We must stay faithful in our trust in Christ to partake in His victory.

1: Remain Steadfast in Faith to Access Christ's Victory

2: Persevere in Hope to Experience Christ's Promise

1: James 1:2-4 - Count it all joy when you encounter various trials because the testing of your faith produces endurance.

2: Romans 5:3-5 - We rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope.

Hebrews 3:15 While it is said, To day if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts, as in the provocation.

Today's is about the importance of hearing God's voice and not hardening our hearts.

1. "The Gift of Listening to God's Voice"

2. "Choosing to Follow God's Will"

1. Jeremiah 29:13 - "You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart."

2. Proverbs 3:5-6 - "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight."

Hebrews 3:16 For some, when they had heard, did provoke: howbeit not all that came out of Egypt by Moses.

Hebrews 3:16 speaks of those who heard the Word of God but provoked it, though not all who left Egypt with Moses did so.

1. Take Heart in God's Word: A Call to Persevere

2. Staying Faithful to God's Word: A Call to Obedience

1. Luke 9:23-25 - "And he said to all, ?□f anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will save it."

2. Joshua 24:15 - "And if it is evil in your eyes to serve the Lord, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your fathers served in the region beyond the River, or

the gods of the Amorites in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.??

Hebrews 3:17 But with whom was he grieved forty years? was it not with them that had sinned, whose carcases fell in the wilderness?

God was grieved for forty years by the Israelites who had sinned and whose bodies fell in the wilderness.

1. God's Patience with Sinning People

2. The Consequences of Disobedience

1. Psalm 95:10-11 - ?□or forty years I was angry with that generation; I said, ?□hey are a people whose hearts go astray, and they have not known my ways.??So I declared on oath in my anger, ?□hey shall never enter my rest.?□□?

2. Exodus 32:7-8 - Then the Lord said to Moses, ?□o down, because your people, whom you brought up out of Egypt, have become corrupt. They have been quick to turn away from what I commanded them and have made themselves an idol cast in the shape of a calf. They have bowed down to it and sacrificed to it and have said, ?□hese are your gods, Israel, who brought you up out of Egypt.?□□?

Hebrews 3:18 And to whom sware he that they should not enter into his rest, but to them that believed not?

God swore that those who do not believe would not enter into his rest.

1. The Importance of Belief in God

2. The Blessings of Entering into His Rest

1. John 3:16 - "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."

2. Psalm 116:7 - "Return to your rest, O my soul, for the Lord has been good to you."

Hebrews 3:19 So we see that they could not enter in because of unbelief.

The people of Israel were not able to enter the Promised Land because of their lack of faith.

1. "The Power of Faith: How Our Beliefs Determine Our Destiny"

2. "The Danger of Unbelief: Refusing to Step Into God's Promises"

1. Romans 10:17, "So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ."

2. Matthew 17:20, "He said to them, ?□ecause of your little faith. For truly, I say to you, if you have faith like a grain of mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, ?□ove from here to there,??and it will move, and nothing will be impossible for you.??

Hebrews 4 is the fourth chapter of the book of Hebrews, where the author continues to exhort and encourage the readers to enter into God's rest through faith in Jesus Christ. The chapter emphasizes the importance of faith, God's Word, and Jesus as our High Priest.

1st Paragraph: The author highlights the promise of entering God's rest through faith (Hebrews 4:1-10). He warns against falling short of this promise by failing to believe. Just as Israel in the wilderness failed to enter God's rest due to their disobedience and unbelief, the readers are urged not to repeat that mistake. The author explains that there remains a Sabbath rest for God's people—a spiritual rest obtained through faith in Christ. Those who have believed have entered into this rest, just as God rested from His works on the seventh day.

2nd Paragraph: The author emphasizes the power and authority of God's Word (Hebrews 4:11-13). He urges the readers to strive diligently to enter into that rest so that no one may fall by following Israel's example of disobedience. The Word of God is described as living and active, able to discern thoughts and intentions of the heart. Nothing is hidden from His sight; everything is exposed before Him. Therefore, believers should approach with confidence before Him who understands our weaknesses.

3rd Paragraph: The chapter concludes by highlighting Jesus as our sympathetic High Priest (Hebrews 4:14-16). The author encourages believers to hold fast their confession because they have a great High Priest—Jesus—who has passed through heaven itself. Unlike earthly high priests, Jesus can sympathize with our weaknesses since He was tempted in every way yet remained without sin. Therefore, believers are invited boldly approach His throne of grace with confidence so that they may receive mercy and find grace for help in times of need.

In summary,

Chapter four of Hebrews emphasizes the importance of faith, God's Word, and Jesus as our High Priest in entering into God's rest.

The author warns against falling short of this promise through disobedience and unbelief, urging the readers to strive diligently to enter that rest through faith in Christ.

He highlights the power and authority of God's living Word, which discerns thoughts and intentions of the heart. Believers are encouraged to approach with confidence before Him who understands our weaknesses.

The chapter concludes by exalting Jesus as our sympathetic High Priest who sympathizes with our weaknesses. Believers are invited to boldly approach His throne of grace for mercy and help in times of need. This chapter serves as a reminder of the importance of faith, the power of God's Word, and finding comfort in Jesus' role as our compassionate High Priest.

Hebrews 4:1 Let us therefore fear, lest, a promise being left us of entering into his rest, any of you should seem to come short of it.

The author of Hebrews encourages us to fear the Lord, lest we miss out on the promise of entering into His rest.

1. "The Fear of the Lord: Don't Miss Out on the Promised Rest"

2. "God's Promise of Rest: Don't Take It for Granted"

1. Psalm 34:11- "Come, O children, listen to me; I will teach you the fear of the Lord."

2. Isaiah 30:15 - “For thus said the Lord God, the Holy One of Israel, ‘In returning and rest you shall be saved; in quietness and in trust shall be your strength.’”

Hebrews 4:2 For unto us was the gospel preached, as well as unto them: but the word preached did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in them that heard it.

The gospel was preached to both the Israelites and us, but it did not benefit them because they did not have faith in it.

1. Believing in the Gospel: Necessity for Blessing

2. Understanding the Power of Faith

1. Romans 10:17 - So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

2. John 8:31-32 - Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.

Hebrews 4:3 For we which have believed do enter into rest, as he said, As I have sworn in my wrath, if they shall enter into my rest: although the works were finished from the foundation of the world.

We who believe enter into God's rest.

1: Resting in God's Promises

2: Living a Life of Faith

1: Isaiah 26:3 - Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee.

2: Psalm 46:10 - Be still, and know that I am God: I will be exalted among the heathen, I will be exalted in the earth.

Hebrews 4:4 For he spake in a certain place of the seventh day on this wise, And God did rest the seventh day from all his works.

God rested on the seventh day after completing his works.

1: We too should take time to rest, and surrender our works to God.

2: The Sabbath is a day of rest, set aside to recognize and honor God.

1: Genesis 2:2-3 “And on the seventh day God ended his work which he had made; and

he rested on the seventh day from all his work which he had made. And God blessed the seventh day, and sanctified it: because that in it he had rested from all his work which God created and made.”

2: Exodus 20:8-11 “Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work: But the seventh day is the sabbath of the Lord thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates: For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the Lord blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it.”

Hebrews 4:5 And in this place again, If they shall enter into my rest.

This passage from Hebrews 4:5 reveals that those who accept God's grace will enter into His rest.

1: God's Rest is for Everyone - Accepting God's grace is the only way to find rest.

2: God's Rest is Promised - Through faith in Him, we can be assured of His rest.

1: Psalm 95:11 - "Therefore I swore in my wrath, ‘They shall not enter my rest.’"

2: Matthew 11:28-29 - "Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls."

Hebrews 4:6 Seeing therefore it remaineth that some must enter therein, and they to whom it was first preached entered not in because of unbelief:

God promised rest to those who believe in Him, but those to whom this promise was first made did not enter because of their unbelief.

1. The Promise of Rest: Believe in God for Eternal Salvation

2. Unbelief: Don't Take God's Promises for Granted

1. Romans 10:17 - So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.

2. 1 Peter 1:23 - Since you have been born again, not of perishable seed but of imperishable, through the living and abiding word of God.

Hebrews 4:7 Again, he limiteth a certain day, saying in David, To day, after so long a time; as it is said, To day if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts.

God has set a limit to how long we have to accept Him; we must accept Him now or harden our hearts.

1: Don't Harden Your Heart - The Time to Accept God Is Now

2: The Unseen Clock - Make the Most of the Time God Has Given You

1: Ecclesiastes 9:11-12 - “I have seen something else under the sun: The race is not to the swift or the battle to the strong, nor does food come to the wise or wealth to the brilliant or favor to the learned; but time and chance happen to them all.”

2: Psalm 95:7-8 - “For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture, the flock under his care. Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts as you did at Meribah, as you did that day at Massah in the wilderness.”

Hebrews 4:8 For if Jesus had given them rest, then would he not afterward have spoken of another day.

Jesus speaks of another day after offering rest to the people.

1. Finding Rest in Jesus

2. Looking Ahead to the Future

1. Matthew 11:28-30 - "Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

2. Isaiah 40:28-31 - "Have you not known? Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable. He gives power to the faint, and to him who has no might he increases strength. Even youths shall faint and be weary, and young men shall fall exhausted; but they who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall

mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint."

Hebrews 4:9 There remaineth therefore a rest to the people of God.

Rest for the people of God is available.

1: God’s Rest: A Gift to His People

2: Reaping the Benefits of God’s Rest

1: Matthew 11:28-30 - Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

2: Isaiah 30:15 - For thus said the Lord God, the Holy One of Israel, “In returning and rest you shall be saved; in quietness and in trust shall be your strength.”

Hebrews 4:10 For he that is entered into his rest, he also hath ceased from his own works, as God did from his.

Resting in God's grace brings peace and freedom from striving.

1. "The Blessing of Rest: Ceasing from Striving and Trusting in God's Grace"

2. "Living in God's Rest: Letting Go and Letting God Work"

1. Philippians 4:6-7 - "Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."

2. Isaiah 26:3 - "You will keep in perfect peace those whose minds are steadfast, because they trust in you."

Hebrews 4:11 Let us labour therefore to enter into that rest, lest any man fall after the same example of unbelief.

We should strive to enter God's rest, so that we don't succumb to unbelief like those before us.

1. Don't Be Like Those Before You: Strive for God's Rest

2. Working Towards Rest: Don't Follow the Example of Unbelief

1. Matthew 11:28-30 - "Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

2. Psalm 62:1-2 - "Truly my soul finds rest in God; my salvation comes from him. Truly he is my rock and my salvation; he is my fortress, I will never be shaken."

Hebrews 4:12 For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

The Word of God is quick, powerful, and discerning.

1. The Power of the Word of God

2. The Discernment of the Word of God

1. Psalm 119:105 “Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.”

2. 2 Timothy 3:16 “All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness.”

Hebrews 4:13 Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in his sight: but all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do.

God sees everything that happens in our lives and knows our hearts.

1: We must always remember that God is watching over us, even when we think no one else is.

2: God sees our every action and knows our every thought, so we must strive to live according to his will.

1: Psalm 33:13-15 - The LORD looketh from heaven; he beholdeth all the sons of men. From the place of his habitation he looketh upon all the inhabitants of the earth. He fashioneth their hearts alike; he considereth all their works.

2: Proverbs 15:3 - The eyes of the LORD are in every place, beholding the evil and the good.

Hebrews 4:14 Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession.

We should hold fast to our faith in Jesus, the Son of God, our great high priest who has gone into heaven.

1. Clinging to Jesus - The Faithfulness of Our Great High Priest

2. Living in the Light of Our Great High Priest

1. Hebrews 4:14

2. Philippians 2:5-11 - Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name.

Hebrews 4:15 For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin.

This passage reminds us that Jesus understands our struggles because He experienced temptation just like we do, yet He remained sinless.

1. “The Power of the Cross: Overcoming Temptation Through Jesus”

2. “The Hope of the Savior: Experiencing the Comfort of Jesus”

1. 1 Corinthians 10:13 - “No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.”

2. James 1:12-15 - “Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love him. Let no one say when he is tempted, ‘I am being tempted by God,’ for God cannot be tempted with evil, and he himself tempts no one. But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire. Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death.”

Hebrews 4:16 Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.

Coming boldly to the throne of grace for mercy and finding grace to help in time of need.

1: Drawing Near to God in Times of Need.

2: Growing in Faith and Boldness to Approach God.

1: James 4:8 - Draw near to God and He will draw near to you.

2: Isaiah 41:10 - Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.

Hebrews 5 is the fifth chapter of the book of Hebrews, where the author discusses the qualifications and role of high priests, highlighting Jesus as our ultimate High Priest. The chapter emphasizes Jesus' obedience, His appointment by God, and the need for spiritual maturity among believers.

1st Paragraph: The author discusses the qualifications and duties of high priests (Hebrews 5:1-4). He explains that every high priest is taken from among men and appointed to represent them in matters related to God. High priests offer gifts and sacrifices for sins, showing compassion towards those who are ignorant and going astray. They themselves are subject to weakness, which prompts them to offer sacrifices for their own sins as well. No one takes this honor upon himself; he must be called by God.

2nd Paragraph: The author highlights Jesus' appointment as our High Priest (Hebrews 5:5-10). Quoting from Psalm 2:7 and Psalm 110:4, he declares that Christ did not exalt Himself to become a High Priest but was appointed by God who said, "You are my Son;

today I have begotten you." Although Jesus was Son of God, He learned obedience through suffering. In His earthly life, He offered up prayers with loud cries and tears to the One who could save Him from death. Because of His perfect obedience, Jesus became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey Him.

3rd Paragraph: The chapter concludes with an admonition about spiritual maturity (Hebrews 5:11-14). The author expresses his frustration that there is much more to say about Jesus being a High Priest according to the order of Melchizedek but finds it difficult to explain because his readers have become dull in hearing. Instead of progressing in their understanding of spiritual truths, they still need milk instead of solid food fit for mature believers. Those who partake only of milk are infants in the faith, while those who have trained themselves through practice to discern good and evil are mature.

In summary,

Chapter five of Hebrews discusses the qualifications and role of high priests, highlighting Jesus as our ultimate High Priest.

The author explains that high priests are taken from among men, offering sacrifices for sins and showing compassion. They themselves are subject to weakness and must be called by God.

Jesus was appointed by God as our High Priest. He learned obedience through suffering, offering prayers with tears. His perfect obedience makes Him the source of eternal salvation for those who obey Him.

The chapter concludes with an admonition about spiritual maturity, expressing frustration that the readers have become dull in hearing. Instead of progressing in understanding, they still need milk instead of solid food fit for mature believers. Spiritual maturity is achieved through practice and discernment between good and evil. This chapter serves as a reminder of Jesus' appointment as our High Priest, the importance of obedience, and the need for believers to strive for spiritual growth and maturity.

Hebrews 5:1 For every high priest taken from among men is ordained for men in things pertaining to God, that he may offer both gifts and sacrifices for sins:

High priests are ordained by God to offer gifts and sacrifices for the sins of mankind.

1. The Power of Forgiveness: How High Priests Serve as Agents of God's Mercy

2. The Ministry of the High Priest: How We Can Represent and Serve God

1. Exodus 28:1 - And take thou unto thee Aaron thy brother, and his sons with him, from among the children of Israel, that he may minister unto me in the priest's office, even Aaron, Nadab and Abihu, Eleazar and Ithamar, Aaron's sons.

2. John 1:29 - The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.

Hebrews 5:2 Who can have compassion on the ignorant, and on them that are out of the way; for that he himself also is compassed with infirmity.

Compassion is essential, as everyone is faced with infirmity.

1. Compassion: The Essential Virtue for Every Christian

2. Empathy: Understanding the Struggles of Others

1. James 5:11-12 - "Behold, we count them happy which endure. Ye have heard of the patience of Job, and have seen the end of the Lord; that the Lord is very pitiful, and of tender mercy."

2. 1 Peter 4:8 - "And above all things have fervent charity among yourselves: for charity shall cover the multitude of sins."

Hebrews 5:3 And by reason hereof he ought, as for the people, so also for himself, to offer for sins.

Jesus, as High Priest, offered Himself as a sacrifice for the sins of others.

1. The Ultimate Sacrifice: Jesus's Death for Our Sins

2. The Power of Forgiveness: Jesus's Ministry of Reconciliation

1. Romans 5:10-11 - For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life.

2. Isaiah 53:5-6 - But he was wounded for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned?□very one?□o his own

way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

Hebrews 5:4 And no man taketh this honour unto himself, but he that is called of God, as was Aaron.

Aaron was called by God to be the high priest of Israel, emphasizing the importance of being chosen by God for a task.

1: God calls us to do His will - Hebrews 5:4

2: We must be humble in God's callings - Hebrews 5:4

1: Matthew 22:14 - "For many are called, but few are chosen."

2: Romans 12:3 - "For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned."

Hebrews 5:5 So also Christ glorified not himself to be made an high priest; but he that said unto him, Thou art my Son, to day have I begotten thee.

Christ did not glorify himself, but was given glory by God.

1. Keeping Humble in the Face of God's Glory

2. Serving God with Humility and Gratitude

1. Philippians 2:6-7 - "who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men."

2. 1 Peter 5:5-6 - "Likewise, you who are younger, be subject to the elders. Clothe yourselves, all of you, with humility toward one another, for ?□od opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.??

Hebrews 5:6 As he saith also in another place, Thou art a priest for ever after the order of Melchisedec.

The author of Hebrews quotes God as saying that Jesus is a priest forever, after the order of Melchisedec.

1. Jesus: The Eternal High Priest

2. The Order of Melchisedec: A Priesthood of Faith

1. Hebrews 7:17 - ?□or it is witnessed of him, Thou art a priest for ever after the order of Melchisedec.??

2. Psalm 110:4 - ?□he LORD hath sworn, and will not repent, Thou art a priest for ever after the order of Melchisedec.??

Hebrews 5:7 Who in the days of his flesh, when he had offered up prayers and supplications with strong crying and tears unto him that was able to save him from death, and was heard in that he feared;

Christ demonstrated through His own experience that prayer with humility and earnestness is heard and answered by God.

1. The Power of Prayer: Trusting and Relying on God in Our Weakness

2. Living a Life of Faith: Following Christ's Example of Persistent Prayer

1. James 5:13-18

2. Matthew 6:9-13

Hebrews 5:8 Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered;

Jesus demonstrated His obedience to God by willingly enduring suffering.

1. The Power of Obedience: Jesus as an Example

2. The Necessity of Suffering: Learning Obedience through Jesus

1. Philippians 2:5-8 - Jesus? humble obedience to God even unto death

2. Romans 5:3-5 - The power of suffering and the hope it can bring

Hebrews 5:9 And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him;

Jesus became perfect and is the author of eternal salvation for all who obey Him.

1. The Perfection of Jesus and the Promise of Eternal Salvation

2. Obeying Jesus and Receiving Eternal Salvation

1. Romans 10:9-10 - That if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

2. Romans 6:23 - For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Hebrews 5:10 Called of God an high priest after the order of Melchisedec.

The passage speaks of God calling a high priest after the order of Melchisedec.

1. The Power of God's Calling

2. Following God's Order

1. Romans 8:29 - For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters.

2. Isaiah 49:5-6 - And now the Lord says? e who formed me in the womb to be his servant to bring Jacob back to him and gather Israel to himself, for I am honored in the eyes of the Lord and my God has been my strength? e says: ? t is too small a thing for you to be my servant to restore the tribes of Jacob and bring back those of Israel I have

kept. I will also make you a light for the Gentiles, that my salvation may reach to the ends of the earth.??

Hebrews 5:11 Of whom we have many things to say, and hard to be uttered, seeing ye are dull of hearing.

The author of Hebrews had much to say, but it was difficult to communicate it to those who had difficulty understanding.

1. The Power of Clear Communication

2. The Benefits of a Teachable Heart

1. Proverbs 8:5-9 - "O ye simple, understand wisdom: and, ye fools, be ye of an understanding heart. Hear; for I will speak of excellent things; and the opening of my lips shall be right things. For my mouth shall speak truth; and wickedness is an abomination to my lips. All the words of my mouth are in righteousness; there is nothing froward or perverse in them. They are all plain to him that understandeth, and right to them that find knowledge."

2. 2 Timothy 2:15 - "Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth."

Hebrews 5:12 For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which be the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat.

The author of Hebrews is reminding the readers that they should already be teachers as they ought to have been taught the first principles of the oracles of God. However, they have become so unfamiliar with these principles that they need to be taught again like they are in need of milk.

1. The Believer's Need for Milk and Meat: How to Reestablish the First Principles of the Oracles of God

2. The Teacher's Responsibility: Reestablishing the First Principles of the Oracles of God

1. 1 Peter 2:2 - "As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby"

2. Colossians 2:8 - "Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ"

Hebrews 5:13 For every one that useth milk is unskilful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe.

Everyone who is immature in understanding the word of righteousness is like a baby who can only drink milk.

1. Growing in our knowledge of the word of righteousness

2. Maturing in our understanding of God's will

1. Philippians 3:15-16 - Let us therefore, as many as be perfect, be thus minded: and if in any thing ye be otherwise minded, God shall reveal even this unto you. Nevertheless, whereto we have already attained, let us walk by the same rule, let us mind the same thing.

2. James 1:5 - If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him.

Hebrews 5:14 But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.

Believers who have matured spiritually can discern good from evil due to the development of their senses through practice.

1. The Path to Discernment

2. Growing in the Knowledge of Good and Evil

1. Proverbs 3:5-6 - Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight.

2. Romans 12:2 - Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

Hebrews 6 is the sixth chapter of the book of Hebrews, where the author addresses the importance of spiritual growth and warns against falling away from faith. The chapter emphasizes the need for maturity, perseverance, and assurance in our relationship with God.

1st Paragraph: The author urges his readers to move beyond elementary teachings and strive for maturity (Hebrews 6:1-3). He encourages them to leave behind foundational principles such as repentance from dead works, faith toward God, instruction about washings, laying on of hands, resurrection of the dead, and eternal judgment. Instead, they should press on to deeper understanding. The author expresses his desire for God to grant them this opportunity if it is His will.

2nd Paragraph: The author issues a warning against falling away from faith (Hebrews 6:4-8). He describes a hypothetical scenario where those who have tasted the goodness of God's Word and experienced the power of the age to come fall away. If they then reject Christ after having been enlightened and partakers in the Holy Spirit's work, it would be impossible to restore them again to repentance. Such individuals would be like land that drinks in rain but only produces thorns and thistles—worthless and near destruction.

3rd Paragraph: The chapter concludes with an encouragement for believers to persevere in their faith (Hebrews 6:9-20). The author expresses confidence that his readers are not among those who will fall away but rather belong to those who demonstrate love for God's name by serving His saints. He encourages them to show diligence in realizing their hope until the end so that they may inherit what has been promised through faith and patience. To assure them further, he points out how God made an oath with Abraham as a confirmation of His promise—an unchangeable promise that serves as an anchor for our souls through Jesus' entry into heaven as our High Priest.

In summary,

Chapter six of Hebrews emphasizes the importance of spiritual growth, warns against falling away from faith, and encourages believers to persevere.

The author urges the readers to move beyond foundational teachings and strive for maturity in their understanding of God's Word.

He issues a warning against falling away from faith, describing the dire consequences for those who reject Christ after having experienced His goodness and partaken in the Holy Spirit's work.

The chapter concludes with an encouragement for believers to persevere, expressing confidence in their faith. The author encourages them to show diligence, realizing their hope until the end. He assures them that God's unchangeable promise serves as an anchor for our souls through Jesus' role as our High Priest. This chapter serves as a reminder of the need for spiritual growth, perseverance in faith, and assurance in God's promises.

Hebrews 6:1 Therefore leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on unto perfection; not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works, and of faith toward God,

The author of Hebrews encourages Christians to move past the basic principles of the doctrine of Christ and continue to grow in their faith, not needing to repeat the basics such as repentance from sinful works and faith in God.

1. "Leaving the Foundations: Growing in Faith"

2. "Moving Beyond the Basics: Taking the Next Step in Faith"

1. Matthew 5:48 - "Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect."

2. Romans 12:2 - "And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God."

Hebrews 6:2 Of the doctrine of baptisms, and of laying on of hands, and of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment.

This passage discusses the doctrines of baptism, the laying on of hands, the resurrection of the dead, and eternal judgment.

1. The Importance of Baptism in the Life of a Believer

2. The Need for Eternal Judgment in the Lives of God's People

1. Romans 6:3-4, "Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life."

2. Matthew 25:31-32, “When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne. Before him will be gathered all the nations, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from

the goats.”

Hebrews 6:3 And this will we do, if God permit.

The author of Hebrews states that they will act if God allows.

1. It is important to recognize that we must yield to God's will in all that we do.

2. Our plans and actions should always be done within the parameters of God's will.

1. Jeremiah 29:11-13 - For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.

12 Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. 13 You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart.

2. James 4:13-15 - Now listen, you who say, “Today or tomorrow we will go to this or that city, spend a year there, carry on business and make money.” 14 Why, you do not even know what will happen tomorrow. What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes. 15 Instead, you ought to say, “If it is the Lord’s will, we will live and do this or that.”

Hebrews 6:4 For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted of the heavenly gift, and were made partakers of the Holy Ghost,

It is impossible to turn away from God once one has experienced His grace and power.

1: Let Us Not Take the Grace of God for Granted

2: Remain True to the Gospel of God

1: Romans 11:22 - Behold therefore the goodness and severity of God: on them which fell, severity; but toward thee, goodness, if thou continue in his goodness: otherwise thou also shalt be cut off.

2: 1 Corinthians 10:12 - Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall.

Hebrews 6:5 And have tasted the good word of God, and the powers of the world to come,

The passage speaks of tasting the goodness of God's word and the power of the world to come.

1. "The Power of the Word of God"

2. "Discovering the Goodness of God's Word"

1. Psalm 119:103 - "How sweet are your words to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth!"

2. Isaiah 55:10-11 - "For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven and do not return there but water the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it."

Hebrews 6:6 If they shall fall away, to renew them again unto repentance; seeing they crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh, and put him to an open shame.

People who fall away after experiencing salvation are in danger of crucifying Jesus again and putting Him to shame.

1. Don't Take Your Salvation for Granted

2. Don't Forget the Sacrifice of Jesus

1. Romans 6:23 - For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

2. Hebrews 10:26-27 - For if we go on sinning deliberately after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, but a fearful expectation of judgment, and a fury of fire that will consume the adversaries.

Hebrews 6:7 For the earth which drinketh in the rain that cometh oft upon it, and

bringeth forth herbs meet for them by whom it is dressed, receiveth blessing from God:

The earth is blessed by God for being fruitful and providing herbs for those who labour on it.

1. God is gracious and will bless those who work hard.

2. We can learn from nature and see the blessings of God in our lives.

1. Matthew 5:45: "That you may be children of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous."

2. Psalm 104:14: "He makes grass grow for the livestock and plants for people to cultivate— bringing forth food from the earth: wine that gladdens human hearts, oil to make their faces shine, and bread that sustains their hearts."

Hebrews 6:8 But that which beareth thorns and briers is rejected, and is nigh unto cursing; whose end is to be burned.

God rejects those who do not trust in Him and will bring them to destruction.

1. Rejecting God Leads to Destruction

2. Trusting in God Brings Blessing

1. Proverbs 3:5-6 - Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.

2. 1 Peter 5:7 - Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.

Hebrews 6:9 But, beloved, we are persuaded better things of you, and things that accompany salvation, though we thus speak.

The writer of Hebrews encourages readers to strive for better things that accompany salvation.

1. Pursuing Better Things: Our Responsibility to Grow in the Faith

2. Accompanying Salvation: Achieving a Closer Relationship with God

1. Philippians 3:12-14 - Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

2. Colossians 3:1-3 - If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.

Hebrews 6:10 For God is not unrighteous to forget your work and labour of love, which ye have shewed toward his name, in that ye have ministered to the saints, and do minister.

God will not forget the work of love that Christians have done to serve others.

1. Love in Action: The Power of Serving Others

2. The Reward of Faithful Service

1. 1 John 3:17-18 - "But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him? Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth."

2. Galatians 5:13 - "For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another."

Hebrews 6:11 And we desire that every one of you do shew the same diligence to the full assurance of hope unto the end:

The author of Hebrews encourages readers to persevere in the faith, showing diligence in seeking the assurance of hope until the end.

1. Persevere in the Faith: Hebrews 6:11

2. Hope in the End: A Study of Hebrews 6:11

1. Romans 5:1-5 - Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

2. Romans 8:24-25 - For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees?

Hebrews 6:12 That ye be not slothful, but followers of them who through faith and patience inherit the promises.

We should strive to live with faith and patience in order to receive the promises of God.

1: Always Persevere: Living in Faith and Patience

2: The Power of Endurance: Achieving God's Promises

1: Romans 8:25 - But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently.

2: James 1:2-4 - Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.

Hebrews 6:13 For when God made promise to Abraham, because he could swear by no greater, he sware by himself,

God's promise to Abraham was so important that He swore by Himself.

1. God’s Promises are Unbreakable

2. The Strength of God’s Word

1. Genesis 15:1-6

2. Isaiah 55:11

Hebrews 6:14 Saying, Surely blessing I will bless thee, and multiplying I will multiply thee.

God promises to bless and multiply those who follow Him.

1. “The Blessing of Obedience: How God Multiplies Our Blessings”

2. “The Promise of God: Receive His Blessings and Multiply”

1. Deuteronomy 28:1-14 – The Lord’s promise of blessings for those who obey Him

2. Isaiah 1:19 – If you are willing and obey, you will eat the best of the land.

Hebrews 6:15 And so, after he had patiently endured, he obtained the promise.

God patiently endured and obtained a promise.

1. The Power of Patience: Standing Firm in Faith

2. How to Receive God's Promises: The Blessing of Perseverance

1. Romans 8:22-25, "We know that all creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. And we believers also groan, even though we have the Holy Spirit within us as a foretaste of future glory, for we long for our bodies to be released from sin and suffering. We, too, wait with eager hope for the day when God will give us our full rights as his adopted children, including the new bodies he has promised us. We were given this hope when we were saved."

2. James 5:7-8, "Be patient, then, brothers and sisters, until the Lord’s coming. See how the farmer waits for the land to yield its valuable crop, patiently waiting for the autumn and spring rains. You too, be patient and stand firm, because the Lord’s coming is near."

Hebrews 6:16 For men verily swear by the greater: and an oath for confirmation is to them an end of all strife.

People make oaths to settle disputes, swearing by something greater than themselves.

1. The Power of a Promise

2. The Strength of an Oath

1. Matthew 5:33-37 - Jesus encourages his followers to keep their oaths and promises.

2. James 5:12 - The power of a righteous oath.

Hebrews 6:17 Wherein God, willing more abundantly to shew unto the heirs of promise the immutability of his counsel, confirmed it by an oath:

God's promises are reliable and will not change.

1. God's Promises - An Anchor in Uncertain Times

2. God's Unchanging Word - A Foundation of Hope

1. Isaiah 40:8 - The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever.

2. Psalm 33:11 - The counsel of the LORD stands forever, the plans of his heart to all generations.

Hebrews 6:18 That by two immutable things, in which it was impossible for God to lie, we might have a strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold upon the hope set before us:

God has provided us with an unbreakable promise of hope through two unchangeable truths.

1. Hope in Unchangeable Truths - Hebrews 6:18

2. Fleeing for Refuge - Hebrews 6:18

1. Isaiah 55:11 - So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it.

2. Titus 1:2 - In hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began.

Hebrews 6:19 Which hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and stedfast, and which entereth into that within the veil;

The hope of believers is an anchor of the soul, which provides firmness and stability and leads believers into the presence of God.

1. The Hope of the Soul: Finding Firmness and Stability in God

2. The Anchor Within the Veil: Experiencing the Presence of God

1. Isaiah 40:31 - "But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint."

2. Ephesians 3:17-19 - "That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love, May be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height; And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God."

Hebrews 6:20 Whither the forerunner is for us entered, even Jesus, made an high priest for ever after the order of Melchisedec.

Jesus was made an eternal high priest after the order of Melchisedec.

1. The Eternal High Priest: Jesus Christ

2. The Order of Melchisedec: Eternal Blessings

1. Hebrews 7:17 - For he testifieth, Thou art a priest for ever after the order of Melchisedec.

2. Psalm 110:4 - The LORD hath sworn, and will not repent, Thou art a priest for ever after the order of Melchisedec.

Hebrews 7 is the seventh chapter of the book of Hebrews, where the author discusses the superiority of Melchizedek's priesthood and how Jesus' priesthood is established according to the order of Melchizedek. The chapter emphasizes Jesus' eternal priesthood, His role as a mediator, and His ability to save completely.

1st Paragraph: The author introduces Melchizedek and highlights his superiority over Abraham (Hebrews 7:1-10). He explains that Melchizedek, king of Salem and priest of God Most High, blessed Abraham when he returned from battle. Abraham even gave him a tenth of everything he had. The author points out that Levi, who was descended from Abraham and became a priest in Israel's system, paid tithes to Melchizedek through Abraham. This indicates that Melchizedek's priesthood is greater than that of Levi and carries more significance.

2nd Paragraph: The author explains how Jesus' priesthood surpasses that of the Levitical priests (Hebrews 7:11-24). He argues that if perfection could have been attained through the Levitical priesthood, there would have been no need for another priest according to the order of Melchizedek. However, since there was a change in the priesthood, there must also be a change in the law. Jesus belongs to a different tribe—Judah—and not from which priests traditionally came. He became a priest not by genealogy but by an indestructible life.

3rd Paragraph: The chapter concludes with an affirmation of Jesus' eternal priesthood (Hebrews 7:25-28). The author declares that Jesus is able to save completely those who come to God through Him because He always lives to intercede for them. Unlike earthly high priests who needed to offer sacrifices daily for their own sins as well as for others', Jesus offered Himself once for all when He sacrificed Himself on the cross. He is holy, blameless, pure, and exalted above the heavens. He does not need to offer sacrifices repeatedly but offered Himself as the perfect sacrifice for sins once and for all.

In summary,

Chapter seven of Hebrews discusses the superiority of Melchizedek's priesthood and how Jesus' priesthood is established according to the order of Melchizedek.

The author highlights Melchizedek's superiority over Abraham and Levi, emphasizing that his priesthood carries greater significance.

He explains how Jesus' priesthood surpasses that of the Levitical priests. Since there was a change in the priesthood, there must also be a change in the law. Jesus became a priest not by genealogy but by an indestructible life.

The chapter concludes with an affirmation of Jesus' eternal priesthood. He is able to save completely because He always lives to intercede for believers. Unlike earthly high priests

who needed repeated sacrifices, Jesus offered Himself once for all as the perfect sacrifice for sins. This chapter serves as a reminder of Jesus' superior priesthood according to the order of Melchizedek and His ability to save completely through His sacrificial work on behalf of believers.

Hebrews 7:1 For this Melchisedec, king of Salem, priest of the most high God, who met Abraham returning from the slaughter of the kings, and blessed him;

Melchisedec, king of Salem and priest of the most high God, blessed Abraham when he returned from slaying the kings.

1. The Blessing of God - How We Can Receive God's Blessing in Our Lives

2. The Priestly King - Melchisedec and His Role in the Bible

1. Genesis 14:17-20 - Abraham meets Melchisedec and is blessed by him

2. Psalm 110:4 - God declares Melchisedec a priest forever

Hebrews 7:2 To whom also Abraham gave a tenth part of all; first being by interpretation King of righteousness, and after that also King of Salem, which is, King of peace;

Abraham gave a tenth of all of his possessions to Melchizedek, who was known as the King of righteousness and the King of Salem, which is the King of peace.

1: We can learn from the example of Abraham, who gave generously and humbly to Melchizedek, the King of righteousness and peace.

2: Through his example, Abraham teaches us the importance of giving, and how it can bring us closer to God.

1: Luke 6:38 - “Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.”

2: Proverbs 11:24-25 - “One person gives freely, yet gains even more; another withholds unduly, but comes to poverty. A generous person will prosper; whoever refreshes others

will be refreshed.”

Hebrews 7:3 Without father, without mother, without descent, having neither beginning of days, nor end of life; but made like unto the Son of God; abideth a priest continually.

This verse in Hebrews 7:3 speaks of the eternal priesthood of Jesus Christ, who has no beginning or end.

1. "The Eternal Priesthood of Jesus Christ"

2. "The Unending Love of Our Savior"

1. John 1:1-3, "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made."

2. 1 John 4:9-10, "In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins."

Hebrews 7:4 Now consider how great this man was, unto whom even the patriarch Abraham gave the tenth of the spoils.

This passage speaks of the greatness of the person to whom even Abraham gave the tenth of his possessions.

1. The Greatness of God's Servants: Learning from the Example of Abraham

2. What it Means to be a Faithful Steward: Giving the Tenth as an Act of Worship

1. Genesis 14:17-20 (Abraham giving the tenth of the spoils)

2. Luke 16:10-12 (The Parable of the Faithful Steward)

Hebrews 7:5 And verily they that are of the sons of Levi, who receive the office of the priesthood, have a commandment to take tithes of the people according to the law, that is, of their brethren, though they come out of the loins of Abraham:

The Levitical priests have a commandment to take tithes from their fellow Israelites, even though they are all descendants of Abraham.

1. The importance of living according to the commandments of God.

2. The significance of tithing in the Bible.

1. Deuteronomy 14:22-23: "You shall tithe all the yield of your seed, that which comes from the field year by year. And before the Lord your God, in the place that he will choose, to make his name dwell there, you shall eat the tithe of your grain, of your wine, and of your oil, and the firstborn of your herd and flock, that you may learn to fear the Lord your God always."

2. Matthew 23:23: "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you tithe mint and dill and cumin, and have neglected the weightier matters of the law: justice and mercy and faithfulness. These you ought to have done, without neglecting the others."

Hebrews 7:6 But he whose descent is not counted from them received tithes of Abraham, and blessed him that had the promises.

Melchizedek, a mysterious figure, received tithes from Abraham and blessed him even though he was not related to Abraham through descent.

1. The Blessing of God's Mysterious Ways

2. The Power of Faith in Unfamiliar Territory

1. Romans 4:13-17 - The Promise of Faith

2. Genesis 14:17-20 - The Mystery of Melchizedek

Hebrews 7:7 And without all contradiction the less is blessed of the better.

The lesser is blessed by the greater.

1. The Blessings of Relying on the Greater

2. The Power of God's Blessing

1. Ephesians 3:20 - "Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us."

2. James 4:6-7 - "But he gives us more grace. That is why Scripture says: “God opposes the proud but shows favor to the humble.”"

Hebrews 7:8 And here men that die receive tithes; but there he receiveth them, of whom it is witnessed that he liveth.

Men on Earth pay tithes to other men, but in heaven tithes are paid to the one who is alive, God.

1. Jesus is the living God who is worthy of our tithes

2. Tithes are a symbol of our trust in the living God

1. Hebrews 7:8

2. John 14:6 - Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

Hebrews 7:9 And as I may so say, Levi also, who receiveth tithes, payed tithes in Abraham.

Levi was a descendant of Abraham who received tithes and paid tithes.

1. Obedience to God brings blessings of faith.

2. Serving God requires us to give back to Him.

1. Genesis 14:20 - And blessed be the most high God, which hath delivered thine enemies into thy hand. And he gave him tithes of all.

2. Malachi 3:10 - Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the LORD of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it.

Hebrews 7:10 For he was yet in the loins of his father, when Melchisedec met him.

This passage explains how Jesus was present in the form of Melchisedec when he met Abraham.

1. The Power of the Unseen: Exploring the Implications of Jesus' Prior Presence Through the Person of Melchisedec

2. The Interconnectedness of Time: How Jesus Was Present in Abraham's Encounter With Melchisedec

1. Genesis 14:18-20 - Abram gives a tenth of the spoils to Melchisedec

2. Romans 5:12-14 - How death came through one man and brings life through another

Hebrews 7:11 If therefore perfection were by the Levitical priesthood, (for under it the people received the law,) what further need was there that another priest should rise after the order of Melchisedec, and not be called after the order of Aaron?

The Levitical priesthood was not sufficient to bring perfection, so a new priest from the order of Melchisedec was ordained, not from the order of Aaron.

1. Perfection Through a Greater Priest

2. The Significance of the Order of Melchisedec

1. Psalm 110:4 - The Lord has sworn and will not change his mind: “You are a priest forever, in the order of Melchizedek.”

2. Romans 10:4 - For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes.

Hebrews 7:12 For the priesthood being changed, there is made of necessity a change

also of the law.

The priesthood has changed, so the law must also change.

1: God's law is always changing and adapting to meet the needs of His people.

2: Jesus' priesthood is the cornerstone of our faith, and it is through Him that we can find salvation.

1: Galatians 3:13 - Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us.

2: John 1:17 - For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ.

Hebrews 7:13 For he of whom these things are spoken pertaineth to another tribe, of which no man gave attendance at the altar.

The passage speaks of someone who does not belong to the same tribe as those attending the altar.

1. The importance of unity and community in faith.

2. God's grace extends to all, regardless of race or ethnicity.

1. John 13:34-35 - "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."

2. Galatians 3:28 - "There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus."

Hebrews 7:14 For it is evident that our Lord sprang out of Juda; of which tribe Moses spake nothing concerning priesthood.

In Hebrews 7:14 it is stated that Jesus Christ is from the tribe of Judah, and that Moses did not speak of a priesthood from that tribe.

1. Jesus Christ: Our Great High Priest

2. Our Salvation by God's Grace

1. Matthew 1:1-17 - The genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham.

2. Romans 5:17-19 - For if, by the trespass of the one man, death reigned through that one man, how much more will those who receive God's abundant provision of grace and of the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man, Jesus Christ.

Hebrews 7:15 And it is yet far more evident: for that after the similitude of Melchisedec there ariseth another priest,

This passage says that after the example set by Melchisedec, another priest has risen.

1. The Power of a Good Example: How Following in the Footsteps of Melchisedec Can Make a Difference

2. The Hope of a New Priest: How to Find Strength in Times of Uncertainty

1. Proverbs 13:20 - He that walketh with wise men shall be wise: but a companion of fools shall be destroyed.

2. 1 Corinthians 10:23-24 - All things are lawful for me, but all things are not expedient: all things are lawful for me, but all things edify not. Let no man seek his own, but every man another's wealth.

Hebrews 7:16 Who is made, not after the law of a carnal commandment, but after the power of an endless life.

Hebrews 7:16 explains that Jesus is made, not according to a law of earthly commandment, but according to the power of an unending life.

1. "The Power of Eternal Life: What Does it Mean for Us?"

2. "Living Beyond the Law: Jesus and the Power of an Endless Life"

1. John 10:10 - "The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full."

2. Romans 6:23 - "For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."

Hebrews 7:17 For he testifieth, Thou art a priest for ever after the order of Melchisedec.

The author of Hebrews testifies that Jesus is a priest forever according to the order of Melchisedec.

1. Jesus: The Eternal Priest

2. Melchisedec: A Picture of Jesus

1. Philippians 2:5-8 - Jesus humbled himself to serve and be our High Priest

2. Genesis 14:17-20 - Melchisedec's role as a priest and king

Hebrews 7:18 For there is verily a disannulling of the commandment going before for the weakness and unprofitableness thereof.

The commandment that came before has been abolished because it was weak and useless.

1. The Power of Change: How We Can Overcome Weakness and Unprofitableness

2. The Beauty of the New Covenant: How We Can Find Strength in the Lord

1. Romans 8:1-2 "There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death."

2. 2 Corinthians 12:9-10 "And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong."

Hebrews 7:19 For the law made nothing perfect, but the bringing in of a better hope did; by the which we draw nigh unto God.

New Line In Hebrews 7:19, the law is seen as imperfect and a better hope is presented which allows us to draw closer to God.

1. Hope in God: How Our Faith Makes Us Closer to Him

2. The Perfection of Faith: Knowing God Through Our Hope

1. Romans 5:2 - Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God.

2. Ephesians 2:18 - For through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father.

Hebrews 7:20 And inasmuch as not without an oath he was made priest:

The author of Hebrews speaks about how Jesus was made a priest with an oath.

1. A Priest with a Promise: The Significance of the Oath in Hebrews 7:20

2. Priests of the Lord: Jesus Christ as the Highest Priest

1. Genesis 22:16-17 - And said, By myself have I sworn, saith the Lord, for because thou hast done this thing, and hast not withheld thy son, thine only son:

2. Psalm 110:4 - The Lord hath sworn, and will not repent, Thou art a priest for ever after the order of Melchizedek.

Hebrews 7:21 (For those priests were made without an oath; but this with an oath by him that said unto him, The Lord sware and will not repent, Thou art a priest for ever after the order of Melchisedec:)

The priests of the Old Testament were ordained without an oath, while Jesus was ordained with an oath by God Himself.

1. An Unbreakable Oath: The Lord's Promise to Jesus

2. The Priesthood of Jesus: A Superior Order

1. Psalm 110:4 - “The Lord has sworn and will not change his mind, ‘You are a priest forever after the order of Melchizedek.’”

2. Genesis 14:18-20 - “Then Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine; he was the priest of God Most High. And he blessed him and said: ‘Blessed be Abram of God Most High, Possessor of heaven and earth; And blessed be God Most High, Who has delivered your enemies into your hand.’ And he gave him a tithe of all.”

Hebrews 7:22 By so much was Jesus made a surety of a better testament.

Jesus was given as a guarantee of a better covenant than the one God had made with the people of Israel.

1. Jesus - The Guarantee of a Better Covenant

2. The Significance of Jesus' Surety of a Better Testament

1. Jeremiah 31:31-34 - “Behold, the days are coming, declares the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah, not like the covenant that I made with their fathers on the day when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, my covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, declares the Lord. But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts. And I will be their God, and they shall be my people. And no longer shall each one teach his neighbor and each his brother, saying, ‘Know the Lord,’ for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, declares the Lord. For I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.”

2. Ezekiel 36:25-27 - “I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean from all your uncleannesses, and from all your idols I will cleanse you. And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules.”

Hebrews 7:23 And they truly were many priests, because they were not suffered to continue by reason of death:

The many priests in the Old Testament were unable to continue due to death.

1: Jesus is our Great High Priest who will never die.

2: We can trust in Jesus, the unchanging High Priest.

1: Hebrews 4:14 - Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession.

2: Hebrews 10:21 - And having an high priest over the house of God;

Hebrews 7:24 But this man, because he continueth ever, hath an unchangeable priesthood.

Jesus' priesthood is unchangeable, unlike the priesthood of the Old Testament.

1. Unchangeable Love: The Unchangeable Priesthood of Jesus Christ

2. The Priestly Perfection of Jesus: Unchanging, Unfailing, and Unending

1. Hebrews 5:6 “As he saith also in another place, Thou art a priest for ever after the order of Melchisedec.”

2. Romans 8:35-39 “Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter. Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us. For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

Hebrews 7:25 Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them.

Jesus is able to save those who turn to Him and He continually intercedes for them.

1. Jesus: Savior of the Uttermost

2. Jesus: Our Intercessor

1. John 14:6, "Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."

2. Romans 8:26-27, "Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words."

Hebrews 7:26 For such an high priest became us, who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and made higher than the heavens;

Jesus is our high priest, who is holy, harmless, undefiled, and separate from sinners. He is higher than the heavens.

1. Jesus: Our Perfect High Priest

2. The Holiness of Jesus Christ

1. 1 Peter 1:15-16 - "But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation; Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy."

2. Matthew 5:48 - "Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect."

Hebrews 7:27 Who needeth not daily, as those high priests, to offer up sacrifice, first for his own sins, and then for the people's: for this he did once, when he offered up himself.

The high priest offered up sacrifices for his own sins and for the people's, but Jesus Christ only needed to offer Himself once.

1. The Sacrifice of Jesus Christ: A Reminder of His Unfailing Love

2. Understanding the Significance of Jesus' Sacrifice in Our Lives

1. Romans 5:8 - But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

2. Ephesians 2:4-5 - But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved.

Hebrews 7:28 For the law maketh men high priests which have infirmity; but the word of the oath, which was since the law, maketh the Son, who is consecrated for evermore.

This passage speaks of how the law of Moses makes men high priests, who are limited by their infirmities, while the word of the oath makes Jesus Christ the Son, who is consecrated forevermore.

1. The Unfailing Hope of Christ's Priesthood

2. The Perfection of Christ's Consecration

1. Romans 8:1-4 - There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

2. Philippians 2:5-11 - He humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

Hebrews 8 is the eighth chapter of the book of Hebrews, where the author discusses the new covenant established by Jesus Christ, contrasting it with the old covenant under Moses. The chapter emphasizes the superiority and effectiveness of the new covenant, its promises, and Jesus' role as its mediator.

1st Paragraph: The author describes the superiority of Jesus' ministry as a High Priest in the heavenly sanctuary (Hebrews 8:1-6). He explains that Jesus is seated at God's right hand, serving as a minister in the true tabernacle—the heavenly one established by God. The earthly tabernacle served as a copy and shadow of what exists in heaven. Jesus' ministry is superior because He offers a better sacrifice—Himself—and serves in a more excellent ministry based on better promises. The old covenant made through Moses was temporary and imperfect, but Jesus has obtained a more excellent ministry that is permanent.

2nd Paragraph: The author contrasts the old covenant with the new covenant (Hebrews 8:7-13). He quotes from Jeremiah 31:31-34 to demonstrate that God had promised to establish a new covenant with His people. The old covenant was flawed because Israel

did not continue in it; they broke God's laws and were disobedient. However, God promised to make a new covenant not like the old one—a covenant written on their hearts rather than stone tablets. This new covenant would involve forgiveness of sins and an intimate knowledge of God for all His people.

3rd Paragraph: The chapter concludes by emphasizing that through Jesus' work, He has made obsolete the first covenant (Hebrews 8:13). By calling it "obsolete," it is clear that there has been an establishment of something better—the new covenant through Christ. With this establishment, what was once temporary has now become permanent and far superior. Through this new and better way provided by Jesus, believers have access to forgiveness, a personal relationship with God, and the fulfillment of His promises.

In summary,

Chapter eight of Hebrews discusses the superiority and effectiveness of the new covenant established by Jesus Christ, contrasting it with the old covenant under Moses.

The author describes Jesus' ministry as a High Priest in the heavenly sanctuary, emphasizing its superiority over the earthly tabernacle and its temporary nature.

He contrasts the old covenant with the new covenant, highlighting God's promise to establish a new covenant written on hearts. The old covenant was flawed due to Israel's disobedience, but through Jesus' work, a new and better way has been established.

The chapter concludes by emphasizing that through Jesus' work, He has made obsolete the first covenant. The establishment of this new and better way provides believers with forgiveness of sins, an intimate knowledge of God, and access to His promises. This chapter serves as a reminder of the superiority and effectiveness of Jesus' role as mediator in establishing the new covenant.

Hebrews 8:1 Now of the things which we have spoken this is the sum: We have such an high priest, who is set on the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens;

We have a great High Priest who sits at the right hand of God.

1. The Greatness and Power of Our High Priest

2. Following Our High Priest's Example

1. Matthew 3:17 - And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.

2. 1 Peter 2:21 - For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps.

Hebrews 8:2 A minister of the sanctuary, and of the true tabernacle, which the Lord pitched, and not man.

This passage speaks of Jesus Christ, the High Priest of the Covenant, being the minister of the true tabernacle, which the Lord pitched and not man.

1. Jesus: The High Priest of the Covenant

2. The Lord's Tabernacle: A Sign of His Faithfulness

1. Hebrews 10:20, “By a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, his body”

2. John 1:14, “And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.”

Hebrews 8:3 For every high priest is ordained to offer gifts and sacrifices: wherefore it is of necessity that this man have somewhat also to offer.

Every high priest is ordained to offer sacrifices, meaning Jesus must also offer something.

1. The Necessity of Jesus - Looking at Hebrews 8:3, we are reminded of the importance of Jesus and His offering to us.

2. The Priesthood of Jesus - Examining Hebrews 8:3, we discover the vital role Jesus plays in our lives as our High Priest.

1. Hebrews 9:14-15 - How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God? And for this cause he is the mediator of the new testament, that by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions that were under the first testament, they which are called might receive the promise of eternal inheritance.

2. Leviticus 17:11 - For the life of the flesh is in the blood: and I have given it to you upon

the altar to make an atonement for your souls: for it is the blood that maketh an atonement for the soul.

Hebrews 8:4 For if he were on earth, he should not be a priest, seeing that there are priests that offer gifts according to the law:

This passage from Hebrews 8:4 describes how Jesus is not a priest on earth, as there are already priests offering gifts according to the law.

1. The Uniqueness of Jesus as Our High Priest

2. Following the Law and Understanding Our Priestly Responsibilities

1. Hebrews 7:23-28

2. Leviticus 4:1-35

Hebrews 8:5 Who serve unto the example and shadow of heavenly things, as Moses was admonished of God when he was about to make the tabernacle: for, See, saith he, that thou make all things according to the pattern shewed to thee in the mount.

In Hebrews 8:5, Moses is being reminded by God of the importance of following the pattern shown to him for the tabernacle.

1. The Power of Obedience: Embracing God's Pattern for Life

2. The Reward of Following God's Pattern: Experiencing His Blessings

1. Exodus 25:40 - "And look that thou make them after their pattern, which was shewed thee in the mount."

2. Psalm 119:105 - "Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path."

Hebrews 8:6 But now hath he obtained a more excellent ministry, by how much also he is the mediator of a better covenant, which was established upon better promises.

The new ministry of Jesus is superior and established on better promises.

1. The Superiority of Jesus's Ministry

2. What the Better Covenant Offers Us

1. Jeremiah 31:31-34 - The New Covenant

2. Romans 5:6-11 - Jesus's Atoning Sacrifice

Hebrews 8:7 For if that first covenant had been faultless, then should no place have been sought for the second.

The first covenant was not without faults, so a second covenant was needed.

1. God's Provision in the Second Covenant

2. The Imperfection of the First Covenant

1. Jeremiah 31:31-34 - “Behold, the days are coming, declares the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah, not like the covenant that I made with their fathers on the day when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, my covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, declares the Lord. But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts. And I will be their God, and they shall be my people. And no longer shall each one teach his neighbor and each his brother, saying, 'Know the Lord,' for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, declares the Lord. For I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.”

2. Galatians 3:13-14 - “Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us—for it is written, 'Cursed is everyone who is hanged on a tree'—so that in Christ Jesus the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles, so that we might receive the promised Spirit through faith.”

Hebrews 8:8 For finding fault with them, he saith, Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah:

God will make a new covenant with the people of Israel and Judah.

1. The New Covenant: A Fresh Start

2. The Power of Renewal: A New Covenant

1. Jeremiah 31:31-33

2. Romans 11:26-27

Hebrews 8:9 Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day when I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt; because they continued not in my covenant, and I regarded them not, saith the Lord.

God's covenant with his people is not conditioned on their obedience.

1: God's faithfulness is not dependent on our faithfulness.

2: The Lord is not limited by our limitations.

1: John 3:16 - "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."

2: Romans 8:38-39 - "For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord."

Hebrews 8:10 For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, saith the Lord; I will put my laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts: and I will be to them a God, and they shall be to me a people:

God promises to put His laws into the minds and hearts of the people of Israel.

1. God's Unfailing Covenant of Love

2. Living a Life of Obedience to God's Will

1. Jeremiah 31:33 - But this shall be the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; After those days, saith the Lord, I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts.

2. John 14:15 - If ye love me, keep my commandments.

Hebrews 8:11 And they shall not teach every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the Lord: for all shall know me, from the least to the greatest.

The Lord will be known by all, from the least to the greatest.

1: Knowing the Lord and His Greatness

2: The Importance of Teaching Others About the Lord

1: Jeremiah 31:34 - "And they shall teach no more every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the Lord: for they shall all know me, from the least of them unto the greatest of them, saith the Lord: for I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more."

2: John 17:3 - "And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent."

Hebrews 8:12 For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their iniquities will I remember no more.

God's promise of mercy and grace to those who repent and turn to Him.

1. "The Power of God's Forgiveness"

2. "A Fresh Start with God's Mercy"

1. Isaiah 43:25 - "I, even I, am he who blots out your transgressions, for my own sake, and remembers your sins no more."

2. Psalm 103:12 - "As far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our

transgressions from us."

Hebrews 8:13 In that he saith, A new covenant, he hath made the first old. Now that which decayeth and waxeth old is ready to vanish away.

God made a new covenant that superseded the old covenant, and the old covenant is fading away.

1. "The New Covenant: An Eternal Promise"

2. "The Power of Faith in the New Covenant"

1. Jeremiah 31:31-34: "Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, that I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel, and with the house of Judah: Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt; which my covenant they brake, although I was an husband unto them, saith the Lord: But this shall be the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; After those days, saith the Lord, I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people. And they shall teach no more every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the Lord: for they shall all know me, from the least of them unto the greatest of them, saith the Lord: for I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more."

2. Hebrews 10:16: "This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, saith the Lord, I will put my laws into their hearts, and in their minds will I write them."

Hebrews 9 is the ninth chapter of the book of Hebrews, where the author explores the significance and superiority of Christ's sacrifice as compared to the rituals and sacrifices of the old covenant. The chapter emphasizes Jesus' role as our High Priest, His offering of Himself as a perfect sacrifice, and the eternal redemption He obtained for believers.

1st Paragraph: The author describes in detail the earthly tabernacle and its rituals (Hebrews 9:1-10). He explains how access to God's presence was limited to only certain individuals, particularly the high priest who entered into the Most Holy Place once a year with blood sacrifices. These sacrifices were temporary and symbolic, unable to cleanse people's consciences from sin. They served as a reminder of sin rather than providing permanent forgiveness.

2nd Paragraph: The author contrasts these earthly rituals with Christ's superior sacrifice (Hebrews 9:11-22). He declares that Jesus, our High Priest, entered into heaven itself with His own blood—obtaining eternal redemption for believers. Unlike the temporary animal sacrifices that needed repetition each year, Jesus offered Himself once for all time. His sacrifice purifies our consciences from dead works so that we can serve the living God.

Just as blood was necessary for cleansing under the old covenant, Jesus' shed blood is essential for forgiveness under the new covenant.

3rd Paragraph: The chapter concludes by emphasizing Christ's role in fulfilling Old Testament prophecies (Hebrews 9:23-28). The author explains that according to divine pattern, purification required heavenly things themselves—the heavenly sanctuary—and better sacrifices than those offered on earth. Christ has appeared once at the end of ages to put away sin by sacrificing Himself. As it is appointed for people to die once and then face judgment, so Christ was offered once to bear sins but will appear again without reference to sin—to bring salvation for those who eagerly await Him.

In summary,

Chapter nine of Hebrews explores Christ's superior sacrifice compared to earthly rituals and sacrifices.

The author describes in detail how access to God was limited under the old covenant through temporary animal sacrifices.

He contrasts these earthly rituals with Jesus' offering of Himself as a perfect sacrifice—obtaining eternal redemption and purifying our consciences from sin.

The chapter concludes by emphasizing Christ's fulfillment of Old Testament prophecies through His sacrificial work and promises His future return to bring salvation for those who eagerly await Him. This chapter serves as a reminder of Jesus' role as our High Priest who offered Himself as a perfect sacrifice—a sacrifice far superior in its effectiveness and ability to provide eternal redemption.

Hebrews 9:1 Then verily the first covenant had also ordinances of divine service, and a worldly sanctuary.

The first covenant between God and his people contained regulations for worship and a physical sanctuary.

1. Learning the Power of Obedience Through the Old Covenant

2. The Significance of the Old Covenant Sanctuary

1. Exodus 25:8-9 And let them make me a sanctuary; that I may dwell among them. According to all that I shew thee, after the pattern of the tabernacle, and the pattern of all the instruments thereof, even so shall ye make it.

2. Ezekiel 37:26-28 Moreover I will make a covenant of peace with them; it shall be an everlasting covenant with them: and I will place them, and multiply them, and will set my sanctuary in the midst of them for evermore.

Hebrews 9:2 For there was a tabernacle made; the first, wherein was the candlestick, and the table, and the shewbread; which is called the sanctuary.

The first tabernacle in the Bible had a candlestick, a table, and showbread, and was referred to as the sanctuary.

1. The Holiness of God's Sanctuary

2. The Significance of the Furnishings in the Tabernacle

1. Exodus 25:31-40 (God giving instructions to Moses for the making of the tabernacle)

2. Exodus 26:1-37 (God's instructions for the making of the curtains of the tabernacle)

Hebrews 9:3 And after the second veil, the tabernacle which is called the Holiest of all;

The Holiest of all was the tabernacle located behind the second veil in the book of Hebrews.

1. The Power of Holiness

2. God's Holiness in the Tabernacle

1. Exodus 25:8-9, "And let them make me a sanctuary; that I may dwell among them. According to all that I shew thee, after the pattern of the tabernacle, and the pattern of all the instruments thereof, even so shall ye make it."

2. Hebrews 10:19-20, "Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus, By a new and living way, which he hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, his flesh."

Hebrews 9:4 Which had the golden censer, and the ark of the covenant overlaid round

about with gold, wherein was the golden pot that had manna, and Aaron's rod that budded, and the tables of the covenant;

The passage speaks of the Ark of the Covenant, which contained the golden censer, manna, Aaron's rod, and the tables of the covenant.

1. The Ark of the Covenant: A Symbol of God's Covenant with His People

2. The Significance of the Objects in the Ark of the Covenant

1. Exodus 16:33-34, "And Moses said unto Aaron, Take a pot, and put an omer full of manna therein, and lay it up before the LORD, to be kept for your generations. As the LORD commanded Moses, so Aaron laid it up before the Testimony, to be kept."

2. Numbers 17:8, "And it came to pass, that on the morrow Moses went into the tabernacle of witness; and, behold, the rod of Aaron for the house of Levi was budded, and brought forth buds, and bloomed blossoms, and yielded almonds."

Hebrews 9:5 And over it the cherubims of glory shadowing the mercyseat; of which we cannot now speak particularly.

The Book of Hebrews discusses the mercy seat, which is covered by cherubim, however the details are not described.

1. The Mercy of God Revealed Through the Mercy Seat

2. The Glory of God Represented by the Cherubim

1. Exodus 25:17-22 - And thou shalt make a mercy seat of pure gold: two cubits and a half shall be the length thereof, and a cubit and a half the breadth thereof.

2. Ezekiel 10:1-5 - Then I looked, and, behold, in the firmament that was above the head of the cherubims there appeared over them as it were a sapphire stone, as the appearance of the likeness of a throne.

Hebrews 9:6 Now when these things were thus ordained, the priests went always into the first tabernacle, accomplishing the service of God.

The priests in the Old Covenant were instructed to offer services in the first tabernacle according to God's ordinance.

1. The Priestly Ministry: A Model of Service and Sacrifice

2. The Old Covenant: A Foundation for the New

1. Romans 12:1-2 - "I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect."

2. Leviticus 10:1-3 - "Now Nadab and Abihu, the sons of Aaron, each took his censer and put fire in it and laid incense on it and offered unauthorized fire before the Lord, which he had not commanded them. And fire came out from before the Lord and consumed them, and they died before the Lord. Then Moses said to Aaron, “This is what the Lord has said: ‘Among those who are near me I will be sanctified, and before all the people I will be glorified.’” And Aaron held his peace."

Hebrews 9:7 But into the second went the high priest alone once every year, not without blood, which he offered for himself, and for the errors of the people:

The high priest went into the second part of the sanctuary once a year to offer a blood sacrifice for himself and the people's sins.

1: Our High Priest Jesus made a perfect sacrifice for us and our sins.

2: We are redeemed by the perfect and efficacious sacrifice of Jesus Christ.

1: Hebrews 10:10-14 - By the which will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

2: Hebrews 4:14-16 - Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession.

Hebrews 9:8 The Holy Ghost this signifying, that the way into the holiest of all was not yet made manifest, while as the first tabernacle was yet standing:

The Holy Spirit was showing that the way into the most holy place was not yet revealed while the first tabernacle was still standing.

1. The Holiest of All: What the Holy Spirit Revealed

2. The Significance of the Tabernacle: An Overview of Hebrews 9:8

1. Exodus 40:34-35 - Then the cloud covered the tent of meeting, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle. And Moses was not able to enter the tent of meeting because the cloud had settled on it, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle.

2. John 14:6 - Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

Hebrews 9:9 Which was a figure for the time then present, in which were offered both gifts and sacrifices, that could not make him that did the service perfect, as pertaining to the conscience;

The passage discusses a figure in Hebrews 9:9 which represents the offering of gifts and sacrifices to God in the time before Christ.

1. Jesus Christ: The Perfect Sacrifice

2. The Promise of Conscience in Christ

1. Hebrews 10:1-4

2. Romans 6:22-23

Hebrews 9:10 Which stood only in meats and drinks, and divers washings, and carnal ordinances, imposed on them until the time of reformation.

This verse explains how the Old Testament Law was only in regards to food, washings, and regulations that were in place until the time of reformation.

1. The Power of Reformation: When We Change Our Lives for the Better

2. The Law of the Old Testament: Understanding the Purposes of Regulations

1. Romans 12:2 - “Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.”

2. Galatians 5:22-23 - “But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.”

Hebrews 9:11 But Christ being come an high priest of good things to come, by a greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this building;

Christ is a high priest of good things to come, not from a tabernacle made with hands, but one greater and more perfect.

1. The Greater and More Perfect Tabernacle of Christ

2. The Good Things to Come Through Christ

1. Romans 8:18-25 - The hope and glory of future salvation through Christ

2. Colossians 1:19-20 - The power of Christ for reconciliation and peace for all creation

Hebrews 9:12 Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us.

Jesus entered the holy place with his own blood, obtaining eternal redemption for all of us.

1. "The Price of Redemption: The Great Cost of Our Salvation"

2. "The Power of Blood: Understanding the True Sacrifice of Jesus"

1. Isaiah 53:5 - "But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed."

2. 1 Peter 1:18-19 - "For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your ancestors, but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect."

Hebrews 9:13 For if the blood of bulls and of goats, and the ashes of an heifer sprinkling the unclean, sanctifieth to the purifying of the flesh:

The blood of bulls and goats, and the ashes of a heifer, can purify the flesh.

1: We must be purified.

2: It is through the blood of Christ that we are made clean.

1: 1 John 1:7 - But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.

2: Romans 5:8-9 - But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him.

Hebrews 9:14 How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?

The blood of Christ can purify our conscience and enable us to serve the living God.

1. The Power of Christ's Blood to Purify Our Conscience

2. The Call to Serve the Living God

1. Ephesians 1:7 - In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace

2. Romans 12:1-2 - Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

Hebrews 9:15 And for this cause he is the mediator of the new testament, that by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions that were under the first testament, they which are called might receive the promise of eternal inheritance.

The mediator of the new testament is responsible for providing redemption of transgressions under the first testament, in order to receive the promise of eternal inheritance.

1. Understanding the Covenant of Christ: A Look at the Redemption of Transgressions

2. God's Promise of Eternal Inheritance: The Significance of the New Testament

1. Romans 3:23-25 - All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, but by grace, we are saved through faith in Jesus Christ.

2. John 3:16-17 - For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

Hebrews 9:16 For where a testament is, there must also of necessity be the death of the testator.

The death of a testator is necessary for a testament to become valid.

1. The importance of a testator's death in establishing a testament

2. How to properly prepare for the inevitable death of a testator

1. Romans 6:23 - "For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."

2. Ecclesiastes 12:7 - "And the dust returns to the ground it came from, and the spirit returns to God who gave it."

Hebrews 9:17 For a testament is of force after men are dead: otherwise it is of no strength at all while the testator liveth.

A testament is only valid after the death of the testator.

1. The Power of a Testimony: How Our Words Live On After We Die

2. The Value of Our Testimony: What We Leave Behind for Future Generations

1. Proverbs 13:22 - A good man leaves an inheritance to his children's children, but the sinner's wealth is laid up for the righteous.

2. Psalm 49:17 - For when he dies he shall carry nothing away; his glory shall not descend after him.

Hebrews 9:18 Whereupon neither the first testament was dedicated without blood.

The first testament was dedicated with the shedding of blood.

1. The Power of the Blood: Understanding the Significance of Sacrificial Blood

2. The Legacy of the Blood: The Impact of the First Testament Dedication

1. Leviticus 17:11, "For the life of the flesh is in the blood, and I have given it for you on the altar to make atonement for your souls, for it is the blood that makes atonement by the life."

2. Exodus 24:8, "Then Moses took the blood and threw it on the people and said, 'Behold the blood of the covenant that the LORD has made with you in accordance with all these words.'"

Hebrews 9:19 For when Moses had spoken every precept to all the people according to the law, he took the blood of calves and of goats, with water, and scarlet wool, and hyssop, and sprinkled both the book, and all the people,

Moses, as part of the law, spoke to the people and sprinkled the book and them with a mixture of blood from calves and goats, water, scarlet wool, and hyssop.

1. The importance of following God's law and fulfilling the ritual of sprinkling the book and people with blood.

2. The symbolic nature of the sprinkling of blood and how Jesus is the ultimate sacrifice for our sins.

1. Leviticus 16:14-16 - describes the ritual of the sprinkling of the blood of the sacrificial animals.

2. 1 John 1:7 - "But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin."

Hebrews 9:20 Saying, This is the blood of the testament which God hath enjoined unto you.

This verse tells us that Jesus' blood was shed to fulfill God's covenant with us.

1. The Promise of Salvation Through Christ's Blood

2. The Power of the Blood of the Covenant

1. Isaiah 53:5 - "But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed."

2. 1 John 1:7 - "But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin."

Hebrews 9:21 Moreover he sprinkled with blood both the tabernacle, and all the vessels of the ministry.

The author of Hebrews 9 emphasizes the importance of blood in the tabernacle and all the items used in the ministry.

1. The Power of Blood: Exploring the Meaning and Significance of the Blood in the Tabernacle

2. The Ministry of the Tabernacle: A Study of the Significance of the Tabernacle and Its Vessels

1. Exodus 24:3-8; And Moses came and told the people all the words of the Lord, and all the judgments: and all the people answered with one voice, and said, All the words which the Lord hath said will we do. And Moses wrote all the words of the Lord, and rose up early in the morning, and builded an altar under the hill, and twelve pillars, according to the twelve tribes of Israel. And he sent young men of the children of Israel, which offered burnt offerings, and sacrificed peace offerings of oxen unto the Lord. And Moses took half of the blood, and put it in basons; and half of the blood he sprinkled on the altar. And he took the book of the covenant, and read in the audience of the people: and they said, All that the Lord hath said will we do, and be obedient.

2. Leviticus 17:11; For the life of the flesh is in the blood: and I have given it to you upon the altar to make an atonement for your souls: for it is the blood that maketh an atonement for the soul.

Hebrews 9:22 And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission.

The law requires that blood must be shed in order for remission to take place.

1. The Cost of Forgiveness: How Jesus Paid the Ultimate Price

2. What is the Significance of the Blood of Jesus?

1. Leviticus 17:11 - For the life of the flesh is in the blood: and I have given it to you upon the altar to make an atonement for your souls: for it is the blood that maketh an atonement for the soul.

2. Romans 5:8 - But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

Hebrews 9:23 It was therefore necessary that the patterns of things in the heavens should be purified with these; but the heavenly things themselves with better sacrifices than these.

The heavenly things must be purified with better sacrifices than those on Earth.

1. The power of sacrificial love

2. The importance of obedience to God

1. Romans 12:1-2 Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship.

2. Hebrews 10:19-22 Therefore, brothers and sisters, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, his body, and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us draw near to God with a sincere heart and with the full assurance that faith brings, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water.

Hebrews 9:24 For Christ is not entered into the holy places made with hands, which are the figures of the true; but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us:

Christ entered into Heaven to appear before God on our behalf.

1. The Sacrifice of Christ: His Appearance Before God for Us

2. The Power of Our Intercession Through Christ

1. Romans 8:34 - “Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us.”

2. Hebrews 4:16 - “Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.”

Hebrews 9:25 Nor yet that he should offer himself often, as the high priest entereth into the holy place every year with blood of others;

The author of Hebrews explains that Jesus did not need to continually offer himself as a sacrifice, unlike the high priest who needed to offer the blood of others every year.

1: Jesus' one-time sacrifice of himself was sufficient to bring us salvation.

2: We can be thankful that Jesus' sacrifice was enough to cover our sins.

1: Romans 6:10 - For the death he died he died to sin, once for all, but the life he lives he lives to God.

2: 1 Peter 3:18 - For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God.

Hebrews 9:26 For then must he often have suffered since the foundation of the world: but now once in the end of the world hath he appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself.

1: Jesus Christ has come to put away sin for all of us by sacrificing himself.

2: Jesus Christ has appeared once in the end of the world to put away sin through his own sacrifice.

1: John 3:16 - For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

2: 1 John 2:2 - He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

Hebrews 9:27 And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment:

All people will eventually die and after that will face judgment.

1. Everyone's Final Destination: Life, Death, and Judgment

2. The Certainty of Death and the Uncertainty of Judgment

1. Ecclesiastes 12:7-8 (And the dust returns to the ground it came from, and the spirit returns to God who gave it. “Everything is meaningless,” says the Teacher, “completely meaningless!”)

2. Luke 16:19-31 (“There was a rich man who was dressed in purple and fine linen and who feasted sumptuously every day. And at his gate was laid a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores, who desired to be fed with what fell from the rich man's table. Moreover, even the dogs came and licked his sores.)

Hebrews 9:28 So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation.

Christ was offered once to bear the sins of many and will appear a second time for salvation.

1: Jesus came to save us from our sins, and he will come again to bring us salvation.

2: The blood of Jesus was already shed for us, and one day he will return to bring us into a saving grace.

1: Romans 5:8-9 - But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God’s wrath through him!

2: Isaiah 53:5 - But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed.

Hebrews 10 is the tenth chapter of the book of Hebrews, where the author continues to emphasize the superiority and sufficiency of Christ's sacrifice. The chapter explores how Jesus' sacrifice surpasses the sacrifices of the old covenant and calls believers to persevere in faith, confident in the assurance of salvation through Christ.

1st Paragraph: The author highlights the insufficiency of animal sacrifices under the old covenant (Hebrews 10:1-18). He explains that these sacrifices could not take away sins but were a reminder of sin year after year. In contrast, Jesus' sacrifice is perfect and complete. By offering His body once for all, He has sanctified believers and perfected them forever. The Holy Spirit also testifies that God will remember their sins no more under this new covenant.

2nd Paragraph: The author encourages believers to approach God with confidence through Jesus (Hebrews 10:19-25). He emphasizes that since we have confidence to enter God's presence by Jesus' blood, we should draw near with sincere hearts and full assurance of faith. Believers are urged to hold fast to their confession without wavering because God is faithful to His promises. They should also consider how they can spur one another on toward love and good deeds, gathering together regularly for encouragement.

3rd Paragraph: The chapter concludes by warning against willful sinning (Hebrews 10:26-39). The author cautions that if someone deliberately continues sinning after receiving knowledge of the truth, there remains no sacrifice for their sins—only fearful expectation of judgment and fiery wrath. Believers are reminded not to throw away their confidence

but instead persevere in faith so they may receive what has been promised—a reward from God. They are encouraged not to shrink back but be those who have faith and preserve their souls.

In summary,

Chapter ten of Hebrews emphasizes Christ's superior sacrifice compared to animal sacrifices under the old covenant.

The author highlights how Jesus' sacrifice is perfect and complete, sanctifying believers forever.

Believers are encouraged to approach God with confidence through Jesus' blood, holding fast their confession without wavering. They are urged to gather together for mutual encouragement in love and good deeds.

The chapter concludes with a warning against willful sinning, reminding believers not to throw away their confidence but persevere in faith until they receive what has been promised—a reward from God. This chapter serves as a reminder of Christ's all-sufficient sacrifice, calling believers to persevere in faith with full assurance while encouraging one another along the journey towards eternal salvation.

Hebrews 10:1 For the law having a shadow of good things to come, and not the very image of the things, can never with those sacrifices which they offered year by year continually make the comers thereunto perfect.

The Law of the Old Testament was a mere shadow of the perfect things to come. Sacrifices could not make worshipers perfect.

1. Jesus' Death Has Perfected What the Old Testament Could Not

2. The Perfection of Jesus' Death: Fulfilling the Old Testament

1. Romans 10:4 - For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth.

2. Galatians 3:24–25 - So the law was our guardian until Christ came, in order that we might be justified by faith. But now that faith has come, we are no longer under a guardian.

Hebrews 10:2 For then would they not have ceased to be offered? because that the worshippers once purged should have had no more conscience of sins.

The worshippers of God have been purified and should have no more conscience of sin.

1. The Power of Purification: Understanding the Significance of Atonement

2. Setting Our Consciences Free: Experiencing the Freedom of Purification

1. Psalm 103:12 - As far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us.

2. 1 John 1:7-9 - But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.

Hebrews 10:3 But in those sacrifices there is a remembrance again made of sins every year.

The author of Hebrews states that in the Old Testament, sacrifices were made as a reminder of sin every year.

1. The Power of Remembrance: Learning from the Old Testament

2. The Meaning of Sacrifice: Finding Renewal Through Atonement

1. Isaiah 43:25 - "I, even I, am he who blots out your transgressions, for my own sake, and remembers your sins no more."

2. Luke 22:19-20 - "And he took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body given for you; do this in remembrance of me."

Hebrews 10:4 For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and of goats should take away sins.

The blood of bulls and goats cannot take away sins.

1. The power of Jesus' blood to take away our sins

2. The power of God's grace to forgive us

1. Romans 3:24-26 - Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus.

2. Colossians 1:13-14 - For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

Hebrews 10:5 Wherefore when he cometh into the world, he saith, Sacrifice and offering thou wouldest not, but a body hast thou prepared me:

Sacrifice and offering were not what God desired, instead he desired a body prepared for him.

1: The Body of Christ - A look at why God desired a body prepared for him.

2: Sacrificing Ourselves - An examination of what it means to offer ourselves as living sacrifices to God.

1: Philippians 2:5-8 - Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.

2: Romans 12:1-2 - I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

Hebrews 10:6 In burnt offerings and sacrifices for sin thou hast had no pleasure.

God does not find pleasure in burnt offerings and sacrifices for sin.

1. God's Mercy is Greater than our Sin

2. The Power of Repentance and Forgiveness

1. Isaiah 1:11-17 — “What to me is the multitude of your sacrifices?” says the Lord; “I have had enough of burnt offerings of rams and the fat of well-fed beasts; I do not delight in the blood of bulls, or of lambs, or of goats.

2. Psalm 51:16-17 - For you will not delight in sacrifice, or I would give it; you will not be pleased with a burnt offering. The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

Hebrews 10:7 Then said I, Lo, I come (in the volume of the book it is written of me,) to do thy will, O God.

This passage speaks of God's will being fulfilled through Jesus coming to earth.

1. "God's Will is Always Done"

2. "Submitting to the Will of God"

1. Romans 8:28-30 "And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters. And those he predestined, he also called; those he called, he also justified; those he justified, he also glorified."

2. Psalm 40:7-8 "Then I said, “Here I am, I have come— it is written about me in the scroll. I desire to do your will, my God; your law is within my heart.”

Hebrews 10:8 Above when he said, Sacrifice and offering and burnt offerings and offering for sin thou wouldest not, neither hadst pleasure therein; which are offered by the law;

The Lord rejected the offerings prescribed by the law.

1: Jesus fulfilled the law to save us from our sins.

2: We can come to God through faith in Christ.

1: Romans 3:25-26 - Jesus' sacrifice is the only way to be made right with God.

2: Hebrews 9:14 - Christ's death was the perfect sacrifice for our sins.

Hebrews 10:9 Then said he, Lo, I come to do thy will, O God. He taketh away the first, that he may establish the second.

Jesus came to fulfill God's will and replace the old covenant with a new one.

1. Jesus: The Fulfiller of God's Will

2. A New Covenant: The Replacement of the Old

1. John 3:16-17 "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him."

2. Hebrews 8:6-7 "But in fact the ministry Jesus has received is as superior to theirs as the covenant of which he is mediator is superior to the old one, and it is founded on better promises. For if there had been nothing wrong with that first covenant, no place would have been sought for another."

Hebrews 10:10 By the which will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

By the offering of the body of Jesus Christ, we are sanctified once for all.

1: We have been sanctified by Jesus Christ's ultimate sacrifice and given the gift of salvation.

2: We can have assurance in the knowledge that Jesus' body was offered as an everlasting sacrifice to sanctify us forever.

1: John 3:16 - For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

2: Romans 5:8 - But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Hebrews 10:11 And every priest standeth daily ministering and offering oftentimes the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins:

The scripture from Hebrews 10:11 teaches that priests offer sacrifices daily, but these sacrifices cannot take away sins.

1: We are called to give our lives as a living sacrifice to God.

2: We must strive to live in such a way that honors God, as sacrifices cannot take away our sins.

1: Romans 12:1-2 “Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.”

2: Isaiah 1:16-17 “Wash and make yourselves clean. Take your evil deeds out of my sight; stop doing wrong. Learn to do right; seek justice. Defend the oppressed. Take up the cause of the fatherless; plead the case of the widow.”

Hebrews 10:12 But this man, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God;

The passage speaks of Jesus offering one sacrifice for the sins of mankind, and taking His seat at the right hand of God.

1: Jesus' one sacrifice is sufficient to cover all of our sins, now and forever.

2: We must accept Jesus' sacrifice to receive forgiveness and the gift of eternal life.

1: Romans 6:23 - For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

2: Ephesians 2:8-9 - For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— not by works, so that no one can boast.

Hebrews 10:13 From henceforth expecting till his enemies be made his footstool.

This passage speaks of Jesus expecting his enemies to be made his footstool.

1. The Power of Patience: Waiting for God's Promise to Fulfill

2. The Victory of Faith: Trusting in God's Plan for Our Lives

1. Romans 8:28 - And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.

2. Psalm 37:7-9 - Be still before the Lord and wait patiently for him; do not fret when people succeed in their ways, when they carry out their wicked schemes. Refrain from anger and turn from wrath; do not fret—it leads only to evil. For those who are evil will be destroyed, but those who hope in the Lord will inherit the land.

Hebrews 10:14 For by one offering he hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified.

By Jesus' one offering, those who are sanctified have been perfected forever.

1. The Power of Christ's Sacrifice: How Jesus Perfected Us Forever

2. The Perfection of Sanctification: How We Are Made Whole by the Offering of Jesus

1. Romans 8:1-4 - There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

2. Hebrews 9:11-14 - But when Christ appeared as a high priest of the good things that have come, then through the greater and more perfect tent (not made with hands, that is, not of this creation) he entered once for all into the holy places, not by means of the blood of goats and calves but by means of his own blood, thus securing an eternal redemption.

Hebrews 10:15 Whereof the Holy Ghost also is a witness to us: for after that he had said before,

The Holy Spirit bears witness to us that we can come boldly before God.

1: "Boldly Approaching God"

2: "The Power of Confidence in Christ"

1: Romans 8:34 - “Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us.”

2: 1 John 4:17–18 - “By this is love perfected with us, so that we may have confidence for the day of judgment, because as he is so also are we in this world. There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear.”

Hebrews 10:16 This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, saith the Lord, I will put my laws into their hearts, and in their minds will I write them;

God's covenant of grace promises to write His laws into our hearts and minds.

1. The Power of God's Covenant in Our Lives

2. Experiencing Grace Through Obedience

1. Jeremiah 31:33 - "But this shall be the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; After those days, saith the Lord, I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people."

2. Deuteronomy 30:11-14 - "For this commandment which I command thee this day, it is not hidden from thee, neither is it far off. It is not in heaven, that thou shouldest say, Who shall go up for us to heaven, and bring it unto us, that we may hear it, and do it? Neither is it beyond the sea, that thou shouldest say, Who shall go over the sea for us, and bring it unto us, that we may hear it, and do it? But the word is very nigh unto thee, in thy mouth, and in thy heart, that thou mayest do it."

Hebrews 10:17 And their sins and iniquities will I remember no more.

This passage from Hebrews 10 reminds us of God’s unending mercy and grace, as He will not remember our sins and iniquities any longer.

1: God’s Unfailing Grace - Hebrews 10:17

2: Unforgettable Mercy - Hebrews 10:17

1: Isaiah 43:25 - “I, even I, am he who blots out your transgressions, for my own sake, and remembers your sins no more.”

2: Micah 7:19 - “He will again have compassion on us; he will tread our iniquities underfoot. You will cast all our sins into the depths of the sea.”

Hebrews 10:18 Now where remission of these is, there is no more offering for sin.

The author of Hebrews explains that when God's forgiveness is accepted, there is no longer a need for animal sacrifices for sin.

1. The Power of Forgiveness: How to Receive God's Gift of Redemption

2. The Meaning of Remission: Understanding the Significance of Sacrificial Offerings

1. Romans 5:8 - But God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

2. Isaiah 53:4-5 - Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his stripes we are healed.

Hebrews 10:19 Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus,

This passage speaks of our boldness to come before God through the sacrifice of Jesus.

1. Our Boldness in the Presence of God - Hebrews 10:19

2. The Power of the Blood of Jesus - Hebrews 10:19

1. Ephesians 3:12 - In him and through faith in him we may approach God with freedom and confidence.

2. John 10:7-9 - Jesus said, “Very truly I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. All who have come before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep have not listened to them. I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved. They will come in and go out, and find pasture.

Hebrews 10:20 By a new and living way, which he hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, his flesh;

1: Jesus' sacrifice enabled us to have a direct connection to God and a path to everlasting life.

2: Jesus' death and resurrection opened the door to a new life of salvation in Him.

1: John 10:9 - "I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved."

2: Romans 6:23 - "For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."

Hebrews 10:21 And having an high priest over the house of God;

The passage speaks of the importance of having a high priest over the house of God.

1. The Essential Role of a High Priest in the House of God

2. The Significance of a High Priest in the House of God

1. Exodus 28:1 - “Then bring near to you Aaron your brother, and his sons with him, from among the people of Israel, to serve me as priests—Aaron and Aaron's sons, Nadab and Abihu, Eleazar and Ithamar.”

2. Hebrews 4:14-16 - “Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.”

Hebrews 10:22 Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water.

Draw near to God with faith and assurance.

1: A Clean Heart and a Clean Conscience

2: Approach God with Confidence

1: Psalm 51:10 “Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me.”

2: James 4:8 “Draw near to God and He will draw near to you.”

Hebrews 10:23 Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised;)

Christians should remain steadfast in their faith, as God is faithful and will fulfill His promises.

1. "Remain Steadfast in Your Faith"

2. "The Faithfulness of God"

1. Isaiah 40:31 - "But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint."

2. 1 Corinthians 15:58 - "Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord."

Hebrews 10:24 And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works:

Christians should encourage each other to strive towards loving others and doing good works.

1. "The Power of Encouragement: Investing in Others for the Sake of Love and Good Works"

2. "A Call to Action: How to Propel Each Other Towards Love and Good Works"

1. Romans 12:10 "Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another"

2. Galatians 6:10 "As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith"

Hebrews 10:25 Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.

Believers should not neglect to congregate and encourage each other, especially as the day of the Lord approaches.

1. The Power of Fellowship: How Coming Together Strengthens Our Faith

2. Enduring Together: Staying Connected Through Tough Times

1. Acts 2:42-47 - The Early Church's Commitment to Fellowship

2. Ephesians 4:2-3 - The Importance of Unity in the Body of Christ

Hebrews 10:26 For if we sin wilfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins,

The passage warns that there is no more sacrifice for sins if one knowingly and willfully sins after receiving the knowledge of the truth.

1. The Consequence of Wilful Sinning

2. God's Unfailing Truth

1. Psalm 51:3-4 "For I acknowledge my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me. Against thee, thee only, have I sinned, and done this evil in thy sight."

2. Proverbs 28:13 "He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy."

Hebrews 10:27 But a certain fearful looking for of judgment and fiery indignation, which shall devour the adversaries.

The passage from Hebrews 10:27 warns of a coming judgment and fiery indignation on those who do not obey God.

1. Fear Not: The Assurance of Grace in the Face of Judgment

2. Growing in Holiness: The Fiery Indignation of the Lord

1. Romans 8:1-2 "There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death."

2. Isaiah 26:9 "With my soul have I desired thee in the night; yea, with my spirit within me will I seek thee early: for when thy judgments are in the earth, the inhabitants of the world will learn righteousness."

Hebrews 10:28 He that despised Moses' law died without mercy under two or three witnesses:

The passage in Hebrews 10:28 reveals that those who reject the law of Moses will be punished without mercy if two or three witnesses testify against them.

1. The importance of obedience to God's law.

2. The consequences of disobeying God's law.

1. Matthew 5:17-20 - Jesus explains the importance of following the law.

2. Exodus 20:1-17 - The Ten Commandments are revealed.

Hebrews 10:29 Of how much sorer punishment, suppose ye, shall he be thought worthy, who hath trodden under foot the Son of God, and hath counted the blood of the covenant, wherewith he was sanctified, an unholy thing, and hath done despite unto the Spirit of grace?

This passage from Hebrews 10:29 speaks of the sorer punishment those who have trampled the Son of God and disregarded the blood of the covenant will receive.

1. The Consequences of Rejecting the Sacrifice of Jesus

2. Understanding the Price of Disrespecting God's Presence

1. 1 John 1:7-9 - But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.

2. Romans 3:25 - Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God.

Hebrews 10:30 For we know him that hath said, Vengeance belongeth unto me, I will recompense, saith the Lord. And again, The Lord shall judge his people.

The Lord will judge his people because vengeance belongs to him alone.

1. The Lord is our Just Judge

2. Do Not Take Vengeance Into Your Own Hands

1. Romans 12:19 - "Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, “Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord."

2. Deuteronomy 32:35 - "Vengeance is mine, and recompense, for the time when their foot shall slip; for the day of their calamity is at hand, and their doom comes swiftly."

Hebrews 10:31 It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

Hebrews 10:31 reminds us of the holy and powerful nature of God, emphasizing that it is a fearful thing to fall into His hands.

1. "The Fear of the Lord: Recognizing the Power of God"

2. "Not Just a Saying: Heeding the Warning of Hebrews 10:31"

1. Psalm 33:8 - "Let all the earth fear the LORD; let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of him."

2. Proverbs 1:7 - "The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and instruction."

Hebrews 10:32 But call to remembrance the former days, in which, after ye were illuminated, ye endured a great fight of afflictions;

Believers were illuminated and endured afflictions in the past.

1. Persevere Through Trials and Tribulations

2. Rely on God's Strength During Difficult Times

1. James 1:2-3 - Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness.

2. 1 Peter 5:7 - Casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you.

Hebrews 10:33 Partly, whilst ye were made a gazingstock both by reproaches and afflictions; and partly, whilst ye became companions of them that were so used.

The passage speaks of being made a gazingstock through reproaches and afflictions, and of becoming companions of those who experience the same.

1. Enduring Faith in the Midst of Trials

2. The Power of Community in Suffering

1. 1 Corinthians 10:13 - No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.

2. Isaiah 43:2 - When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you.

Hebrews 10:34 For ye had compassion of me in my bonds, and took joyfully the spoiling of your goods, knowing in yourselves that ye have in heaven a better and an enduring substance.

The passage speaks of having joy in the midst of suffering, knowing that a greater reward awaits us in Heaven.

1. Joy in the Midst of Suffering: Finding Comfort in Knowing Our Eternal Reward

2. The Substance of Heaven: Believing in a Better and Enduring Reward

1. Isaiah 40:31 - But they who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint.

2. Psalm 73:24-26 - You guide me with your counsel, and afterward you will receive me to glory. Whom have I in heaven but you? And there is nothing on earth that I desire besides you. My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.

Hebrews 10:35 Cast not away therefore your confidence, which hath great recompence of reward.

We should not give up our faith, as it will be rewarded greatly.

1. "The Reward of Faith"

2. "Clinging to Confidence"

1. James 1:12 - "Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him."

2. 2 Timothy 4:7-8 - "I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing."

Hebrews 10:36 For ye have need of patience, that, after ye have done the will of God, ye might receive the promise.

Patience is needed to receive the promise of God after doing His will.

1. “The Promise of Patience”

2. “Gaining God's Promise by Doing His Will”

1. Romans 8:25-27 - “But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.”

2. James 5:7-8 - “Be patient, therefore, brothers, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient about it, until it receives the early and the late rains.”

Hebrews 10:37 For yet a little while, and he that shall come will come, and will not tarry.

The Lord is coming soon and will not delay.

1. An Urgent Call to Preparation - The Lord is Coming Soon

2. The Comfort of Knowing Our Salvation is Near - The Lord Will Not Delay

1. 2 Peter 3:8-9 - But, beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.

2. Isaiah 40:31 - But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk,

and not faint.

Hebrews 10:38 Now the just shall live by faith: but if any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him.

The just shall live by faith, but those who draw back will have no pleasure from God.

1. The Just Shall Live By Faith: Relying On God For Strength

2. Don’t Draw Back: Staying Committed To God’s Plan

1. Habakkuk 2:4: “Behold, his soul which is lifted up is not upright in him: but the just shall live by his faith.”

2. Romans 1:17: “For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith.”

Hebrews 10:39 But we are not of them who draw back unto perdition; but of them that believe to the saving of the soul.

Believers do not draw back and instead have faith that leads to the salvation of their soul.

1. Abide in the Lord and He Will Abide in You

2. Stand Firm in Faith for the Salvation of Your Soul

1. John 15:4-7 - Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me.

5 I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.

2. James 1:12 - Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him.

Hebrews 11, often referred to as the "Hall of Faith," is the eleventh chapter of the book of Hebrews. It provides a powerful exposition on faith and highlights numerous examples from the Old Testament of individuals who demonstrated great faith in God.

1st Paragraph: The author defines faith and its significance (Hebrews 11:1-7). Faith is described as the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. By faith, people throughout history have received commendation from God. The author emphasizes that it is through faith that we understand that God created the universe by His word. Abel's offering, Enoch's walk with God, and Noah's obedience in building an ark are cited as examples of individuals who pleased God through their unwavering faith.

2nd Paragraph: The author continues to recount more examples of extraordinary faith (Hebrews 11:8-31). Abraham's obedience in leaving his homeland and Isaac's blessing concerning future generations demonstrate their unwavering trust in God's promises. Other figures such as Sarah, Moses' parents, Moses himself, and Rahab are commended for their remarkable acts of faith. They displayed courage, endurance, and trust in God even when faced with challenges or uncertain circumstances.

3rd Paragraph: The chapter concludes by emphasizing how all these faithful individuals obtained a good testimony through their trust in God (Hebrews 11:32-40). Although some experienced triumphs and miracles due to their faith, others faced persecution and suffering. Nevertheless, they remained steadfast because they looked forward to a heavenly city prepared by God. Their enduring faith serves as an inspiration for believers today to persevere amidst trials while fixing their eyes on Jesus—the ultimate example of perfect faith.

In summary,

Chapter eleven of Hebrews celebrates the power and importance of faith by highlighting numerous examples from Old Testament figures.

The author defines faith as assurance and conviction regarding unseen realities—something demonstrated throughout history by those commended by God.

The chapter recounts various acts demonstrating extraordinary faith—from Abel's offering to Rahab's protection—and emphasizes how these individuals obtained a good testimony through their trust in God.

The chapter concludes by underscoring how these faithful ones persevered despite challenges or suffering because they looked forward to a heavenly city prepared by God. Their inspiring examples encourage believers today to fix their eyes on Jesus while demonstrating unwavering trust amidst trials—a testament to the enduring power of genuine faith.

Hebrews 11:1 Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

Faith is the assurance of our hope and the proof of things unseen.

1. The Power of Faith in Our Lives

2. How Faith Strengthens Us In Uncertain Times

1. Romans 8:24-25 - For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees?

2. 1 Peter 1:3-5 - Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

Hebrews 11:2 For by it the elders obtained a good report.

The elders obtained a good report through their faith.

1. The Power of Faith - How faith can bring good reports in both spiritual and worldly matters.

2. Emulating the Elders - How we can learn from the faith of the elders to bring good reports into our lives.

1. Romans 10:17 - So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

2. James 2:17-18 - Even so faith, if it has no works, is dead, being by itself. Yes, a man may say, "You have faith, and I have works." Show me your faith without your works, and I will show you my faith by my works.

Hebrews 11:3 Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear.

We understand through faith that God created the world by his word, not by things that

are seen.

1. The Faithfulness of God: Knowing that God will never fail us

2. The Power of God: How his word can create worlds

1. Jeremiah 32:17 Ah Lord GOD! behold, thou hast made the heaven and the earth by thy great power and stretched out arm, and there is nothing too hard for thee.

2. Psalm 33:6 By the word of the LORD were the heavens made; and all the host of them by the breath of his mouth.

Hebrews 11:4 By faith Abel offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, by which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts: and by it he being dead yet speaketh.

By faith Abel offered a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, and obtained witness of his righteousness from God. He speaks even now from the grave.

1. The Power of Faith in our Lives

2. Living a Life of Righteousness

1. James 2:21-24 - Was not Abraham our father justified by works, when he had offered Isaac his son upon the altar? Seest thou how faith wrought with his works, and by works was faith made perfect?

2. 1 John 3:12 - Not as Cain, who was of that wicked one, and slew his brother. And wherefore slew he him? Because his own works were evil, and his brother's righteous.

Hebrews 11:5 By faith Enoch was translated that he should not see death; and was not found, because God had translated him: for before his translation he had this testimony, that he pleased God.

Enoch is an example of a man of faith who pleased God.

1: When we live our lives for God, He will reward us in ways we cannot imagine.

2: Having faith in God will open up doors for us that we never thought possible.

1: James 2:17 - "Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone."

2: Matthew 6:33 - "But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you."

Hebrews 11:6 But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.

In order to please God, one must have faith and believe that God exists and will reward those who seek Him.

1. "Faith: The Key to Pleasing God"

2. "Diligently Seek God: He Will Reward You"

1. Proverbs 3:5-6 - Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.

2. Romans 10:17 - So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.

Hebrews 11:7 By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house; by the which he condemned the world, and became heir of the righteousness which is by faith.

Noah was warned of things not seen by God, and he acted with fear and prepared an ark to save his family. Through his faith, he condemned the world and became heir of righteousness.

1. The Power of Faith: Learning from Noah's Example

2. Understanding Righteousness Through Faith: Noah's Legacy

1. Romans 10:10 - "For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved."

2. James 2:14-17 - "What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him? If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food, and one of you says to them, “Go in peace, be warmed and filled,” without giving them the things needed for the body, what good is that? So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead."

Hebrews 11:8 By faith Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed; and he went out, not knowing whither he went.

Abraham obeyed God when he was called to go to an unknown place, despite not knowing what it held for him.

1. Obeying God despite Uncertainty: Learning from Abraham's Faith

2. Trusting God and His Plans: The Example of Abraham

1. Genesis 12:1-4 - The Lord's call for Abraham to leave his home and go to a new land

2. Romans 4:13-17 - Abraham's faith in God and his righteousness being credited to him

Hebrews 11:9 By faith he sojourned in the land of promise, as in a strange country, dwelling in tabernacles with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise:

Abraham was a man of faith, and he relied on God's promise when he and his family moved to a foreign land.

1. The Promise of Faith: Trusting God in Strange Circumstances

2. Dwelling Together: Abraham, Isaac and Jacob and the Bonds of Family

1. Genesis 12:1-4; 15:7-21 - God's promise to Abraham

2. Genesis 26:1-5; 28:10-15 - Abraham, Isaac and Jacob's sojourn in the land of promise

Hebrews 11:10 For he looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker

is God.

Abraham was looking forward to a city with foundations built by God.

1. Abraham's Faith in an Eternal City

2. The Foundation of Our Hope in God

1. Isaiah 26:4 - Trust in the Lord forever, for in the Lord God you have an everlasting rock.

2. 2 Corinthians 5:1 - For we know that if the tent that is our earthly home is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.

Hebrews 11:11 Through faith also Sara herself received strength to conceive seed, and was delivered of a child when she was past age, because she judged him faithful who had promised.

Through faith, Sarah received the strength to conceive a child in her old age, despite the promise seeming impossible.

1: Faith can give us strength to overcome the seemingly impossible.

2: God is faithful and will keep his promises, no matter how impossible they seem.

1: Romans 4:19-21 - And being not weak in faith, he considered not his own body now dead, when he was about an hundred years old, neither yet the deadness of Sara's womb: He staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God; And being fully persuaded that, what he had promised, he was able also to perform.

2: Luke 1:37 - For with God nothing shall be impossible.

Hebrews 11:12 Therefore sprang there even of one, and him as good as dead, so many as the stars of the sky in multitude, and as the sand which is by the sea shore innumerable.

Abraham was considered as good as dead, yet God promised him that his descendants would be as numerous as the stars in the sky and the sand on the shore.

1. The faith of Abraham: The power of God's promises

2. From nothing to something: The power of faith

1. Romans 4:17-20 - Abraham believed God despite the impossibility of having descendants

2. Hebrews 10:22-23 - The power of faith to draw near to God and hold fast to his promises

Hebrews 11:13 These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of them, and embraced them, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth.

The passage from Hebrews 11:13 speaks of those who died in faith, never having received the promises of God, but still trusting that they would be fulfilled.

1. Trusting in God's Promises - Hebrews 11:13

2. Living as Strangers and Pilgrims - Hebrews 11:13

1. Romans 8:24-25 - For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

2. 1 Peter 2:11 - Beloved, I urge you as sojourners and exiles to abstain from the passions of the flesh, which wage war against your soul.

Hebrews 11:14 For they that say such things declare plainly that they seek a country.

People who seek a better country express their desire by the words they say.

1. Achieving Your Dreams: How Faith Can Help You Reach Your Goals

2. The Value of Believing in a Better Future

1. Proverbs 13:12 - Hope deferred makes the heart sick, but a desire fulfilled is a tree of life.

2. Psalm 37:4 - Take delight in the Lord, and he will give you the desires of your heart.

Hebrews 11:15 And truly, if they had been mindful of that country from whence they came out, they might have had opportunity to have returned.

The writer of Hebrews reminds the readers of their ancestral roots and suggests that they might have had the opportunity to return from whence they came.

1. The Power of Remembrance: Embracing Our Roots

2. Looking to the Past for Insight and Guidance

1. Genesis 12:1-3 - Now the Lord had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will shew thee:

2. Philippians 3:13-14 - Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before.

Hebrews 11:16 But now they desire a better country, that is, an heavenly: wherefore God is not ashamed to be called their God: for he hath prepared for them a city.

The people of God desire a better country, the heavenly one, and God is not ashamed to be called their God for He has prepared a city for them.

1. Living a life of faith in God is the pathway to an eternal home.

2. God's promises are sure and His faithfulness is everlasting.

1. John 14:1-3 Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.

2. Isaiah 26:1 In that day shall this song be sung in the land of Judah; We have a strong city; salvation will God appoint for walls and bulwarks.

Hebrews 11:17 By faith Abraham, when he was tried, offered up Isaac: and he that had received the promises offered up his only begotten son,

Abraham's faith was demonstrated when he offered up Isaac as a sacrifice.

1. The Power of Faith: How Abraham's Faith Demonstrated His Trust in God

2. Sacrificial Love: Abraham's Unconditional Obedience to God

1. Genesis 22:1-19

2. James 2:21-23

Hebrews 11:18 Of whom it was said, That in Isaac shall thy seed be called:

God is faithful to His promises even when it seems impossible.

1: God's Faithfulness in the Face of Impossible Circumstances

2: Trusting in God's Promises When Life is Unexpected

1: Genesis 17:19 - And God said, Sarah thy wife shall bear thee a son indeed; and thou shalt call his name Isaac: and I will establish my covenant with him for an everlasting covenant, and with his seed after him.

2: Romans 4:17-21 - (As it is written, I have made thee a father of many nations,) before him whom he believed, even God, who quickeneth the dead, and calleth those things which be not as though they were. Who against hope believed in hope, that he might become the father of many nations; according to that which was spoken, So shall thy seed be. And being not weak in faith, he considered not his own body now dead, when he was about an hundred years old, neither yet the deadness of Sarah's womb: He staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God.

Hebrews 11:19 Accounting that God was able to raise him up, even from the dead; from

whence also he received him in a figure.

The writer of Hebrews acknowledges that God was able to raise Jesus from the dead.

1: The Power of God: How God Can Do the Impossible

2: The Resurrection: A Sign of God's Victory

1: Romans 8:11 - "But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you."

2: John 11:25 - "Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live."

Hebrews 11:20 By faith Isaac blessed Jacob and Esau concerning things to come.

Isaac blessed his sons Jacob and Esau by faith concerning the future.

1. The Power of Faith: How Isaac's Blessing Can Inspire Us

2. Living in the Now: The Significance of Isaac's Blessing

1. Genesis 27:27-29 - Isaac's Blessing of Jacob

2. Genesis 27:30-40 - Isaac's Blessing of Esau

Hebrews 11:21 By faith Jacob, when he was a dying, blessed both the sons of Joseph; and worshipped, leaning upon the top of his staff.

Jacob blessed his sons with faith as he neared death.

1. The Power of Faith in Difficult Times

2. The Legacy of Blessing Our Children

1. James 1:2-4 - Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

2. Proverbs 13:22 -A good man leaves an inheritance to his children’s children, but the sinner’s wealth is laid up for the righteous.

Hebrews 11:22 By faith Joseph, when he died, made mention of the departing of the children of Israel; and gave commandment concerning his bones.

Joseph, a man of faith, mentioned the exodus of the Israelites before he died and gave instructions regarding his bones.

1. The Power of Faith: Joseph's Example

2. Following God's Will: Lessons from Joseph's Final Words

1. Romans 1:17 - “For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith, as it is written, ‘The righteous shall live by faith.’”

2. John 15:14 - “You are my friends if you do what I command you.”

Hebrews 11:23 By faith Moses, when he was born, was hid three months of his parents, because they saw he was a proper child; and they were not afraid of the king's commandment.

Moses was an example of faith when he was born and hid in obedience to God's will.

1: Our faith in God will always protect us from harm, no matter the cost.

2: We must trust in God's plan and have faith to do His will, even when it's difficult.

1: Exodus 2:2-4 And the woman conceived, and bare a son: and when she saw him that he was a goodly child, she hid him three months.

2: Matthew 10:28-29 And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the

soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.

Hebrews 11:24 By faith Moses, when he was come to years, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter;

Moses chose faith over his identity.

1. God's faithfulness will always supersede any earthly identity.

2. Believing in God gives us the strength to choose faith over worldly aspirations.

1. Galatians 5:1, “It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery.”

2. 2 Timothy 1:7, “For God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline.”

Hebrews 11:25 Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season;

Moses chose to endure hardship with the people of God rather than enjoy the temporal pleasures of sin.

1. The Power of Faithful Endurance

2. The Transient Nature of Sinful Pleasure

1. Galatians 6:9 "And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not."

2. Romans 8:18 "For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us."

Hebrews 11:26 Esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt: for he had respect unto the recompence of the reward.

The reproach of Christ is of greater value than earthly riches. He was looking forward to the reward of Heaven.

1. The Value of Taking Up Our Cross

2. The Wisdom of Investing in Eternal Rewards

1. Matthew 16:24-26 – “Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me. For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it. For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?”

2. Colossians 3:1-4 – “If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth. For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God. When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory.”

Hebrews 11:27 By faith he forsook Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king: for he endured, as seeing him who is invisible.

By faith, Moses forsook Egypt and endured in spite of the wrath of the king because he saw God who is invisible.

1. The power of faith to overcome fear and adversity.

2. The importance of trusting in the invisible God.

1. Isaiah 26:3-4 - Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee. Trust ye in the Lord for ever: for in the Lord Jehovah is everlasting strength.

2. Romans 8:38-39 - For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Hebrews 11:28 Through faith he kept the passover, and the sprinkling of blood, lest he that destroyed the firstborn should touch them.

Through faith, Moses kept the Passover and sprinkled the blood of the lamb so that the destroyer of the firstborn would not hurt the Israelites.

1. The Power of Faith: How Moses Trusted in God to Lead the Israelites to Freedom

2. The Power of the Passover: How the Blood of the Lamb Secured the Salvation of the Israelites

1. Exodus 12:12-15; 21-28 - Moses instructs the Israelites to take the Passover and mark their doors with the blood of the lamb

2. Exodus 11:1-10 - The Lord instructs Moses to warn Pharaoh of the coming death of the firstborn sons

Hebrews 11:29 By faith they passed through the Red sea as by dry land: which the Egyptians assaying to do were drowned.

By faith, the Israelites crossed the Red Sea as if it was dry land, while the Egyptians were drowned in the same attempt.

1. Faith in God leads to miraculous outcomes.

2. Never underestimate the power of God.

1. Exodus 14:21-22 - Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea; and the Lord caused the sea to go back by a strong east wind all that night, and made the sea dry land, and the waters were divided.

2. Joshua 3:13-17 - And it shall come to pass, as soon as the soles of the feet of the priests that bear the ark of the Lord, the Lord of all the earth, shall rest in the waters of Jordan, that the waters of Jordan shall be cut off from the waters that come down from above; and they shall stand upon an heap.

Hebrews 11:30 By faith the walls of Jericho fell down, after they were compassed about seven days.

By faith, the walls of Jericho fell when the Israelites circled it for seven days.

1. The Power of Faith: How We Can Overcome Any Challenge

2. The Importance of Trusting in God

1. Joshua 6:1-20

2. Matthew 17:20 - "He said to them, "Because of your little faith. For truly, I say to you, if you have faith like a grain of mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, ‘Move from here to there,’ and it will move, and nothing will be impossible for you.”

Hebrews 11:31 By faith the harlot Rahab perished not with them that believed not, when she had received the spies with peace.

Rahab's faith in God saved her from destruction.

1: We can trust God to save us even in the face of overwhelming odds.

2: Rahab's faith should inspire us to have faith in God.

1: James 2:25 - "Likewise, was not Rahab the harlot also justified by works, when she had received the messengers and had sent them out another way?"

2: Joshua 2:1-3 - "Now Joshua the son of Nun sent out two men from Acacia Grove to spy secretly, saying, "Go, view the land, especially Jericho." So they went, and came to the house of a harlot named Rahab, and lodged there. And it was told the king of Jericho, saying, "Behold, men have come here tonight from the children of Israel to search out the country.”"

Hebrews 11:32 And what shall I more say? for the time would fail me to tell of Gedeon, and of Barak, and of Samson, and of Jephthae; of David also, and Samuel, and of the prophets:

The Bible recounts the stories of many faithful heroes of faith.

1. Faithful Heroes: Celebrating the Examples of Gedeon, Barak, Samson, Jephthae, David, Samuel, and the Prophets

2. Actively Pursuing Faith: Learning from the Lives of Gedeon, Barak, Samson, Jephthae, David, Samuel, and the Prophets

1. James 2:17-18 - "Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone. Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: shew me thy faith without thy works, and I will shew thee my faith by my works."

2. 1 Corinthians 10:11 - "Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come."

Hebrews 11:33 Who through faith subdued kingdoms, wrought righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions,

The passage speaks of those who through faith have done great things.

1: Have faith and be brave - Hebrews 11:33

2: Believe in yourself and you can do anything - Hebrews 11:33

1: James 1:6 - But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed.

2: Romans 4:20-21 - He staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God; And being fully persuaded that, what he had promised, he was able also to perform.

Hebrews 11:34 Quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, waxed valiant in fight, turned to flight the armies of the aliens.

They persevered through difficult trials and were made strong in their faith.

1: Faith Empowers Us To Overcome Any Obstacle

2: Strength in Weakness

1: Isaiah 40:31 - But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk,

and not faint.

2: Romans 5:3-5 - Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. And hope does not put us to shame, because God’s love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.

Hebrews 11:35 Women received their dead raised to life again: and others were tortured, not accepting deliverance; that they might obtain a better resurrection:

Women in the Bible were examples of faith and resilience in the face of persecution and death.

1. The power of faith and resilience in the face of adversity

2. The importance of embracing a better future even in the face of death

1. Hebrews 11:35

2. Romans 8:18 - For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.

Hebrews 11:36 And others had trial of cruel mockings and scourgings, yea, moreover of bonds and imprisonment:

Hebrews 11:36 speaks of the trials and afflictions endured by those of faith, including cruel mockings, scourgings, bonds, and imprisonment.

1. "The Courage of Faith: Standing Firm in Adversity"

2. "The Power of God: Overcoming Even the Greatest Trials"

1. James 1:2-4 - Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds.

2. 1 Peter 1:6-7 - In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials.

Hebrews 11:37 They were stoned, they were sawn asunder, were tempted, were slain with the sword: they wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins; being destitute, afflicted, tormented;

The passage in Hebrews 11:37 speaks of the hardships that the people of faith endured, including being stoned, sawn asunder, tempted, and slain with the sword. They wandered without proper clothing or sustenance, and were destitute, afflicted, and tormented.

1. "A Faith Refined By Fire: Persevering Through Adversity"

2. "The Strength of the Faithful: Enduring and Overcoming Hardship"

1. James 1:2-4 - Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

2. Romans 8:35-37 - Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? As it is written, “For your sake we are being killed all the day long; we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered.” No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.

Hebrews 11:38 (Of whom the world was not worthy:) they wandered in deserts, and in mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth.

This verse speaks of those who were not worthy of the world in which they lived and yet were willing to endure extreme difficulties for their faith.

1. "The Strength of Faith: Enduring Difficulties for What We Believe"

2. "The World's Unworthiness: Living Faithfully Despite Rejection"

1. Isaiah 43:2 - When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee: when thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned; neither shall the flame kindle upon thee.

2. James 1:2-4 - My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.

Hebrews 11:39 And these all, having obtained a good report through faith, received not the promise:

In Hebrews 11:39, the writer describes the faith of many people who have gone before us and have been commended, but who did not receive the promise.

1. "The Power of Faith: Believing Without Seeing"

2. "Living in Faith in an Unpromised World"

1. Romans 4:18-21

2. James 2:14-26

Hebrews 11:40 God having provided some better thing for us, that they without us should not be made perfect.

God has provided a better way for us to be made perfect.

1: A Better Way - We can choose to rely on God's plan for our lives to be made perfect.

2: Perfection Through Faith - We can choose to walk in faith and be made perfect in the eyes of God.

1: Romans 8:28 - And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.

2: Hebrews 12:2 - Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Hebrews 12 is the twelfth chapter of the book of Hebrews in the New Testament. This chapter focuses on the theme of endurance and perseverance in the Christian faith, using athletic imagery to encourage believers to run the race set before them.

1st Paragraph: The chapter begins by urging believers to lay aside every weight and sin

that hinders them, so they can run with endurance the race set before them. They are encouraged to fix their eyes on Jesus, who is both the author and perfecter of their faith (Hebrews 12:1-2). The author reminds them of Jesus' endurance in suffering and His ultimate victory, encouraging them not to grow weary or lose heart.

2nd Paragraph: In verses 3-13, there's an exhortation for believers to consider Jesus' example and endure hardship as discipline from God. Just as a loving father disciplines his children for their good, God disciplines His children for their spiritual growth and holiness. Believers are urged not to despise or be discouraged by God's discipline but rather see it as evidence of His love (Hebrews 12:5-6). The author encourages them to endure hardship with a view towards producing peaceful fruit of righteousness.

3rd Paragraph: From verse 14 onwards, there's an emphasis on pursuing peace with all people and holiness without which no one will see the Lord. Believers are urged not to let bitterness or immorality defile them but rather strive for peace among themselves (Hebrews 12:14-17). The author warns against rejecting God's voice as did Israel at Mount Sinai but encourages believers that they have come to Mount Zion, the heavenly Jerusalem where they have access to God through Jesus Christ (Hebrews 12:18-24). This passage concludes by emphasizing that believers have received an unshakeable kingdom through Christ; therefore, they should offer acceptable worship with reverence and awe because our God is a consuming fire (Hebrews 12:25-29).

In summary, Hebrews 12 exhorts believers to persevere in their faith like runners in a race. It emphasizes fixing our eyes on Jesus as our example while enduring hardships as discipline from God. We are called to pursue peace and holiness, recognizing that we have access to God through Christ. Ultimately, we are reminded that we belong to an unshakeable kingdom and should worship God with reverence knowing He is just yet lovingly disciplining His children.

Hebrews 12:1 Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us,

We are surrounded by a great number of witnesses and should rid ourselves of sin and weights that hold us back, and run the race God has given us with patience.

1. "Laying Aside the Weight of Sin"

2. "Running with Patience in the Race God has Set Before Us"

1. Proverbs 4:23 - "Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it."

2. Romans 12:2 - "Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will."

Hebrews 12:2 Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Jesus endured the cross for the joy set before him, and is now seated at the right hand of God's throne.

1. Joy in the Cross: How Jesus' Example Can Inspire Us to Endure

2. The Righteousness of Jesus: How He Fulfilled God's Plan of Salvation

1. Philippians 3:7-8 - But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ. Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord.

2. Isaiah 53:5 - But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed.

Hebrews 12:3 For consider him that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds.

The writer of Hebrews encourages readers to consider Jesus, who faced opposition from sinners, so that they do not become weary and lose faith.

1: Jesus is our Endurance Model

2: Don't Lose Heart in the Midst of Opposition

1: Philippians 4:12-13 - "I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. I can do all this through him who gives me strength."

2: Isaiah 40:28-31 - "Do you not know? Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting

God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He will not grow tired or weary, and his understanding no one can fathom. He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak. Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall; but those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint."

Hebrews 12:4 Ye have not yet resisted unto blood, striving against sin.

Christians are encouraged to persevere in their faith and resist the temptation to sin, even if it means sacrificing one's own life.

1. "The Power of Perseverance: How to Overcome Temptation and Reach Our Highest Potential"

2. "The Cost of Discipleship: Giving Our All to Follow Christ"

1. Job 1:21 - “The Lord gave and the Lord has taken away; may the name of the Lord be praised.”

2. Philippians 3:7-8 - “But whatever were gains to me I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. What is more, I consider everything a loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things.”

Hebrews 12:5 And ye have forgotten the exhortation which speaketh unto you as unto children, My son, despise not thou the chastening of the Lord, nor faint when thou art rebuked of him:

The author of Hebrews encourages the reader to not despise the Lord's discipline or become discouraged when being corrected.

1. The Lord's Discipline - Learning to Accept God's Chastisement with Joy

2. Chastening and Rebuke - Drawing Closer to God through Discipline

1. Proverbs 3:11-12 - My son, do not despise the Lord’s discipline or be weary of his reproof, for the Lord reproves him whom he loves, as a father the son in whom he delights.

2. James 1:2-4 - Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for

you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

Hebrews 12:6 For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth.

God disciplines those whom He loves and shows them the right path.

1. The Power of Discipline: How God's Love Shows Us the Right Path

2. The Strength of Discipline: How God's Love Gives Us Strength

1. Romans 5:3-4 - "Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope"

2. Proverbs 3:11-12 - "My son, do not despise the Lord’s discipline or be weary of his reproof, for the Lord reproves him whom he loves, as a father the son in whom he delights."

Hebrews 12:7 If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not?

God disciplines us like a father disciplines his son because He loves us.

1. Learning to Embrace Discipline as a Gift of Love

2. God's Discipline: A Sign of His Fatherly Love

1. Proverbs 3:11-12 - "My son, do not despise the Lord’s discipline or be weary of his reproof, for the Lord reproves him whom he loves, as a father the son in whom he delights."

2. James 1:1-4 - "Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing."

Hebrews 12:8 But if ye be without chastisement, whereof all are partakers, then are ye bastards, and not sons.

All believers are subject to chastisement, and failure to accept chastisement implies that the believer is not a true child of God.

1. God's Discipline: The Path to True Sonship

2. The Blessing of Chastisement: Reaping the Rewards of Acceptance

1. Proverbs 3:11-12: "My son, do not despise the Lord's discipline or be weary of his reproof, for the Lord reproves him whom he loves, as a father the son in whom he delights."

2. James 1:12: "Blessed is the one who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love him."

Hebrews 12:9 Furthermore we have had fathers of our flesh which corrected us, and we gave them reverence: shall we not much rather be in subjection unto the Father of spirits, and live?

We should give God reverence and be in subjection to him so that we may live.

1. The Power of God's Authority

2. Our Responsibility to Obey God

1. Proverbs 3:11-12 - My son, do not despise the Lord’s discipline or be weary of his reproof, for the Lord reproves him whom he loves, as a father the son in whom he delights.

2. Romans 8:14-15 - For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, “Abba! Father!”

Hebrews 12:10 For they verily for a few days chastened us after their own pleasure; but he for our profit, that we might be partakers of his holiness.

God chastens us for our own benefit, so that we may partake of his holiness.

1. "The Blessing of Chastening: How God's Discipline Can Help Us Grow Closer to Him"

2. "The Gift of Holiness: Becoming Partakers of God's Holiness Through His Discipline"

1. James 1:2-4 - Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

2. Proverbs 3:11-12 - My son, do not despise the Lord’s discipline or be weary of his reproof, for the Lord reproves him whom he loves, as a father the son in whom he delights.

Hebrews 12:11 Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby.

Chastening may not seem joyful at the time, but it will produce righteous and peaceful fruit afterwards.

1: Accepting the hardships of life in order to reap the rewards of righteousness.

2: Rejoicing in the outcome of God's discipline.

1: James 1:2-4 - Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.

2: Proverbs 3:11-12 - My son, do not despise the Lord’s discipline, and do not resent his rebuke, because the Lord disciplines those he loves, as a father the son he delights in.

Hebrews 12:12 Wherefore lift up the hands which hang down, and the feeble knees;

The passage encourages us to be strong and to not give up.

1. Rise Up and Persevere: How to Overcome Challenges with Faith

2. Strengthening Our Faith: How to Stand Firm in Difficult Times

1. Isaiah 40:31 - "But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint."

2. 1 Corinthians 16:13 - "Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, quit you like men, be strong."

Hebrews 12:13 And make straight paths for your feet, lest that which is lame be turned out of the way; but let it rather be healed.

We should strive for a straight and righteous path, and help those in need instead of disregarding them.

1. "The Path of Righteousness"

2. "Helping the Lame"

1. Proverbs 14:12 - There is a way that appears to be right, but in the end it leads to death.

2. James 1:27 - Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world.

Hebrews 12:14 Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord:

We should strive for peace and holiness, as without them, no one will be able to see the Lord.

1. Holiness is essential for a relationship with God

2. Pursuing peace is the path to joy

1. 1 Peter 1:15-16 - But just as He who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; for it is written: “Be holy, because I am holy.”

2. Romans 12:18 - If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.

Hebrews 12:15 Looking diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble you, and thereby many be defiled;

Be diligent in seeking the grace of God so bitterness does not enter your life and cause others to be defiled.

1. Don't Let Bitterness Take Root in Your Life

2. Seek Grace and Avoid Temptation

1. Ephesians 4:26-27 - Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.

2. James 1:14-15 - But each person is tempted when they are dragged away by their own evil desire and enticed. Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death.

Hebrews 12:16 Lest there be any fornicator, or profane person, as Esau, who for one morsel of meat sold his birthright.

Esau's recklessness serves as a warning to not be so easily enticed by worldly desires.

1: Do not be like Esau who forsook his birthright for a momentary pleasure.

2: Beware of our tendency to be lured away from God's promises by transient pleasures.

1: James 4:3-4 - You ask and do not receive, because you ask amiss, that you may spend it on your pleasures.

2: 2 Timothy 2:22 - Flee also youthful lusts: but follow righteousness, faith, charity, peace, with them that call on the Lord out of a pure heart.

Hebrews 12:17 For ye know how that afterward, when he would have inherited the

blessing, he was rejected: for he found no place of repentance, though he sought it carefully with tears.

This passage speaks of Esau not being able to receive the blessing he sought from his father, Isaac, despite his sincere repentance.

1. The Need for Genuine Repentance: Examining the Story of Esau

2. How to Receive God's Blessings: Learning from the Story of Esau

1. 2 Corinthians 7:10 - “For godly grief produces a repentance that leads to salvation without regret, whereas worldly grief produces death.”

2. James 4:8 - “Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded.”

Hebrews 12:18 For ye are not come unto the mount that might be touched, and that burned with fire, nor unto blackness, and darkness, and tempest,

The passage speaks of Christians not having to endure physical trials as the Israelites did at Mount Sinai.

1: We are called to a living faith, not a physical trial.

2: We have been blessed with a spiritual covenant, not a physical one.

1: Exodus 19:12-13 – Moses warns the Israelites of the physical trials they will endure.

2: Hebrews 10:22 – We are called to have a faith that produces inner righteousness.

Hebrews 12:19 And the sound of a trumpet, and the voice of words; which voice they that heard intreated that the word should not be spoken to them any more:

Those who heard the voice of God speaking through a trumpet intreated that the word should not be spoken to them any more.

1. The Power of God's Voice: How Our Response Should Be

2. A Call to Listen and Obey: What We Learn from Hebrews 12:19

1. Isaiah 30:21 - And thine ears shall hear a word behind thee, saying, This is the way, walk ye in it, when ye turn to the right hand, and when ye turn to the left.

2. James 1:22 - But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.

Hebrews 12:20 (For they could not endure that which was commanded, And if so much as a beast touch the mountain, it shall be stoned, or thrust through with a dart:

The passage talks about the Israelites' fear of Mount Sinai when God spoke to them from the mountain and commanded them not to touch it or they would be punished.

1. Fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.

2. God is holy and demands holiness from us.

1. Exodus 19:12-13 - When the Lord spoke to the Israelites from Mount Sinai they were afraid and kept their distance.

2. Isaiah 6:1-3 - Isaiah's vision of the Lord in His holiness.

Hebrews 12:21 And so terrible was the sight, that Moses said, I exceedingly fear and quake:)

Moses was terrified when he witnessed the glory of God on Mount Sinai.

1. "Fear Not: A Look at the Fear of God"

2. "The Power of God: Experiencing the Glory of God"

1. Isaiah 41:10 - "Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand."

2. Psalm 27:1 - "The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?"

Hebrews 12:22 But ye are come unto mount Sion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to an innumerable company of angels,

The author of Hebrews is encouraging readers to come to Mount Sion, the city of the living God, and to the heavenly Jerusalem, where an innumerable company of angels awaits.

1. The Incomparable Beauty of Heaven

2. The Invitation to Come to Mount Sion

1. Psalm 48:1–2 “Great is the Lord and most worthy of praise in the city of our God. His holy mountain, beautiful in elevation, is the joy of all the earth, Mount Zion, in the far north, the city of the great King.”

2. Revelation 3:12 “The one who is victorious I will make a pillar in the temple of my God. Never again will they leave it. I will write on them the name of my God and the name of the city of my God, the new Jerusalem, which is coming down out of heaven from my God; and I will also write on them my new name.”

Hebrews 12:23 To the general assembly and church of the firstborn, which are written in heaven, and to God the Judge of all, and to the spirits of just men made perfect,

The passage speaks of the general assembly of the church of the firstborn, which are written in heaven, and to God the Judge of all, and to the spirits of just men made perfect.

1. Living a Life of Holiness - The importance of striving towards perfection in Christ

2. The Heavenly Church - Understanding the importance of the church as it is written in heaven

1. Ephesians 4:1-3 - Walking in a manner worthy of the calling to which we have been called

2. Colossians 3:12-17 - Putting on the new self and living in love and peace towards one another

Hebrews 12:24 And to Jesus the mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling, that speaketh better things than that of Abel.

The author of Hebrews Jesus as the mediator of the new covenant, and the blood of sprinkling that speaks better things than Abel's.

1. Jesus the Mediator of the New Covenant - How His Sacrifice Gives Us Hope

2. The Better Things That Speak Through the Blood of Sprinkling - Appreciating Jesus' Sacrifice

1. Genesis 4:10 - And He said, What hast thou done? the voice of thy brother's blood crieth unto me from the ground.

2. 1 John 1:7 - But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.

Hebrews 12:25 See that ye refuse not him that speaketh. For if they escaped not who refused him that spake on earth, much more shall not we escape, if we turn away from him that speaketh from heaven:

We should not reject God's word, for if those who heard it on earth were not able to escape punishment, we certainly won't if we turn away from Him who speaks from heaven.

1. The Rejection of God's Word: A Dangerous Choice

2. Rejecting God's Word: The Consequences

1. Jeremiah 17:9-10 - The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it? I the Lord search the heart, I try the reins, even to give every man according to his ways, and according to the fruit of his doings.

2. Romans 2:3-4 - Do you suppose, O man—you who judge those who practice such things and yet do them yourself—that you will escape the judgment of God? Or do you presume on the riches of his kindness and forbearance and patience, not knowing that

God's kindness is meant to lead you to repentance?

Hebrews 12:26 Whose voice then shook the earth: but now he hath promised, saying, Yet once more I shake not the earth only, but also heaven.

God promised to shake the earth and heaven once more.

1. God's Promises: Shaking the Earth and Heaven

2. The Power of God's Promises

1. Isaiah 34:4 And all the host of heaven shall be dissolved, and the heavens shall be rolled together as a scroll: and all their host shall fall down, as the leaf falleth off from the vine, and as a falling fig from the fig tree.

2. Isaiah 13:13 Therefore I will shake the heavens, and the earth shall remove out of her place, in the wrath of the LORD of hosts, and in the day of his fierce anger.

Hebrews 12:27 And this word, Yet once more, signifieth the removing of those things that are shaken, as of things that are made, that those things which cannot be shaken may remain.

The author of Hebrews 12:27 explains that this phrase, "Yet once more," refers to the removal of created things that can be shaken, so that only those things that cannot be shaken remain.

1. "The Shaking of All Things: What Can We Learn from Hebrews 12:27?"

2. "Standing on Unshakable Foundations: Living Out Hebrews 12:27 in Our Lives"

1. Isaiah 66:1-2 - "Thus says the Lord: “Heaven is My throne, And earth is My footstool. Where is the house that you will build Me? And where is the place of My rest? For all those things My hand has made, And all those things exist," says the Lord.

2. Matthew 7:24-27 - "Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock: and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock. But everyone who hears these sayings of Mine, and does not do them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand: and the rain descended,

the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it fell. And great was its fall."

Hebrews 12:28 Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear:

We should serve God with reverence and godly fear in order to receive His unshakable kingdom.

1. Living a Life of Reverence and Godly Fear

2. Receiving the Kingdom of God

1. Ecclesiastes 12:13 Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man.

2. Matthew 6:33 But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.

Hebrews 12:29 For our God is a consuming fire.

God is a powerful and passionate being who desires to consume our hearts.

1: Our God is a Fire of Passion - Hebrews 12:29

2: The Power of God's Fire - Hebrews 12:29

1: Deuteronomy 4:24 - For the Lord your God is a consuming fire, a jealous God.

2: Exodus 24:17 - And the appearance of the glory of the Lord was like a devouring fire on the top of the mountain in the sight of the people of Israel.

Hebrews 13 is the thirteenth and final chapter of the book of Hebrews in the New Testament. This chapter contains various exhortations and instructions for believers, emphasizing practical Christian living and the importance of love, hospitality, and obedience.

1st Paragraph: The chapter begins by urging believers to let brotherly love continue. They are encouraged to show hospitality to strangers, as some have entertained angels without knowing it. The author emphasizes that believers should remember those in prison and those who are mistreated, as if they themselves were suffering (Hebrews 13:1-3). Marriage is honored, and sexual immorality is warned against. Contentment with what one has is emphasized over a love for money (Hebrews 13:4-6).

2nd Paragraph: In verses 7-17, there's an exhortation to remember leaders who spoke God's word to them and consider their way of life as examples of faith. Believers are urged not to be carried away by diverse teachings but rather to stay steadfast in the grace of Christ (Hebrews 13:8-9). They are encouraged to offer sacrifices of praise continually through Jesus' name and do good works while sharing with others (Hebrews 13:15-16). Obedience towards spiritual leaders is emphasized, as they watch over souls and will give an account.

3rd Paragraph: From verse 18 onwards, there's a request for prayers on behalf of the author and a desire for restoration so that he may be able to visit them soon (Hebrews 13:18-19). The author concludes with a benediction expressing his desire for God's peace that surpasses all understanding to be with them through Jesus Christ. He sends greetings from those in Italy (presumably fellow believers) and urges them to greet one another with a holy kiss. Finally, he prays that God's grace be with all of them (Hebrews 13:20-25).

In summary, Hebrews 13 provides practical instructions for Christian living. It emphasizes brotherly love, hospitality towards strangers, remembering those who suffer or are imprisoned, honoring marriage while avoiding sexual immorality. It encourages contentment over greediness for wealth. The chapter also highlights the importance of following faithful leaders' examples while remaining steadfast in grace amidst diverse teachings. Obedience towards spiritual leaders is stressed along with offering sacrifices of praise through Jesus' name while doing good works and sharing with others. The author requests prayers on their behalf seeks restoration hopes for God's peace upon them sends greetings from Italy urges mutual greetings among believers expresses desire for God's grace upon all.

Hebrews 13:1 Let brotherly love continue.

The author of Hebrews encourages readers to continue showing brotherly love.

1. "The Power of Love: How We Can Demonstrate Brotherly Love"

2. "The Challenge of Brotherly Love: How We Can Cultivate Loving Relationships"

1. John 13:34-35 - “A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”

2. 1 John 4:7-8 - “Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love.”

Hebrews 13:2 Be not forgetful to entertain strangers: for thereby some have entertained angels unawares.

Do not forget to be hospitable to strangers: some have unknowingly welcomed angels as guests.

1. The importance of hospitality and welcoming strangers.

2. How we can unknowingly extend God's grace by being hospitable.

1. Genesis 18:1-8 - Abraham and Sarah welcoming three strangers.

2. Luke 10:25-37 - The parable of the Good Samaritan.

Hebrews 13:3 Remember them that are in bonds, as bound with them; and them which suffer adversity, as being yourselves also in the body.

We should remember those who are in prison and those who are suffering in the same way we would remember ourselves.

1. We are Called to Love and Care for Our Fellow Man

2. Compassion for the Struggling and Oppressed

1. Matthew 25:36-40 - “I was in prison and you came to visit me”

2. Romans 12:15 - “Rejoice with those who rejoice; weep with those who weep.”

Hebrews 13:4 Marriage is honourable in all, and the bed undefiled: but whoremongers and adulterers God will judge.

Marriage is a holy institution that should be respected; sexual immorality will not go unpunished by God.

1: Marriage is a Gift from God: Respect it and God will Bless it

2: God is the Supreme Judge: Whoremongers and Adulterers Beware

1: Ephesians 5:25-33 - Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it.

2: 1 Corinthians 6:18-20 - Flee fornication. Every sin that a man doeth is without the body; but he that committeth fornication sinneth against his own body.

Hebrews 13:5 Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.

We should be generous with our words and content with what we have, for God has promised to never leave us or forsake us.

1. The Promise of God's Unfailing Love

2. Contentment in an Uncontentious World

1. Deuteronomy 31:6 - Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them, for the Lord your God goes with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you.

2. Philippians 4:11-13 - Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content. I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound: every where and in all things I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need.

Hebrews 13:6 So that we may boldly say, The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me.

God is our helper and we don't need to fear anything that man can do.

1: Facing Fear with Faith in God

2: Relying on God in the Face of Persecution

1: Psalms 46:1-2 "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore will not we fear, though the earth be removed, and though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea."

2: Isaiah 41:10 "Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness."

Hebrews 13:7 Remember them which have the rule over you, who have spoken unto you the word of God: whose faith follow, considering the end of their conversation.

Remember and follow the example of those who have spoken the word of God.

1. Be a Good Example to Follow

2. Live as if Today is the Last Day

1. Philippians 3:17 - Brothers and sisters, join in imitating me, and observe those who live according to the example you have in us.

2. James 4:14 - You do not even know what will happen tomorrow. What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes.

Hebrews 13:8 Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever.

Jesus Christ is constant and unchanging.

1: God is Faithful - We can rely on His promises and trust in His steadfast character.

2: God is Unchanging - His character is the same yesterday, today and forever.

1: Isaiah 40:8 - The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever.

2: 1 Peter 1:25 - But the word of the Lord remains forever. And this word is the good news that was preached to you.

Hebrews 13:9 Be not carried about with divers and strange doctrines. For it is a good thing that the heart be established with grace; not with meats, which have not profited them that have been occupied therein.

The author of Hebrews encourages readers to not be swayed by various teachings, as it is better to be established in grace than to be concerned with external regulations.

1. God's Grace is Greater Than Legalism

2. Establishing Your Heart in God's Grace

1. Galatians 5:1-4 - Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage.

2. Romans 8:1-2 - There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.

Hebrews 13:10 We have an altar, whereof they have no right to eat which serve the tabernacle.

This passage highlights the division between those who serve the tabernacle and those who have an altar.

1. The Privileges of the Faithful: Exploring the Distinction between Those Who Serve the Tabernacle and Those Who Have an Altar

2. The Significance of the Altar: Understanding the Importance of Access to the Altar

1. 1 Corinthians 10:18 - "Behold Israel after the flesh: are not they which eat of the sacrifices partakers of the altar?"

2. Exodus 24:4-8 - "And Moses wrote all the words of the LORD, and rose up early in the

morning, and builded an altar under the hill, and twelve pillars, according to the twelve tribes of Israel."

Hebrews 13:11 For the bodies of those beasts, whose blood is brought into the sanctuary by the high priest for sin, are burned without the camp.

In Hebrews 13:11, it is described that the bodies of sacrificial animals are burned outside of the camp after the high priest brings their blood into the sanctuary for sin.

1: We should be thankful for the sacrifice of Jesus and his mercy that saves us from our sins.

2: We should recognize the importance of the sacrificial system in the Old Testament and the way it points to Jesus' perfect sacrifice.

1: Romans 5:8 - But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

2: Isaiah 53:4-5 - Yet it was the Lord’s will to crush him and cause him to suffer, and though the Lord makes his life a guilt offering, he will see his offspring and prolong his days, and the will of the Lord will prosper in his hand.

Hebrews 13:12 Wherefore Jesus also, that he might sanctify the people with his own blood, suffered without the gate.

Jesus' sacrifice of himself to sanctify the people is the ultimate example of self-sacrifice.

1: Jesus' ultimate example of self-sacrifice.

2: The significance of Jesus' sacrifice.

1: Mark 10:45 - For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.

2: John 15:13 - Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends.

Hebrews 13:13 Let us go forth therefore unto him without the camp, bearing his reproach.

The writer of Hebrews encourages readers to accept Jesus' reproach and go to Him without the camp.

1: Embrace Jesus' Reproach and Reject the World's Values

2: Bearing the Reproach of Jesus and Standing for God's Truth

1: Isaiah 53:3-5 - He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not.

2: Matthew 10:39 - He that findeth his life shall lose it: and he that loseth his life for my sake shall find it.

Hebrews 13:14 For here have we no continuing city, but we seek one to come.

Believers look forward to a heavenly city that will never pass away.

1. "We Seek a Heavenly Home"

2. "Living Without Earthly Security"

1. 2 Corinthians 5:1-4 - For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.

2. Revelation 21:1-2 - And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea. And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

Hebrews 13:15 By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name.

Sacrifice of praise is an offering to God that should be given continually.

1. The Sacrifice of Praise: An Offering to God 2. Giving Thanks to God: An Act of Praise

1. Psalm 100:4-5 Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise! Give thanks to him; bless his name! 2. Colossians 3:15-17 And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God.

Hebrews 13:16 But to do good and to communicate forget not: for with such sacrifices God is well pleased.

Doing good and giving to others is pleasing to God.

1: Jesus' example of compassion and generosity is a reminder of what pleases God.

2: Showing kindness and giving to others is a way to honor God.

1: Acts 10:38, "How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power, who went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him."

2: Galatians 6:10, "Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith."

Hebrews 13:17 Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you.

We should obey and submit to our spiritual leaders, as they are responsible for our souls and will give an account for their care of us.

1. The Importance of Following Spiritual Authority

2. The Joy of Supporting God-Ordained Leaders

1. 1 Peter 5:5, “Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder. Yea, all of you be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble.”

2. Isaiah 9:6-7, “For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this.”

Hebrews 13:18 Pray for us: for we trust we have a good conscience, in all things willing to live honestly.

We should pray for those who are willing to live honestly and have a good conscience.

1. The Power of Prayer: Using Prayer to Support the Willing and Honest

2. The Importance of a Good Conscience: Living with Integrity and Honesty

1. Proverbs 11:3 (The integrity of the upright guides them, but the crookedness of the treacherous destroys them.)

2. 1 Peter 3:16 (Having a good conscience, so that, when you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame.)

Hebrews 13:19 But I beseech you the rather to do this, that I may be restored to you the sooner.

The writer of Hebrews encourages his readers to do something so that he may return to them quickly.

1: Do what is right and God will reward you.

2: When we come together to do good, God will bless us.

1: Romans 12:10-13 - Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor.

2: Galatians 6:9-10 - And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up. So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone,

and especially to those who are of the household of faith.

Hebrews 13:20 Now the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant,

God of Peace brings back Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, through the everlasting covenant.

1: We can depend on God's everlasting covenant of peace.

2: Jesus is our great shepherd, and we can trust in his everlasting covenant.

1: Isaiah 53:5-6 "But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the Lord hath laid on him the iniquity of us all."

2: Jeremiah 32:40 "And I will make an everlasting covenant with them, that I will not turn away from them, to do them good; but I will put my fear in their hearts, that they shall not depart from me."

Hebrews 13:21 Make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is wellpleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ; to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

God calls us to serve Him and to do His will, and Jesus Christ gives us the strength to do so.

1. Living a Life Holy and Pleasing to God

2. The Power of Jesus Christ in Our Lives

1. Colossians 3:17 - And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

2. Philippians 4:13 - I can do all things through him who strengthens me.

Hebrews 13:22 And I beseech you, brethren, suffer the word of exhortation: for I have

written a letter unto you in few words.

The author of Hebrews 13:22 encourages the readers to listen to his exhortation, as he has written a letter to them with few words.

1. The Power of Few Words: Learning to Speak Wisely

2. The Blessing of Listening: Heeding the Word of Exhortation

1. Proverbs 10:19 - In the multitude of words there wanteth not sin: but he that refraineth his lips is wise.

2. Colossians 4:6 - Let your speech be alway with grace, seasoned with salt, that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man.

Hebrews 13:23 Know ye that our brother Timothy is set at liberty; with whom, if he come shortly, I will see you.

Our brother Timothy has been set free and may be coming to visit us soon.

1. The Freedom of Unity: Finding Strength in the Support of Others

2. A New Chapter: Embracing the Opportunities of Change

1. Romans 8:31 - “What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?”

2. Ephesians 4:2-3 - “[2] with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, [3] eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.”

Hebrews 13:24 Salute all them that have the rule over you, and all the saints. They of Italy salute you.

The author of Hebrews encourages readers to greet those in authority and all the saints, and conveys that the people of Italy are also sending their greetings.

1. "Greeting Those in Authority"

2. "Showing Love to All the Saints"

1. Romans 13:1-7

2. 1 Peter 5:5-7

Hebrews 13:25 Grace be with you all. Amen.

The author of Hebrews reminds his readers that God's grace is with them all.

1. "The Power of Grace"

2. "The Blessing of God's Grace"

1. Ephesians 2:8-9 - "For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast."

2. John 1:17 - "For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ."

James 1 is the first chapter of the Epistle of James in the New Testament. This chapter addresses various topics such as trials, wisdom, and perseverance in the Christian life.

1st Paragraph: The chapter begins by highlighting the value of enduring trials and considering them as opportunities for growth. Believers are encouraged to count it all joy when facing various trials because they produce endurance and ultimately lead to maturity (James 1:2-4). The author emphasizes that those who lack wisdom should ask God, who generously gives wisdom without reproach. However, they must ask in faith without doubting, for a double-minded person should not expect to receive anything from the Lord (James 1:5-8).

2nd Paragraph: In verses 9-18, there's an emphasis on humility and contentment. The lowly brother is encouraged to take pride in his exaltation while the rich should boast in their humiliation because worldly wealth is temporary. Believers are warned against being deceived by their desires which can lead to sin and death (James 1:12-15). Instead, every good gift comes from God who does not change like shifting shadows. He brought us forth by His word of truth so that we may be a kind of firstfruits among His creatures

(James 1:16-18).

3rd Paragraph: From verse 19 onwards, there's an exhortation for believers to be quick to hear, slow to speak, and slow to anger. Human anger does not produce righteousness; therefore, believers are urged to put away all filthiness and rampant wickedness while receiving with meekness the implanted word that can save their souls (James 1:19-21). The chapter concludes with a call for active obedience rather than mere hearing of God's word. True religion involves visiting orphans and widows in their affliction while keeping oneself unstained from the world (James 1:22-27). This passage emphasizes the importance of endurance through trials, seeking wisdom from God with faithfulness, practicing humility and contentment regardless of worldly status, controlling one's speech and anger through meekness before God's Word.

James 1:1 James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, to the twelve tribes which are scattered abroad, greeting.

James, a servant of God and the Lord Jesus Christ, sends his greetings to the twelve tribes of Israel scattered across the world.

1. Follow the example of James and serve God with all your heart.

2. Despite our differences, we are all part of one family, united in our love for God.

1. Romans 12:10 - Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves.

2. Colossians 3:12-14 - Therefore, as God’s chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.

James 1:2 My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations;

This passage encourages believers to find joy in times of temptation.

1. Turning Trials into Triumph: Finding Joy in Difficult Times

2. Temptation: How Can We Find Joy in Our Struggles?

1. Romans 5:3-5 - Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope.

2. 1 Peter 1:6-7 - In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. These have come so that the proven genuineness of your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed.

James 1:3 Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience.

This passage emphasizes the importance of perseverance, as trials and tribulations can strengthen and develop patience.

1. "Enduring in Faith: How Perseverance Strengthens Our Patience"

2. "The Strength of Patience: How We Can Grow Through Trials"

1. Romans 5:3-4 "Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope."

2. Hebrews 10:36 "For you have need of endurance, so that after you have done the will of God, you may receive the promise"

James 1:4 But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.

Patience is essential for spiritual growth and to achieve a life without any deficiencies.

1: Patience is a virtue that leads to spiritual maturity.

2: Cultivating patience leads to a life that is complete and lacking nothing.

1: Philippians 4:12-13 - I know how to be brought low, and I know how to abound. In any and every circumstance, I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need.

2: Psalm 37:7-8 - Be still before the LORD and wait patiently for him; fret not yourself over the one who prospers in his way, over the man who carries out evil devices!

James 1:5 If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him.

James encourages those who lack wisdom to ask God for it, as He generously grants it without rebuke.

1. God's Generosity: Learning to Receive His Wisdom

2. The Wisdom of Asking: Applying James 1:5 to Our Lives

1. Isaiah 55:6-7 - Seek the Lord while he may be found; call upon him while he is near; let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him return to the Lord, that he may have compassion on him, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.

2. Proverbs 2:6-7 - For the Lord gives wisdom; from his mouth come knowledge and understanding; he stores up sound wisdom for the upright; he is a shield to those who walk in integrity.

James 1:6 But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed.

This passage encourages us to ask for God's help with faith and assurance, rather than wavering and being tossed about.

1. "Living a Life of Faith and Assurance"

2. "Resisting Temptation to Doubt"

1. Romans 4:17-21 - Abraham's faith in God's promise was credited to him as righteousness

2. Isaiah 7:9 - If you do not stand firm in your faith, you will not stand at all.

James 1:7 For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord.

This passage emphasizes that the Lord will not give anything to a person who does not trust in Him.

1. "Trusting in the Lord: A Necessary Attitude to Receive His Blessings"

2. "The Power of Faith: Unlocking the Lord's Blessings"

1. Romans 10:17 - "So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ."

2. Proverbs 3:5-6 - "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths."

James 1:8 A double minded man is unstable in all his ways.

A person who is double-minded is unreliable in all aspects of their life.

1. Be Steadfast in Your Convictions, not Double-Minded - James 1:8

2. The Unstable Life of a Double-Minded Person - James 1:8

1. Proverbs 11:3 - The integrity of the upright guides them, but the crookedness of the treacherous destroys them.

2. Proverbs 4:23 - Keep your heart with all vigilance, for from it flow the springs of life.

James 1:9 Let the brother of low degree rejoice in that he is exalted:

The passage encourages Christians to find joy in their status, no matter how humble it may be.

1. A on the importance of contentment in all circumstances.

2. A on the joy found in being part of a larger Christian community.

1. Philippians 4:11-13 - Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content.

2. Romans 12:15-16 - Rejoice with them that do rejoice, and weep with them that weep. Be of the same mind one toward another. Mind not high things, but condescend to men of low estate. Be not wise in your own conceits.

James 1:10 But the rich, in that he is made low: because as the flower of the grass he shall pass away.

The rich man will be humbled as his wealth passes away as quickly as a flower in the grass.

1. The Vanity of Riches: How Pride Will Lead to Humility

2. Seeking True Riches: The Impermanence of Earthly Possessions

1. Proverbs 21:20 - "There is precious treasure and oil in the house of the wise: but a foolish man spendeth it up."

2. Ecclesiastes 5:10-11 - "He that loveth silver shall not be satisfied with silver; nor he that loveth abundance with increase: this is also vanity. When goods increase, they are increased that eat them: and what good is there to the owners thereof, saving the beholding of them with their eyes?"

James 1:11 For the sun is no sooner risen with a burning heat, but it withereth the grass, and the flower thereof falleth, and the grace of the fashion of it perisheth: so also shall the rich man fade away in his ways.

The passage speaks of the transitory nature of material wealth and how it cannot last forever.

1. "The Transience of Wealth" - Exploring the biblical truth that material wealth is fleeting and temporary.

2. "The Impermanence of Riches" - Examining how wealth does not guarantee lasting joy and fulfillment.

1. Matthew 6:19-20 - "Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal."

2. Ecclesiastes 5:10 - "Whoever loves money never has money enough; whoever loves wealth is never satisfied with his income. This too is meaningless."

James 1:12 Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him.

This passage emphasizes the importance of persevering through trials and temptations in order to receive the blessing of eternal life.

1. "The Blessing of Perseverance: How to Endure Trials and Receive the Crown of Life"

2. "The Promised Reward: The Blessing of Eternal Life for Those Who Love the Lord"

1. Romans 8:17 - And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together.

2. Matthew 5:10-12 - Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake. Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven.

James 1:13 Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man:

God does not tempt anyone with evil, and it is wrong to think that He does.

1. Overcoming Temptation through God's Strength

2. Beware of Wrongful Accusations Against God

1. 1 Corinthians 10:13 - No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.

2. Hebrews 2:18 - For because he himself has suffered when tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.

James 1:14 But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed.

Everyone is tempted when their own desires lead them astray.

1. "Be on Guard: Guarding Yourself Against Temptation"

2. "The Danger of Our Own Desires"

1. Proverbs 16:18 - Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall.

2. Hebrews 2:18 - For in that he himself hath suffered being tempted, he is able to succour them that are tempted.

James 1:15 Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death.

James warns against the consequences of sin, which is death.

1. The Danger of Sin: Understanding the Consequences of Our Choices

2. The Power of Obedience: Finding Life Through Righteousness

1. Romans 6:23 - For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

2. Proverbs 11:19 - The truly righteous man attains life, but he who pursues evil goes to his death.

James 1:16 Do not err, my beloved brethren.

Passage:

James 1:16-17: “Do not err, my beloved brethren. Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.”

James encourages believers to not be deceived, reminding them that all good and perfect gifts come from God, who never changes.

1. The Unchanging Love of God - exploring how God's love never wavers and how we can trust in His steadfastness

2. The Perfections of God - discussing how all good and perfect gifts come from God and how we should be thankful for His mercy and grace.

1. Romans 8:38-39 - "For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord."

2. Psalm 145:8-9 - "The Lord is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. The Lord is good to all, and his mercy is over all that he has made."

James 1:17 Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.

God is the source of all good gifts and does not change.

1: God is the giver of all good gifts and His character is consistent and unchanging.

2: Rejoice in the gifts God has bestowed upon us, knowing that He is an unchanging source of love and grace.

1: Malachi 3:6 "For I am the LORD, I change not; therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed."

2: Hebrews 13:8 "Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever."

James 1:18 Of his own will begat he us with the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures.

God created us out of His own desire and with His truth, to be the first part of His creation.

1: God desires us, and with His truth He has crafted us to be the first of His creation.

2: In His love, God chose to create us to be the first of His creatures, and He did so with His truth.

1: Ephesians 2:10 - "For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them."

2: Colossians 3:10 - "And have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him."

James 1:19 Wherefore, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath:

This passage encourages us to listen more and to speak less, and to control our emotions.

1: "The Power of Patience: Learning to Listen and Control Our Emotions"

2: "The Blessing of Slowing Down: Becoming Swift to Hear"

1: Proverbs 12:23 - A prudent man conceals knowledge, but the heart of fools proclaims foolishness.

2: James 1:5 - If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him.

James 1:20 For the wrath of man worketh not the righteousness of God.

This passage emphasizes that the anger of humans cannot produce God's righteousness.

1: "The Power of Righteousness: Transcending Anger"

2: "A Path to Holiness: Overcoming Wrath"

1: Ephesians 4:31-32 - "Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice: And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you."

2: Psalm 37:8 - "Cease from anger, and forsake wrath: fret not thyself in any wise to do evil."

James 1:21 Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls.

We should rid ourselves of all evil and wickedness and humbly accept the Word of God, which is able to save our souls.

1. "The Power of the Word"

2. "The Consequence of Filthiness"

1. Mark 4:24-25 - "And he said unto them, Take heed what ye hear: with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you: and unto you that hear shall more be given. For he that hath, to him shall be given: and he that hath not, from him shall be taken even that which he hath."

2. John 3:16-17 - "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved."

James 1:22 But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.

Be a doer of the Word and not just a hearer in order to avoid self-deception.

1. Don't Just Hear the Word, Do the Word

2. Avoid Self-Deception Through Action

1. Matthew 7:24-27 - Everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock.

25 The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock.

2. James 4:17 - If anyone, then, knows the good they ought to do and doesn’t do it, it is sin for them.

James 1:23 For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass:

The passage compares a person who listens to the word of God but does not act on it to someone who looks at their own reflection in a mirror.

1. God's Word Is A Mirror For Our Souls

2. Seeing Ourselves In The Word Of God

1. Galatians 5:22-23 - But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.

2. James 1:22 - But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.

James 1:24 For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was.

This verse encourages us to look at ourselves honestly and recognize our weaknesses, so that we can strive to become better people.

1. The Power of Self-Reflection: How to Make Positive Change in Our Lives

2. Overcoming Obstacles Through Self-Examination

1. Philippians 4:8 "Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things."

2. Proverbs 11:14 "Where there is no guidance, a people falls, but in an abundance of counselors there is safety."

James 1:25 But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed.

Those who look into the perfect law of liberty and consistently follow it, becoming a doer of the work instead of a forgetful hearer, will be blessed in their deeds.

1. The Blessing of the Doers: How to Reap the Benefits of Following the Perfect Law of Liberty

2. Achieving True Liberty Through Faithful Obedience

1. Galatians 5:1 - "It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery."

2. Colossians 3:23-24 - "Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving."

James 1:26 If any man among you seem to be religious, and bridleth not his tongue, but deceiveth his own heart, this man's religion is vain.

This passage speaks about the importance of controlling one's tongue in order to have a true faith.

1. The Power of the Tongue: How to Control Your Words for True Faith

2. Living a Life of True Religion: Bridling the Tongue

1. Ephesians 4:29-31 - Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear.

2. Proverbs 16:23-24 - The heart of the wise makes his speech judicious and adds persuasiveness to his lips. Gracious words are like a honeycomb, sweetness to the soul and health to the body.

James 1:27 Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world.

Pure religion is to help those in need and remain undefiled from worldly influences.

1. The Importance of Living a Life of Purity

2. How to Help Those in Need

1. Philippians 4:8 - Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable - if anything is excellent or praiseworthy - think about such things.

2. Isaiah 1:17 - Learn to do right; seek justice. Defend the oppressed. Take up the cause of the fatherless; plead the case of the widow.

James 2 is the second chapter of the Epistle of James in the New Testament. This chapter focuses on the theme of faith and works, emphasizing that genuine faith is demonstrated through righteous actions and not merely by intellectual belief.

1st Paragraph: The chapter begins by addressing the issue of favoritism and partiality within the Christian community. The author strongly condemns showing preferential treatment to the rich while neglecting or mistreating the poor. He reminds believers that such behavior goes against God's command to love their neighbors as themselves (James 2:1-9). True faith does not show partiality but treats all people with equality and respect.

2nd Paragraph: In verses 10-17, there's an emphasis on the inseparable connection between faith and works. The author states that whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point becomes guilty of breaking all of it. He argues that faith without works is dead, comparing it to a body without a spirit (James 2:14-17). Genuine faith produces tangible actions that reflect God's love and righteousness.

3rd Paragraph: From verse 18 onwards, there's a direct challenge to those who claim to have faith but lack corresponding works. The author challenges them by saying, "Show me your faith apart from your works, and I will show you my faith by my works" (James 2:18b). He uses examples like Abraham and Rahab to illustrate how their actions demonstrated their genuine trust in God. Abraham's willingness to offer Isaac as a sacrifice showed his active obedience, while Rahab's hospitality towards spies revealed her belief in God (James 2:21-26). This passage emphasizes that true saving faith is evidenced by righteous deeds rather than mere intellectual assent or empty profession.

In summary, James 2 highlights the importance of impartiality within Christian communities, condemning favoritism based on worldly status. It stresses that genuine faith is inseparable from righteous actions and calls for believers to demonstrate their beliefs through loving deeds toward others. It challenges those who claim to have faith without corresponding works, affirming that true saving faith is evidenced by active obedience rooted in trust in God.

James 2:1 My brethren, have not the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory, with respect of persons.

James encourages believers to practice faith without prejudice towards any person.

1. "The Lord of Glory: A Call to Faith Without Prejudice"

2. "Celebrating All People Without Respect of Persons"

1. 1 Corinthians 12:13 - "For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit."

2. Galatians 3:28 - "There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus."

James 2:2 For if there come unto your assembly a man with a gold ring, in goodly apparel, and there come in also a poor man in vile raiment;

The passage speaks about the favoritism among people based on their outward appearances.

1. Love Your Neighbor: Favoritism is Unacceptable

2. Living Out Our Faith: Rejecting Prejudice

1. Luke 6:31 - Do to others as you would have them do to you.

2. Galatians 5:14 - For the entire law is fulfilled in keeping this one command: “Love your

neighbor as yourself.”

James 2:3 And ye have respect to him that weareth the gay clothing, and say unto him, Sit thou here in a good place; and say to the poor, Stand thou there, or sit here under my footstool:

The passage is about having respect for those who are wealthy and disregarding those who are poor.

1. "True Riches: A Call to Value Everyone"

2. "Gospel Generosity: Reaching Out to Those in Need"

1. Luke 14:12-14, "Then Jesus said to his host, 'When you give a luncheon or dinner, do not invite your friends, your brothers or relatives, or your rich neighbors; if you do, they may invite you back and so you will be repaid. But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, and you will be blessed. Although they cannot repay you, you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous.'"

2. Matthew 25:34-36, "Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.'"

James 2:4 Are ye not then partial in yourselves, and are become judges of evil thoughts?

This passage speaks of the danger of being judgmental and hypocritical.

1: Do not be Quick to Judge

2: Be Humble Before God

1: Matthew 7:1-5 - "Judge not, that you be not judged. For with the judgment you pronounce you will be judged, and with the measure you use it will be measured to you."

2: Romans 2:1-3 - "Therefore you have no excuse, O man, every one of you who judges. For in passing judgment on another you condemn yourself, because you, the judge,

practice the very same things."

James 2:5 Hearken, my beloved brethren, Hath not God chosen the poor of this world rich in faith, and heirs of the kingdom which he hath promised to them that love him?

God has chosen to bless the poor with faith and has promised them a place in his kingdom if they love Him.

1. No matter your station in life, God's love is available to all who love Him.

2. We are all equal in the eyes of God and He rewards those who love Him.

1. Galatians 3:26-29 - For in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith.

2. 1 John 4:7-11 - Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God.

James 2:6 But ye have despised the poor. Do not rich men oppress you, and draw you before the judgment seats?

The passage from James 2:6 speaks about how the rich oppress the poor and bring them before the judgment seats.

1. The Danger of Oppressing the Poor: A on the consequences of mistreating and oppressing the less fortunate.

2. Who Is My Neighbor? A on the responsibility of treating the marginalized with respect and kindness.

1. Exodus 22:21-24 - "You shall not wrong a sojourner or oppress him, for you were sojourners in the land of Egypt. You shall not mistreat any widow or fatherless child. If you do mistreat them, and they cry out to me, I will surely hear their cry, and my wrath will burn, and I will kill you with the sword, and your wives shall become widows and your children fatherless.

2. Proverbs 31:8-9 - "Open your mouth for the mute, for the rights of all who are destitute. Open your mouth, judge righteously, defend the rights of the poor and needy."

James 2:7 Do not they blaspheme that worthy name by the which ye are called?

The passage is a warning against blaspheming the name of God by which Christians are called.

1. "The Power of a Name: Why We Should Respect God's Name"

2. "The Blessing of a Name: How We Can Honor God's Name"

1. Isaiah 42:8 - "I am the Lord; that is my name; my glory I give to no other, nor my praise to carved idols."

2. Ephesians 3:14-15 - "For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named."

James 2:8 If ye fulfil the royal law according to the scripture, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself, ye do well:

James encourages us to fulfill the royal law according to scripture which is to love our neighbor as ourselves.

1. The Power of Love: How to Love Our Neighbor as Ourselves

2. The Royal Law of Love: What Scripture Tells Us About Loving Our Neighbor

1. 1 John 4:7-12

2. Mark 12:28-31

James 2:9 But if ye have respect to persons, ye commit sin, and are convinced of the law as transgressors.

Respect for persons should not lead to sin, or else the law will be broken.

1. Respect Everyone Regardless of Social Status

2. Love One Another and Obey the Law

1. Ephesians 6:9 - And masters, treat your slaves in the same way. Do not threaten them, since you know that he who is both their Master and yours is in heaven, and there is no favoritism with him.

2. Matthew 22:37-39 - Jesus replied: “‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’

James 2:10 For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all.

The whole law must be kept in order to remain guiltless; falling short in one point means guilt for all points.

1. "The Perfect Standard: Keeping the Whole Law"

2. "Achieving Righteousness: Striving for Perfection"

1. Matthew 5:48 - "Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect."

2. Galatians 3:10-11 - "For as many as are of the works of the law are under the curse: for it is written, Cursed is every one that continueth not in all things which are written in the book of the law to do them. But that no man is justified by the law in the sight of God, it is evident: for, The just shall live by faith."

James 2:11 For he that said, Do not commit adultery, said also, Do not kill. Now if thou commit no adultery, yet if thou kill, thou art become a transgressor of the law.

This passage explains that it is not enough to not commit adultery, but we must also not kill in order to remain righteous.

1. "Living Righteously: Abstaining from Adultery and Murder"

2. "God's Law: Obeying All Ten Commandments"

1. Exodus 20:13 - "Thou shalt not kill."

2. Matthew 5:27-28 - "Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, Thou shalt not commit adultery: But I say unto you, That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart."

James 2:12 So speak ye, and so do, as they that shall be judged by the law of liberty.

Christians should live their lives according to the law of liberty, speaking and acting in a way that will be judged by that law.

1. The Law of Liberty: Living a Life in Accordance with God's Will

2. The Judgement of Liberty: Making Righteous Choices in Life

1. Luke 6:46 Why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?

2. Romans 8:1-2 There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit of life set me free from the law of sin and death.

James 2:13 For he shall have judgment without mercy, that hath shewed no mercy; and mercy rejoiceth against judgment.

This verse speaks of God's judgement and mercy: those who show mercy to others will be shown mercy by God, while those who do not will not receive mercy.

1. "Living a Life of Mercy: The Power of Forgiveness"

2. "God's Mercy and Justice: A Balance of Compassion and Righteousness"

1. Micah 6:8 "He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?"

2. Ephesians 2:4-5 "But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ — by grace you have been saved."

James 2:14 What doth it profit, my brethren, though a man say he hath faith, and have not works? can faith save him?

James asks what good is faith if it is not accompanied by actions.

1) Faith without works is dead, 2) Our actions demonstrate our faith.

1) Romans 10:17, "So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ," 2) Matthew 7:21-23, "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. On that day many will say to me, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?' And then will I declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.'"

James 2:15 If a brother or sister be naked, and destitute of daily food,

The passage speaks of the need to provide for those who are in need.

1. "The Heart of Compassion: Loving and Caring for the Poor and Needy"

2. "Doing Good Deeds: Fulfilling the Commands of James 2:15"

1. Matthew 25:35-36 - “For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in.”

2. Isaiah 58:6-7 - “Is this not the fast that I have chosen: To loose the bonds of wickedness, To undo the heavy burdens, To let the oppressed go free, And that you break every yoke? Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, And that you bring to your house the poor who are cast out; When you see the naked, that you cover him, And not hide yourself from your own flesh?”

James 2:16 And one of you say unto them, Depart in peace, be ye warmed and filled; notwithstanding ye give them not those things which are needful to the body; what doth it profit?

This passage highlights the importance of displaying acts of charity and kindness to one another, as simply wishing them well is not enough.

1. "The Greatest Gift of All: Compassion"

2. "The Power of Kindness and Charity"

1. 1 John 3:17-18: "But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him? Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth."

2. Proverbs 19:17: "Whoever is generous to the poor lends to the Lord, and he will repay him for his deed."

James 2:17 Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone.

Faith is not enough in itself, it must be accompanied by actions in order to be effective.

1. "Faith without Works is Dead"

2. "The Power of Faith in Action"

1. Romans 4:20-21 - "He did not waver through unbelief regarding the promise of God, but was strengthened in his faith and gave glory to God, being fully persuaded that God had power to do what he had promised."

2. James 1:22 - "Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says."

James 2:18 Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: shew me thy faith without thy works, and I will shew thee my faith by my works.

James challenges the readers to prove that faith is real by demonstrating it through works.

1. The Power of Faith: How Our Actions Demonstrate Our Beliefs

2. The Evidence of Faith: Showing Our Beliefs Through Our Actions

1. Romans 10:17 - So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.

2. Ephesians 2:8-10 - For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

James 2:19 Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble.

Believing in one God is commendable, but it is not enough to save a person from the consequences of sin.

1: We must put our faith in Jesus and His death and resurrection if we want to be saved.

2: We must look beyond just believing in God and live out our faith in the way we live our lives.

1: Romans 10:9 - That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.

2: Ephesians 2:8-9 - For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast.

James 2:20 But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead?

James 2:20 teaches that faith without corresponding works is useless.

1. "Living Out Your Faith: How Your Works Reflect Your Beliefs"

2. "The Importance of the Connection Between Faith and Action"

1. Matthew 7:16-20 (You will recognize them by their fruits)

2. Colossians 1:9-11 (Walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, bearing fruit in every good work)

James 2:21 Was not Abraham our father justified by works, when he had offered Isaac his son upon the altar?

This passage discusses how Abraham was justified by his works when he offered his son Isaac on the altar.

1: Our actions speak louder than words.

2: Abraham's faith and obedience to God was proven through his works.

1: Hebrews 11:17-19 - By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises offered up his only begotten son.

2: Genesis 22:1-18 - Abraham obeyed the LORD and carried out the sacrifice of his son Isaac.

James 2:22 Seest thou how faith wrought with his works, and by works was faith made perfect?

James 2:22 teaches that faith and works work together: faith is made perfect when it is accompanied by good works.

1. "Faith and Works: Working Together for Perfection"

2. "The Power of Faithful Action"

1. Romans 4:20-21 - "No unbelief made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised."

2. Hebrews 11:17-19 - "By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises was in the act of offering up his only son, of whom it was said, ‘Through Isaac shall your offspring be named.’ He considered that God was able even to raise him from the dead, from which, figuratively speaking, he did receive him back.”

James 2:23 And the scripture was fulfilled which saith, Abraham believed God, and it was imputed unto him for righteousness: and he was called the Friend of God.

Abraham was given righteousness by God when he believed in Him, and was given the title of "Friend of God".

1. The Power of Faith: A Study of Abraham's Relationship with God

2. The Blessing of Righteousness: Understanding God's Love for Abraham

1. Genesis 15:6 - And he believed in the LORD; and he counted it to him for righteousness.

2. Isaiah 41:8 - But thou, Israel, art my servant, Jacob whom I have chosen, the seed of Abraham my friend.

James 2:24 Ye see then how that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only.

James teaches that salvation is obtained through good works and not faith alone.

1. The Need for Good Works to Achieve Salvation

2. The Importance of Faith and Works

1. Romans 2:13 - “For it is not the hearers of the law who are righteous before God, but the doers of the law who will be justified.”

2. Ephesians 2:10 - “For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.”

James 2:25 Likewise also was not Rahab the harlot justified by works, when she had received the messengers, and had sent them out another way?

Rahab the harlot was justified by her works when she protected God's messengers.

1. Faith without works is dead

2. The importance of taking action

1. Hebrews 11:31 - "By faith Rahab the prostitute did not perish with those who were disobedient, because she had given a friendly welcome to the spies."

2. Matthew 25:35-36 - "For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in."

James 2:26 For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.

Faith without works is dead, just as a body without a spirit is dead.

1. "The Power of Faith and Works"

2. "The Necessity of Faith and Works"

1. Leviticus 19:18, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself"

2. Romans 12:10, "Love one another with brotherly affection; outdo one another in showing honor."

James 3 is the third chapter of the Epistle of James in the New Testament. This chapter primarily focuses on the power and importance of controlling one's speech, highlighting the potential harm caused by an untamed tongue.

1st Paragraph: The chapter begins by cautioning believers about the responsibility and influence that comes with being teachers or leaders within the Christian community. The author emphasizes that those who teach will be judged with greater strictness, as their words carry weight and impact others (James 3:1-2). He then uses vivid imagery to illustrate how a small bit can control a horse, a small rudder can steer a large ship, and likewise, a small tongue can have significant effects. The tongue is described as a fire that can set an entire forest ablaze (James 3:3-6).

2nd Paragraph: In verses 7-12, there's an exploration of the contradictory nature of human speech. The author highlights how humans have tamed and domesticated various animals but struggle to tame their own tongues. He points out that from the same mouth come both blessings and curses, which should not be so (James 3:9-10). He compares this inconsistency to fresh water and saltwater flowing from the same spring or fig trees producing olives or grapevines producing figs. Such inconsistencies reveal a lack of wisdom.

3rd Paragraph: From verse 13 onwards, there's an emphasis on true wisdom demonstrated through good conduct rather than empty words. The author distinguishes between earthly wisdom characterized by jealousy, selfish ambition, and disorder versus heavenly wisdom characterized by purity, peaceableness, gentleness, reasonableness, mercy, impartiality, and sincerity (James 3:14-18). True wisdom leads to righteous living and produces good fruit in relationships with others.

In summary, James 3 highlights the power of speech and its potential for both harm and blessing. It warns against using our tongues carelessly or destructively but encourages believers to exercise self-control over their words. It emphasizes that true wisdom is revealed through consistent behavior marked by humility and righteousness rather than empty words or worldly ambition. Ultimately it calls for believers to pursue heavenly wisdom that fosters peaceable relationships based on purity, gentleness,and mercy while avoiding jealousy,selfishness,and disorderly conduct

James 3:1 My brethren, be not many masters, knowing that we shall receive the greater condemnation.

This passage is cautioning against being too quick to take on a teaching or leading role, as it can open us up to greater judgement.

1. Being a leader in the Lord's ministry should not be taken lightly.

2. We should approach leadership in the Lord's ministry with humility and caution.

1. Matthew 23:8-10 - "But be not ye called Rabbi: for one is your Master, even Christ; and all ye are brethren. And call no man your father upon the earth: for one is your Father, which is in heaven. Neither be ye called masters: for one is your Master, even Christ."

2. 1 Peter 5:2-3 - "Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind; Neither as being lords over God's heritage, but being ensamples to the flock."

James 3:2 For in many things we offend all. If any man offend not in word, the same is a perfect man, and able also to bridle the whole body.

We all make mistakes, but the perfect man is able to control his whole body.

1. "The Power of Self-Control"

2. "The Perfect Man"

1. Galatians 5:22-23 - "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law."

2. Proverbs 16:32 - "Whoever is slow to anger is better than the mighty, and he who rules his spirit than he who takes a city."

James 3:3 Behold, we put bits in the horses' mouths, that they may obey us; and we turn about their whole body.

James 3:3 illustrates how humans can control horses by using bits to make them obey.

1) The Power of Obedience: How to obey and be controlled by God

2) The Power of Submission: Learning to submit to God's will

1) Proverbs 16:9 - "In their hearts humans plan their course, but the Lord establishes their steps."

2) Matthew 6:33 - "But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well."

James 3:4 Behold also the ships, which though they be so great, and are driven of fierce winds, yet are they turned about with a very small helm, whithersoever the governor listeth.

This passage emphasizes the power of a small force to move great objects, such as ships, by controlling the direction of the wind.

1. The Power of a Small Action in a Big World

2. How to Harness the Winds of Change

1. Proverbs 21:5 - The plans of the diligent lead surely to abundance, but everyone who is hasty comes only to poverty.

2. Matthew 17:20 - He said to them, ?□ecause of your little faith. For truly, I say to you, if you have faith like a grain of mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, ?□ove from here to there,??and it will move, and nothing will be impossible for you.??

James 3:5 Even so the tongue is a little member, and boasteth great things. Behold, how great a matter a little fire kindleth!

The tongue is a small part of the body, yet it can cause great destruction. A small spark of fire can create a large blaze.

1. The Power of the Tongue - How our words can cause great destruction

2. The Little Fire - A look at how a small spark can create a large blaze

1. James 1:26 - If anyone thinks he is religious and does not bridle his tongue but deceives his heart, this person's religion is worthless.

2. Proverbs 18:21 - Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and those who love it will eat its fruits.

James 3:6 And the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity: so is the tongue among our members, that it defileth the whole body, and setteth on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire of hell.

The tongue is a powerful force that can cause destruction and defile the whole body, and it is set on fire by hell.

1. The Power of Our Words - How the tongue can be used for good or evil

2. Fire from Hell - The destructive power of sin

1. Proverbs 18:21 - Death and life are in the power of the tongue

2. Ephesians 4:29 - Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth

James 3:7 For every kind of beasts, and of birds, and of serpents, and of things in the sea,

is tamed, and hath been tamed of mankind:

Humankind has demonstrated the ability to tame wild beasts, birds, and sea creatures.

1. The Power of Taming: A Lesson from Nature

2. The Blessing of Domestication: Discovering Our Potential

1. Proverbs 16:32 - He who is slow to anger is better than the mighty, and he who rules his spirit than he who takes a city.

2. Romans 8:14 - For those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God.

James 3:8 But the tongue can no man tame; it is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison.

The tongue is untamable and is a source of evil and destruction.

1. The Power of Your Words: Understanding the Impact of Our Tounge

2. Taming the Tongue: An Examination of the Power of Our Words

1. Proverbs 18:21 - Death and life are in the power of the tongue.

2. Ecclesiastes 5:2 - Do not be rash with your mouth, and let not your heart utter anything hastily before God.

James 3:9 Therewith bless we God, even the Father; and therewith curse we men, which are made after the similitude of God.

The passage in James 3:9 speaks of how we should bless God and not curse people, whom were created in God's image.

1: We should all strive to show God's love to others, regardless of our differences, as we are all made in His image.

2: We should use our tongues to show love and give thanks to God, instead of using it to curse people.

1: Ephesians 4:29 - Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers.

2: Colossians 3:8-10 - But now ye also put off all these; anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy communication out of your mouth.

James 3:10 Out of the same mouth proceedeth blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not so to be.

James cautions that we should not speak both blessings and curses from the same mouth.

1. The Power of Our Words: Controlling Our Tongue

2. Blessing or Cursing: Living Out James 3:10

1. Ephesians 4:29 - ?□et no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear.??

2. Proverbs 18:21 - ?□eath and life are in the power of the tongue, and those who love it will eat its fruits.??

James 3:11 Doth a fountain send forth at the same place sweet water and bitter?

James 3:11 asks if a fountain can produce both sweet and bitter water from the same place.

1. "The Power of Our Words: Reflection on James 3:11"

2. "The Sweet and Bitter of Life: Exploring James 3:11"

1. Proverbs 16:24 - "Pleasant words are like a honeycomb, sweetness to the soul and health to the bones."

2. Isaiah 5:20 - "Woe to those who call evil good and good evil, who put darkness for light and light for darkness, who put bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter!"

James 3:12 Can the fig tree, my brethren, bear olive berries? either a vine, figs? so can no fountain both yield salt water and fresh.

It is impossible for something to produce two opposite things at the same time.

1. "The Unreality of Expecting Opposites"

2. "The Power of Compromise"

1. Luke 6:37-38 "Judge not, and ye shall not be judged: condemn not, and ye shall not be condemned: forgive, and ye shall be forgiven."

2. Galatians 5:22-23 "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance: against such there is no law."

James 3:13 Who is a wise man and endued with knowledge among you? let him shew out of a good conversation his works with meekness of wisdom.

Wisdom and knowledge must be expressed through good works and gentleness.

1. The Wisdom of Good Works

2. Living a Life of Knowledge and Meekness

1. Proverbs 16:22-24 - "Good sense is a fountain of life to him who has it, but the instruction of fools is folly. The heart of the wise instructs his mouth and adds persuasiveness to his lips. Pleasant words are a honeycomb, sweet to the soul and healing to the bones."

2. Philippians 2:14-15 - "Do all things without grumbling or disputing, that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world."

James 3:14 But if ye have bitter envying and strife in your hearts, glory not, and lie not against the truth.

This passage warns against allowing envy, strife, and lies to be present in one's heart.

1. The Danger of Envy and Strife: How to Avoid the Temptation to Compare.

2. The Power of Truth: How Lies Destroy Relationships.

1. Proverbs 14:30 - A sound heart is the life of the flesh: but envy the rottenness of the bones.

2. Romans 12:14-16 - Bless them which persecute you: bless, and curse not. Rejoice with them that do rejoice, and weep with them that weep. Be of the same mind one toward another. Mind not high things, but condescend to men of low estate. Be not wise in your own conceits.

James 3:15 This wisdom descendeth not from above, but is earthly, sensual, devilish.

This passage describes earthly wisdom as being opposed to divine wisdom, as it is sensual and devilish.

1. Beware of Earthly Wisdom

2. The Difference Between Divine and Earthly Wisdom

1. Isaiah 55: 8-9 ???or my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.??

2. Proverbs 3:5-7 ???rust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths. Be not wise in thine own eyes: fear the Lord, and depart from evil.??

James 3:16 For where envying and strife is, there is confusion and every evil work.

This verse from James teaches us that when envy and conflict are present, chaos and evil will follow.

1: Do not let envy and strife take away from the peace of your life.

2: Instead of envying, strive to be content with what the Lord has given you.

1: Proverbs 15:17 "Better is a dinner of herbs where love is, than a fatted calf with hatred."

2: Philippians 4:11-13 "Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content. I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound: every where and in all things I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me."

James 3:17 But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be intreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy.

James 3:17 speaks of the wisdom from above being pure, peaceable, gentle, and easy to be entreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy.

1. "The Wisdom of Above: Letting Go of Partiality and Hypocrisy"

2. "Living a Life of Mercy and Good Fruits"

1. Matthew 7:12 - "Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them: for this is the law and the prophets."

2. John 15:12 - "This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you."

James 3:18 And the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace of them that make peace.

Peace is the fruit of righteousness which is sown by those who are committed to making peace.

1. Peace is a Choice: How to Plant the Seeds of Righteousness

2. The Power of Righteousness: Cultivating a Peaceful Heart

1. Philippians 4:4-7 - Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice! Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

2. Romans 12:18 - If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all.

James 4 is the fourth chapter of the Epistle of James in the New Testament. This chapter addresses various issues related to conflicts, worldly desires, and humility before God.

1st Paragraph: The chapter begins by addressing the root cause of conflicts and quarrels among believers. The author attributes these disputes to selfish desires that wage war within individuals. He emphasizes that when people ask for things with wrong motives or seek to gratify their own pleasures, they will not receive what they ask for from God (James 4:1-3). The author admonishes them to submit themselves to God, resist the devil, and draw near to God in repentance.

2nd Paragraph: In verses 4-10, there's an emphasis on the danger of friendship with the world and its values. The author warns against becoming friends with the world because it leads to enmity with God. He highlights that friendship with the world is characterized by spiritual adultery and loyalty divided between God and worldly pursuits (James 4:4-6). Instead, believers are called to humble themselves before God, recognizing His sovereignty and seeking His grace. They are encouraged to cleanse their hands from sin and purify their hearts through genuine repentance.

3rd Paragraph: From verse 11 onwards, there's a focus on avoiding judgmental attitudes towards one another. The author cautions against speaking evil or judging fellow believers since it amounts to usurping God's role as Judge (James 4:11-12). He emphasizes that only One is Lawgiver and Judge—God Himself—and believers should humbly recognize their place as fallible human beings. They are urged not to boast about future plans but rather acknowledge their dependence on God's will for their lives (James 4:13-17). This passage underscores the need for humility before God, resisting selfish desires that lead to conflicts, avoiding friendship with worldly values while seeking intimacy with God through repentance,and refraining from judgmental attitudes toward others recognizing our limited understanding

In summary, James 4 addresses issues related to conflicts arising from selfish desires within individuals. It warns against pursuing worldly values and urges believers instead seek intimacy with God through submission,resistance towards evil,and genuine repentance.It cautions against judgmental attitudes towards fellow believers while emphasizing humility before a sovereign Judge.The chapter calls for self-examination,purification from sin,and reliance onGod's will rather than boasting about personal plans.

James 4:1 From whence come wars and fightings among you? come they not hence, even of your lusts that war in your members?

Humans are constantly in conflict due to their own selfish desires.

1. Selfish Desires Lead to Conflict

2. The Cost of Selfishness

1. James 1:14-15 "But each person is tempted when they are dragged away by their own evil desire and enticed. Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death."

2. Proverbs 14:12 "There is a way that appears to be right, but in the end it leads to death."

James 4:2 Ye lust, and have not: ye kill, and desire to have, and cannot obtain: ye fight and war, yet ye have not, because ye ask not.

Humans are constantly seeking to fulfill their desires, but often fail to do so due to a lack of asking for help.

1. The Power of Prayer: How Asking for Help Can Lead to Fulfillment

2. The Limits of Human Desires: Finding Contentment in the Face of Unfulfilled Wishes

1. Philippians 4:11-13 - Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content. I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound: every where and in all things I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need.

13 I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.

2. Matthew 6:25-34 - Therefore I say unto you, Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on. Is not the life more than meat, and the body than raiment? Behold the fowls of the air: for they sow

not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feedeth them. Are ye not much better than they?

James 4:3 Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts.

We should not ask God for things that will only satisfy our own desires.

1: We should not ask for things that will only lead to our own destruction.

2: Our prayers should be focused on seeking God's will and not our own selfish desires.

1: Philippians 4:6-7 - Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.

2: James 1:5 - If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you.

James 4:4 Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God.

Friendship with the world is a betrayal of friendship with God. 1: We must not let our love for worldly things distract us from our love for God. 2: We must not let our love for the world become an obstacle to our relationship with God. 1: 1 John 2:15-17, “Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world—the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride of life—is not from the Father but is from the world. And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever.” 2: Romans 12:2, “Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.”

James 4:5 Do ye think that the scripture saith in vain, The spirit that dwelleth in us lusteth to envy?

The scripture warns us that the spirit that lives in us desires to be envious.

1. Learn to control your envy and practice humility.

2. Don't be led astray by your own desires.

1. Proverbs 14:30 - "A heart at peace gives life to the body, but envy rots the bones."

2. Galatians 5:16-17 - "But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do."

James 4:6 But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble.

God gives grace to the humble but resists the proud.

1. God's Grace: Embrace Humility and Reject Pride

2. The Power of Humility: Receive God's Gift of Grace

1. Proverbs 22:4 - "Humility is the fear of the Lord; its wages are riches and honor and life."

2. 1 Peter 5:5-6 - "Clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, for “God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.” Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you."

James 4:7 Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

We should submit to God and resist the devil, and he will flee from us.

1. The Power of Submission: How to Resist the Devil

2. Overcoming Temptations: Following God's Will

1. 1 Peter 5:8-9 - "Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world."

2. Ephesians 6:10-11 - "Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil."

James 4:8 Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded.

Come close to God and He will come close to you. Repent of your sins and purify your motives.

1: God is always near, but He is waiting for us to draw near to Him.

2: Examine your heart and turn away from your sins to be closer to God.

1: Isaiah 55:6 Seek the Lord while He may be found; call upon Him while He is near.

2: Psalm 32:8 I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you with my loving eye on you.

James 4:9 Be afflicted, and mourn, and weep: let your laughter be turned to mourning, and your joy to heaviness.

This passage encourages us to recognize our mortality and to turn away from joy and laughter to mourning and grief.

1. "The Power of Mourning: Turning Away from Joy to Grieve"

2. "The Weight of Mortality: Using Affliction to Refocus Our Lives"

1. Ecclesiastes 3:4 - “A time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance”

2. Isaiah 61:3 - “To console those who mourn in Zion, To give them beauty for ashes, The oil of joy for mourning, The garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; That they may be called trees of righteousness, The planting of the Lord, that He may be glorified.”

James 4:10 Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up.

This passage encourages us to humble ourselves before the Lord so that He may lift us up.

1. God's Love and Guidance: How Humility Can Lead to Growth in Our Faith

2. Finding Strength in Humility: Submitting to God's Plan

1. Matthew 5:5 - “Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.”

2. Psalm 25:9 - “He guides the humble in what is right and teaches them his way.”

James 4:11 Speak not evil one of another, brethren. He that speaketh evil of his brother, and judgeth his brother, speaketh evil of the law, and judgeth the law: but if thou judge the law, thou art not a doer of the law, but a judge.

Do not speak ill of one another, as it is against the law.

1. Guard Your Tongue: The Power of Words

2. Living God's Law: Refraining from Judging

1. Matthew 12:36-37 "But I tell you that everyone will have to give account on the day of judgment for every empty word they have spoken. For by your words you will be acquitted, and by your words you will be condemned.”

2. Ephesians 4:29 “Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen.”

James 4:12 There is one lawgiver, who is able to save and to destroy: who art thou that judgest another?

James reminds us that only God is the ultimate judge and that we should not try to judge others.

1. God is the Judge - We should seek to understand the perspective of others without judgement.

2. Pride and Humility - We should approach others with humility, recognizing that only God can judge.

1. Romans 14:10-13 - Each of us will give an account of ourselves to God.

2. Matthew 7:1-5 - Do not judge others, for only God can judge.

James 4:13 Go to now, ye that say, To day or to morrow we will go into such a city, and continue there a year, and buy and sell, and get gain:

The passage reminds us of the uncertainty of life and encourages us to put our trust in God instead of making plans for our own future.

1. Trust in the Lord: The Uncertainty of Life

2. Learn to Let Go and Let God

1. Psalm 46:10 - "Be still, and know that I am God."

2. Proverbs 3:5-6 - "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to Him, and He will make your paths straight."

James 4:14 Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away.

Our life is brief and uncertain, and we do not know what will happen tomorrow.

1. Our Lives on Earth Are Fleeting - James 4:14

2. Making the Most of Our Time - James 4:14

1. Ephesians 5:15-17 - Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil.

2. Psalm 90:12 - Teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom.

James 4:15 For that ye ought to say, If the Lord will, we shall live, and do this, or that.

This passage emphasizes the importance of submitting to God's will and trusting in Him for the future.

1. "Living in Contentment: Submitting to God's Will"

2. "Trusting in God for the Future"

1. Proverbs 3:5-6 - Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding.

6. Psalm 37:3-5 - Trust in the Lord and do good; dwell in the land and enjoy safe pasture. Delight yourself in the Lord and He will give you the desires of your heart. Commit your way to the Lord; trust in Him and He will do this.

James 4:16 But now ye rejoice in your boastings: all such rejoicing is evil.

This passage warns against rejoicing in boastful pride, as it is an evil act.

1. Pride is a Sin: Rejoicing in Boasting is Evil

2. Avoid Boastful Pride and Rejoicing in It

1. Proverbs 16:18-19 - Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall. It is better to be of a lowly spirit with the poor than to divide the spoil with the proud.

2. Romans 12:3 - For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned.

James 4:17 Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin.

Doing what is good is expected of those who know what is right.

1. Doing What Is Right Is Expected Of Us

2. Fulfilling Our Obligations To Do Good

1. James 1:22 - But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.

2. Micah 6:8 - He hath shewed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the LORD require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?

James 5 is the fifth and final chapter of the Epistle of James in the New Testament. This chapter focuses on various topics such as wealth, patience in suffering, prayer, and the importance of restoring those who have wandered from the truth.

1st Paragraph: The chapter begins by addressing the issue of wealth and its potential pitfalls. The author warns the rich about their impending judgment and encourages them to weep and howl for the miseries that will come upon them. He highlights how their riches have rotted, their garments moth-eaten, and their gold and silver corroded (James 5:1-3). The author emphasizes that these material possessions cannot save them but instead serve as evidence against them for exploiting others. He calls for believers to be patient in their suffering because God's judgment is coming.

2nd Paragraph: In verses 7-12, there's an emphasis on endurance and patience during times of trial. The author urges believers to be patient like a farmer waiting for his crops to yield fruit. They are encouraged to establish their hearts because the coming of the Lord is near (James 5:7-8). He advises against grumbling or complaining against one another but rather encourages them to look at examples like Job who endured suffering with steadfastness (James 5:9-11). Believers are reminded that they should let their "yes" be yes and their "no" be no so as not to fall into judgment.

3rd Paragraph: From verse 13 onwards, there's a focus on prayer and restoration within the community. The author encourages those who are suffering or cheerful to pray—whether it is for healing or thanksgiving—and shares that prayer has power when offered with faith (James 5:13-16). Believers are also urged to confess their sins to one another so that they may be healed. They are called upon to intercede for one another in prayer, acknowledging its effectiveness (James 5:16b). Finally, there's an emphasis on restoring those who have wandered from the truth by bringing them back through love and concern for their souls.

In summary, James 5 addresses issues related to wealth, emphasizing its temporary nature while warning against exploiting others for personal gain. It calls believers to

endure patiently during times of trial while looking forward to God's ultimate judgment. Prayer is highlighted as a powerful tool in both times of suffering and thanksgiving while emphasizing confession of sins among believers along with intercession for one another.The chapter also stresses restoration within the community by lovingly bringing back those who have strayed from truth recognizing our need for patience,endurance,and mutual support.

James 5:1 Go to now, ye rich men, weep and howl for your miseries that shall come upon you.

This passage warns the wealthy to be mindful of their actions and to weep and cry out due to the miseries that will come as a result.

1. The Danger of Greed: How to Not Let Wealth Corrupt Your Soul

2. Contentment: Finding Joy in What You Have, Not What You Lack

1. Proverbs 11:28 - "He that trusteth in his riches shall fall: but the righteous shall flourish as a branch."

2. Matthew 6:19-21 - "Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also."

James 5:2 Your riches are corrupted, and your garments are motheaten.

The passage is a warning from James to those who are wealthy and have put their trust in their riches. He warns that their wealth will eventually be corrupted and their garments will become moth-eaten.

1. Don't Put Your Trust In Riches - The Danger of Thinking Your Wealth Will Last Forever

2. The Impermanence of Wealth - James 5:2 Warns Us of the Inevitable Corruptibility of Our Riches

1. Proverbs 11:28 - "Whoever trusts in his riches will fall, but the righteous will thrive like a green leaf."

2. Mark 8:36 - "For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?"

James 5:3 Your gold and silver is cankered; and the rust of them shall be a witness against you, and shall eat your flesh as it were fire. Ye have heaped treasure together for the last days.

In James 5:3 the Bible warns of the perils of storing up riches, as the rust of those riches will be a witness against them and eat their flesh like fire.

1. Beware of the Perils of Storing Up Riches

2. The Corrosive Power of Greed

1. Proverbs 11:28 - “Whoever trusts in his riches will fall, but the righteous will flourish like a green leaf.”

2. Ecclesiastes 5:10 - “Whoever loves money never has enough; whoever loves wealth is never satisfied with their income.”

James 5:4 Behold, the hire of the labourers who have reaped down your fields, which is of you kept back by fraud, crieth: and the cries of them which have reaped are entered into the ears of the Lord of sabaoth.

This passage from James 5:4 is a warning against withholding the wages of laborers out of fraud or greed.

1: God Hears the Cries of the Oppressed and Will Judge Those Who Oppress Them

2: The Danger of Greed and the Need for Justice to be Served

1: Proverbs 22:16 - He that oppresseth the poor to increase his riches, and he that giveth to the rich, shall surely come to want.

2: Isaiah 58:6 - Is not this the fast that I have chosen? to loose the bands of wickedness, to undo the heavy burdens, and to let the oppressed go free, and that ye break every yoke?

James 5:5 Ye have lived in pleasure on the earth, and been wanton; ye have nourished your hearts, as in a day of slaughter.

This passage is a warning to those who have lived luxurious lives and have overindulged in pleasure, that their time of reckoning is coming.

1. The Day of Reckoning: Living in Luxury Now Will Not Last Forever

2. Nourish Your Hearts for the Day of Slaughter: A Warning from James

1. Ecclesiastes 11:9 - Rejoice, O young man, in thy youth; and let thy heart cheer thee in the days of thy youth, and walk in the ways of thine heart, and in the sight of thine eyes: but know thou, that for all these things God will bring thee into judgment.

2. Revelation 3:17-18 - Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked: I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see.

James 5:6 Ye have condemned and killed the just; and he doth not resist you.

This passage talks about how those who are just will not resist those who condemn and kill them.

1. The Power of Mercy: How to Respond to Those Who Wrong Us

2. Do Not Be Quick to Judge: The Power of Forgiveness

1. Luke 6:37-38 - "Do not judge, and you will not be judged; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven."

2. Romans 12:19 - "Do not take revenge, my dear friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: 'It is mine to avenge; I will repay,' says the Lord."

James 5:7 Be patient therefore, brethren, unto the coming of the Lord. Behold, the husbandman waiteth for the precious fruit of the earth, and hath long patience for it,

until he receive the early and latter rain.

This passage encourages patience and faith in the Lord, as He will bring the ultimate reward in due time.

1. Waiting on the Lord: Patience and Faith in God's Timing

2. Living an Abundant Life: The Rewards of Waiting on the Lord

1. Isaiah 40:31 - But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.

2. Psalm 27:14 - Wait on the LORD: be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the LORD.

James 5:8 Be ye also patient; stablish your hearts: for the coming of the Lord draweth nigh.

Patience is essential in waiting for the Lord's coming.

1: When waiting for the Lord’s return, we must remain patient and steadfast in our faith.

2: As we wait for the Lord’s return, our hearts should remain steadfast and filled with patience.

1: Romans 8:25 "But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently."

2: Psalm 27:14 “Wait for the Lord; be strong and take heart and wait for the Lord.”

James 5:9 Grudge not one against another, brethren, lest ye be condemned: behold, the judge standeth before the door.

Do not let bitterness and resentment towards each other fester, instead forgive and reconcile.

1. The Power of Forgiveness: Letting Go of Grudges

2. A Call to Reconciliation: Overcoming Bitterness

1. Colossians 3:13 - Bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive.

2. Ephesians 4:31-32 - Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.

James 5:10 Take, my brethren, the prophets, who have spoken in the name of the Lord, for an example of suffering affliction, and of patience.

The prophets of the Lord are an example of patience and endurance in suffering.

1. Patience and Endurance in Suffering - James 5:10

2. The Example of the Prophets - James 5:10

1. Hebrews 12:1-3 - Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

2. Romans 5:3-5 - More than that, we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.

James 5:11 Behold, we count them happy which endure. Ye have heard of the patience of Job, and have seen the end of the Lord; that the Lord is very pitiful, and of tender mercy.

This passage encourages us to be patient in our trials, as we can learn from the example of Job who endured his troubles with patience and was ultimately rewarded with God's mercy.

1. "The Patience of Job: A Guide to Enduring Trials"

2. "God is Merciful: Experiencing the Reward of Faithful Endurance"

1. Romans 5:3-5 - "Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. And hope does not put us to shame, because God’s love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us."

2. 2 Corinthians 12:9-10 - "But he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ’s power may rest on me. That is why, for Christ’s sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong."

James 5:12 But above all things, my brethren, swear not, neither by heaven, neither by the earth, neither by any other oath: but let your yea be yea; and your nay, nay; lest ye fall into condemnation.

This verse advises us to speak truthfully without the need for oaths.

1. The Power of Truth: Overcoming the Need to Oath

2. Keeping Our Words: The Responsibility of Honoring Our Promises

1. Ephesians 4:29 - Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers.

2. Matthew 5:33-37 - "Again you have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not swear falsely, but shall perform your oaths to the Lord.' But I say to you, do not swear at all: neither by heaven, for it is God's throne; nor by the earth, for it is His footstool; nor by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King. Nor shall you swear by your head, because you cannot make one hair white or black. But let your 'Yes' be 'Yes,' and your 'No,' 'No.' For whatever is more than these is from the evil one.

James 5:13 Is any among you afflicted? let him pray. Is any merry? let him sing psalms.

This passage encourages us to use prayer and song as a response to our emotions and circumstances.

1. "Praising Through Pain: How Our Faith Enables Us to Overcome"

2. "Sing Joyfully: How Music Can Renew Your Spirit"

1. Phil 4:4-7: Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice. Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

2. Isa 61:3: To grant to those who mourn in Zion— to give them a beautiful headdress instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the garment of praise instead of a faint spirit; that they may be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, that he may be glorified.

James 5:14 Is any sick among you? let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord:

This passage encourages us to seek help from church elders when we are ill, and to receive anointing with oil in the name of the Lord.

1: The Healing Power of Prayer - James 5:14

2: Reaching Out for God's Help - James 5:14

1: Isaiah 53:4-5 - "Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed."

2: Mark 6:13 - "And they cast out many devils, and anointed with oil many that were sick, and healed them."

James 5:15 And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him.

This passage speaks of the power of faith in prayer to heal the sick and grant forgiveness for sins.

1. The Healing Power of Faith: How Prayer Can Bring Health and Forgiveness

2. The Unfailing Promises of God: The Certainty of His Answers to Prayers

1. Isaiah 41:10 - "Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand."

2. 1 Peter 5:7 - "Casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you."

James 5:16 Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.

Confess to one another and pray for one another for healing. The powerful prayer of a righteous person is very effective.

1. The Power of Prayer: Using Prayer as a Tool for Healing

2. Confession: The Path to Restoration and Healing

1. Isaiah 40:28-31 – “Do you not know? Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He will not grow tired or weary, and his understanding no one can fathom. He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak. Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall; but those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.”

2. John 14:12-14 – “Very truly I tell you, whoever believes in me will do the works I have been doing, and they will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father. And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it.”

James 5:17 Elias was a man subject to like passions as we are, and he prayed earnestly that it might not rain: and it rained not on the earth by the space of three years and six months.

Elias was a man with the same weaknesses as us, and he prayed fervently that it would not rain for three and a half years, and it did not.

1. The Power of Prayer: Learning from the Example of Elias

2. The Strength of Weakness: Embracing Our Humanness in Prayer

1. Daniel 6:10 - “Now when Daniel knew that the writing was signed, he went into his house; and his windows being open in his chamber toward Jerusalem, he kneeled upon his knees three times a day, and prayed, and gave thanks before his God, as he did aforetime.”

2. Philippians 4:6 - “Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.”

James 5:18 And he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain, and the earth brought forth her fruit.

This passage explains how Elijah prayed to God twice for rain and his prayer was answered.

1: God answers prayers, and we should have faith that He will fulfill them.

2: We should be persistent in our prayers and keep asking God for what we need.

1: Matthew 7:7-8 “Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened.”

2: 1 John 5:14-15 “Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him.”

James 5:19 Brethren, if any of you do err from the truth, and one convert him;

This passage encourages us to help one another stay on the right path.

1: "A Helping Hand" - We all need a helping hand from time to time. We should be willing to help others stay on the right path and keep them from straying away from the truth.

2: "Stay True" - We must all stay true to the truth and help others do the same. It is our responsibility to help our brothers and sisters stay on the right path.

1: Proverbs 27:17 - "As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another."

2: Galatians 6:1 - "Brothers and sisters, if someone is caught in a sin, you who live by the Spirit should restore that person gently. But watch yourselves, or you also may be tempted."

James 5:20 Let him know, that he which converteth the sinner from the error of his way shall save a soul from death, and shall hide a multitude of sins.

This verse encourages us to help those who have strayed from the truth and bring them back to righteousness, as this can save a soul from death and cover a multitude of sins.

1. "The Power of Conversion"

2. "The Mercy of Forgiveness"

1. Ezekiel 18:20-21 - "The soul who sins shall die. The son shall not suffer for the iniquity of the father, nor the father suffer for the iniquity of the son. The righteousness of the righteous shall be upon himself, and the wickedness of the wicked shall be upon himself."

2. Matthew 18:15-17 - "If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother. But if he does not listen, take one or two others along with you, that every charge may be established by the evidence of two or three witnesses. If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church. And if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector."

1 Peter 1 is the first chapter of the First Epistle of Peter in the New Testament. This chapter focuses on themes such as salvation, faith, and hope in the midst of trials and suffering.

1st Paragraph: The chapter begins with an emphasis on the believers' living hope and inheritance through Jesus Christ. The author praises God for His abundant mercy, which has caused believers to be born again into a living hope through Christ's resurrection (1 Peter 1:3). He highlights that this inheritance is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for those who are being guarded by God's power through faith (1 Peter 1:4-5). Despite facing various trials that test their faith, believers can rejoice because their faith is being refined like gold through these trials.

2nd Paragraph: In verses 6-12, there's an exploration of the paradoxical nature of joy

amidst suffering. The author acknowledges that believers may experience grief and distress due to various trials but reminds them that such trials serve a purpose—to refine their faith and bring glory to God. He encourages them to rejoice even in these hardships because they are sharing in Christ's sufferings (1 Peter 1:6-7). The author also highlights the honor and privilege bestowed upon believers by being recipients of salvation—a salvation eagerly anticipated by prophets of old but fully revealed through Jesus Christ (1 Peter 1:10-12).

3rd Paragraph: From verse 13 onwards, there's a call to holy living based on the foundation of God's grace. Believers are urged to prepare their minds for action and be sober-minded as they set their hope fully on the grace that will be brought at Jesus' revelation (1 Peter 1:13). They are called to be obedient children who do not conform to former ignorant ways but instead live holy lives reflective of God's character (1 Peter 14-16). The author emphasizes that redemption was costly—the precious blood of Christ—and calls for sincere brotherly love among believers (1 Peter 18-22).

In summary, 1 Peter 1 highlights the believer's living hope and inheritance through Jesus Christ despite facing trials. It explores how joy can coexist with suffering as it refines one's faith. It emphasizes holy living based on God's grace while calling for obedience rooted in sincere love for one another recognizing our imperishable inheritance through Christ.

1 Peter 1:1 Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, to the strangers scattered throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia,

Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, writes a letter to the strangers scattered in various regions of Asia Minor.

1. God's Love Extends to All People, No Matter Where They Are.

2. The Power of His Gospel to Reach Far and Wide.

1. Romans 10:18: “But I ask, have they not heard? Indeed they have, for “Their voice has gone out to all the earth, and their words to the ends of the world.”

2. Matthew 28:19-20: “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you.”

1 Peter 1:2 Elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through sanctification of the Spirit, unto obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ: Grace unto you,

and peace, be multiplied.

The passage talks about how believers are chosen by God's foreknowledge, through the sanctification of the Spirit, for obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ.

1. "The Power of God's Foreknowledge: How We Are Chosen By His Love"

2. "The Sanctification of the Spirit: Living In Obedience To God"

1. Romans 8:29-30 - "For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren. Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified."

2. John 14:15-17 - "If ye love me, keep my commandments. And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever; Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you."

1 Peter 1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

Through God's abundant mercy, He has given us a living hope through Jesus' resurrection from the dead.

1. God's Mercy and Abounding Love

2. The Power of Living Hope

1. Romans 5:5 - And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us.

2. John 11:25-26 - Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. Believest thou this?

1 Peter 1:4 To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you,

Peter encourages believers that they have an inheritance in Heaven that will never perish.

1. The Hope of Heaven: How Our Eternal Inheritance Can Give Us Strength

2. Secure in Christ: Understanding the Unfading Inheritance of Heaven

1. Romans 8:16-17 - The Spirit bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ.

2. Colossians 3:1-4 - Seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth.

1 Peter 1:5 Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

In 1 Peter 1:5, believers are kept by the power of God through faith and will receive salvation in the last time.

1. God's Unfailing Power: The Promise of Salvation

2. Faith and Hope: Trusting in God's Plan

1. Romans 8:38-39 – “For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

2. Hebrews 11:1 – “Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.”

1 Peter 1:6 Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations:

Christians should rejoice despite the suffering they may experience from various temptations.

1. Trusting in God During Times of Suffering

2. The Joy of Rejoicing Despite Difficulties

1. Romans 8:28 - And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.

2. James 1:2-4 - My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.

1 Peter 1:7 That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ:

The passage speaks about the trial of faith being more precious than gold, and that it will be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ.

1. The Value of Our Faith in Jesus Christ

2. The True Riches of the Believer

1. James 1:2-3 - Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness.

2. Hebrews 11:1 - Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.

1 Peter 1:8 Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory:

Christians have a faith that leads to joy in spite of not being able to see Jesus in the present.

1. The Joy of Faith: How to Rejoice in the Lord despite Uncertainty

2. The Blessing of Unseen Hope: Experiencing Joy through Christian Faith

1. Romans 5:1-5 - Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

2. Isaiah 40:31 - But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.

1 Peter 1:9 Receiving the end of your faith, even the salvation of your souls.

Peter encourages Christians to have faith in God and live with the knowledge that salvation awaits them.

1. "The Power of Faith: Reaping the Rewards of Belief in God"

2. "Living in Faith: Understanding the Love of God in Our Lives"

1. Matthew 19:26 - "But Jesus beheld them, and said unto them, With men this is impossible; but with God all things are possible."

2. Romans 10:17 - "So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God."

1 Peter 1:10 Of which salvation the prophets have enquired and searched diligently, who prophesied of the grace that should come unto you:

The prophets of the Old Testament searched diligently for the salvation that would be provided through grace.

1. How the Old Testament Prophets Discovered the Promise of Salvation

2. The Search for Salvation and the Gift of Grace

1. Luke 24:25-27 - And he said unto them, O fools, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken: Ought not Christ to have suffered these things, and to enter into his glory? And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, he expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself.

2. Isaiah 53:5 - But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.

1 Peter 1:11 Searching what, or what manner of time the Spirit of Christ which was in them did signify, when it testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ, and the glory that should follow.

The Spirit of Christ testified beforehand of the sufferings of Christ and the glory that should follow.

1. The Suffering and Glory of Christ

2. The Significance of the Spirit of Christ

1. Isaiah 53:3-5 He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not.

2. Romans 8:17 And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together.

1 Peter 1:12 Unto whom it was revealed, that not unto themselves, but unto us they did minister the things, which are now reported unto you by them that have preached the gospel unto you with the Holy Ghost sent down from heaven; which things the angels desire to look into.

This verse speaks of the power of the Gospel, which was first revealed to prophets and then preached by those with the power of the Holy Spirit, a message even the angels desire to understand.

1. The Power of the Gospel: How Our Words Can Reach Heaven and Earth

2. The Desire of Angels: How the Gospel Transcends Human Understanding

1. Romans 1:16-17 - For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith, as it is written, “The righteous shall live by faith.”

2. Matthew 28:19-20 - Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

1 Peter 1:13 Wherefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and hope to the end for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ;

We should be diligent and remain hopeful in anticipation of the grace that will be granted when Jesus Christ returns.

1. Persevere with Hope - 1 Peter 1:13

2. Gird Up Your Mind and Be Sober - 1 Peter 1:13

1. Romans 12:2 - Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.

2. Isaiah 40:31 - But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.

1 Peter 1:14 As obedient children, not fashioning yourselves according to the former lusts in your ignorance:

Christians must not live according to their old desires, but instead live in obedience to God.

1. Obeying God in the Face of Temptation

2. The Power of Obedience in Our Lives

1. Romans 6:12-13 - "Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof. Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God."

2. Titus 2:11-12 - "For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly,

righteously, and godly, in this present world."

1 Peter 1:15 But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation;

Christians should live a holy life, reflecting the character of God who called them.

1. Living a Life of Holiness - 1 Peter 1:15

2. God's Standard of Holiness - 1 Peter 1:15

1. Leviticus 19:2 - "Speak to all the congregation of the children of Israel, and say unto them, Ye shall be holy: for I the Lord your God am holy."

2. Matthew 5:48 - "Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect."

1 Peter 1:16 Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy.

Peter encourages believers to live a holy life, because God is holy.

1. "Called to be Holy: Embracing God's Holiness"

2. "The Power of God's Holiness: Living a Life of Purity"

1. Leviticus 11:44-45 - "For I am the Lord your God: ye shall therefore sanctify yourselves, and ye shall be holy; for I am holy..."

2. 1 Thessalonians 4:3-5 - "For this is the will of God, even your sanctification, that ye should abstain from fornication: That every one of you should know how to possess his vessel in sanctification and honour..."

1 Peter 1:17 And if ye call on the Father, who without respect of persons judgeth according to every man's work, pass the time of your sojourning here in fear:

We should live reverently and honorably, as we are accountable to God who judges

according to our deeds.

1. Living for the Audience of One: A Call to Live with Reverence

2. Fear Not, for There is Hope in God: Living with Faith in the Midst of Uncertainty

1. Isaiah 41:10 - "Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand."

2. Hebrews 4:13 - "And no creature is hidden from his sight, but all are naked and exposed to the eyes of him to whom we must give account."

1 Peter 1:18 Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers;

Believers have been redeemed from sin, not by material goods, but by God's grace.

1. The Power of Redemption: How God's Grace Saves Us

2. The Freedom of Life in Christ: How to Live Free from Tradition

1. Romans 3:24 - Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus.

2. Colossians 2:6-7 - As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in him: Rooted and built up in him, and stablished in the faith, as ye have been taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving.

1 Peter 1:19 But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot:

Passage:

The apostle Peter wrote that Jesus Christ was the ultimate lamb without blemish and without spot, and that His blood was precious.

The apostle Peter teaches that Jesus Christ is the perfect, sinless Lamb, and His blood is of great value.

1. The Perfect Lamb: How Jesus Christ is Our Savior

2. The Precious Blood of Christ: Understanding the Significance of His Sacrifice

1. Isaiah 53:7 - He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth: he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he openeth not his mouth.

2. Colossians 1:20 - And, having made peace through the blood of his cross, by him to reconcile all things unto himself; by him, I say, whether they be things in earth, or things in heaven.

1 Peter 1:20 Who verily was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you,

The passage speaks of Jesus being foreordained before the foundation of the world and being manifest in the last times.

1. The Wonderful Foreordainment of Jesus

2. The Manifestation of Jesus in the Last Times

1. Ephesians 1:4 - According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love.

2. 1 John 3:8 - He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil.

1 Peter 1:21 Who by him do believe in God, that raised him up from the dead, and gave him glory; that your faith and hope might be in God.

The passage encourages believers to trust in God who raised Jesus from the dead and bestowed glory upon him, so that their faith and hope may be in God.

1: Trusting in the Lord during times of difficulty

2: The power of faith and hope in God

1: Romans 10:9-10 - That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.

2: Hebrews 11:1 - Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

1 Peter 1:22 Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently:

Believers have purified their souls by obeying the truth of the Spirit, and should love one another with a pure heart.

1. How to Love One Another from a Pure Heart

2. The Power of Unfeigned Love

1. Romans 12:9-10 - Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good.

2. Ephesians 4:32 - Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.

1 Peter 1:23 Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever.

The passage speaks of the importance of being born again through the word of God.

1. New Life Through the Word of God

2. A Refreshing Start with the Word of God

1. John 1:12-13 - But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the

sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.

2. James 1:18 - Of his own will begat he us with the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures.

1 Peter 1:24 For all flesh is as grass, and all the glory of man as the flower of grass. The grass withereth, and the flower thereof falleth away:

All human glory is transient and fades away, like the grass and flowers of the field.

1. Embrace Transience: Finding Joy in the Moment

2. Cherishing Life: Celebrating Life's Beauty Despite Its Fleeting Nature

1. James 1:10-11 - "But the rich, in that he is made low: because as the flower of the grass he shall pass away. For the sun is no sooner risen with a burning heat, but it withereth the grass, and the flower thereof falleth, and the grace of the fashion of it perisheth."

2. Isaiah 40:6-7 - "The voice said, Cry. And he said, What shall I cry? All flesh is grass, and all the goodliness thereof is as the flower of the field: The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: because the spirit of the LORD bloweth upon it: surely the people is grass."

1 Peter 1:25 But the word of the Lord endureth for ever. And this is the word which by the gospel is preached unto you.

The Word of the Lord is everlasting and is preached to us through the Gospel.

1. The Eternal Word of the Lord

2. Preaching the Gospel of Salvation

1. Isaiah 40:8: "The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: but the word of our God shall stand for ever."

2. Mark 1:14-15: "Now after that John was put in prison, Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God, And saying, The time is fulfilled, and the

kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel."

1 Peter 2 is the second chapter of the First Epistle of Peter in the New Testament. This chapter focuses on themes such as spiritual growth, living as God's chosen people, and following Christ's example.

1st Paragraph: The chapter begins with an exhortation for believers to rid themselves of malice, deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and slander. They are called to desire pure spiritual milk in order to grow in their salvation (1 Peter 2:1-3). The author emphasizes that they are a chosen people—a holy priesthood and a royal nation—called out of darkness into God's marvelous light (1 Peter 2:9). Believers are encouraged to proclaim God's excellencies and live honorable lives that bring glory to Him.

2nd Paragraph: In verses 4-10, there's an emphasis on Jesus Christ as the living stone and believers as living stones being built into a spiritual house. The author highlights how Jesus was rejected by men but chosen by God as the cornerstone—the foundation upon which everything is built (1 Peter 2:4-8). Believers are described as a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation—called to proclaim God's praises. They were once not a people but have now received mercy through Christ.

3rd Paragraph: From verse 11 onwards, there's an exhortation for believers to live honorably among unbelievers. The author encourages them to abstain from sinful desires that wage war against their souls and instead conduct themselves with such honorable behavior that even those who speak against them will glorify God on the day of visitation (1 Peter 2:11-12). Believers are called to submit themselves for the Lord's sake—to rulers and authorities—and honor everyone while loving fellow believers deeply (1 Peter 2:13-17). The author also addresses household relationships—calling servants to be submissive even in unjust treatment and encouraging husbands and wives to fulfill their respective roles with understanding and respect.

In summary, 1 Peter 2 calls believers to rid themselves of sinful attitudes while desiring spiritual growth. It emphasizes their identity as chosen people who have been brought into God's marvelous light through Jesus Christ. It highlights Christ as the cornerstone upon which believers are built into a spiritual house while encouraging honorable conduct among unbelievers. It also addresses submission within societal structures and provides guidance for household relationships based on love,respect,and fulfilling one’s roles recognizing our calling as chosen people set apart by grace.

1 Peter 2:1 Wherefore laying aside all malice, and all guile, and hypocrisies, and envies, and all evil speakings,

Peter encourages believers to lay aside all negative traits and behaviors.

1. Living a Life of Virtue: How to Develop Positive Traits.

2. Cleansing Your Soul: Discarding Sinful Temptations.

1. Philippians 4:8 - Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.

2. Colossians 3:12 - Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience.

1 Peter 2:2 As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby:

New Christians should desire the pure milk of the Word of God so that they may grow spiritually.

1. Growing in the Word: Understanding the importance of the Word of God in our lives.

2. Spiritual Milk: Learning the importance of the Word of God as newborn Christians.

1. Hebrews 5:12-14 - "For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which be the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat. For every one that useth milk is unskilful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe. But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil."

2. 1 Peter 2:1-3 - "Wherefore laying aside all malice, and all guile, and hypocrisies, and envies, and all evil speakings, As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby: If so be ye have tasted that the Lord is gracious."

1 Peter 2:3 If so be ye have tasted that the Lord is gracious.

Believers should recognize and appreciate that the Lord is gracious.

1. Showing Gratitude to the Lord for His Graciousness

2. Recognizing God's Graciousness and Responding In Kind

1. Ephesians 2:4-7 - But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved— and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus.

2. Psalm 84:11 - For the Lord God is a sun and shield; the Lord bestows favor and honor; no good thing does he withhold from those who walk uprightly.

1 Peter 2:4 To whom coming, as unto a living stone, disallowed indeed of men, but chosen of God, and precious,

The passage describes Jesus as a living stone, rejected by men but chosen and precious to God.

1. Precious to God: Examining Jesus' Rejection by Men

2. Living Stones: Finding Our Identity in Christ

1. Isaiah 53:3 - He is despised and rejected by men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief; and we hid as it were our faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not.

2. Psalm 118:22 - The stone which the builders refused is become the head stone of the corner.

1 Peter 2:5 Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ.

Believers are living stones in a spiritual house, called to offer spiritual sacrifices to God through Jesus Christ.

1. "The Living Stones: A Call to Spiritual Sacrifice"

2. "Called to Holiness: The Priesthood of Believers"

1. Isaiah 28:16 - "Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD, Behold, I lay in Zion for a foundation

a stone, a tried stone, a precious corner stone, a sure foundation: he that believeth shall not make haste."

2. Exodus 19:6 - "And ye shall be unto me a kingdom of priests, and an holy nation. These are the words which thou shalt speak unto the children of Israel."

1 Peter 2:6 Wherefore also it is contained in the scripture, Behold, I lay in Sion a chief corner stone, elect, precious: and he that believeth on him shall not be confounded.

In 1 Peter 2:6, the scripture says that those who believe in the chief corner stone, which is elect and precious, will not be ashamed.

1: God has chosen us and made us precious. We are the cornerstone of His kingdom, and when we trust in Him, He will never disappoint us.

2: Jesus is the cornerstone of God's kingdom. When we put our faith in Him, He will not let us down. Our trust in Him will never be in vain.

1: Isaiah 28:16 - Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD, Behold, I lay in Zion for a foundation a stone, a tried stone, a precious corner stone, a sure foundation: he that believeth shall not make haste.

2: Ephesians 2:20 - And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone.

1 Peter 2:7 Unto you therefore which believe he is precious: but unto them which be disobedient, the stone which the builders disallowed, the same is made the head of the corner,

Believers are precious to God, but those who disobey Him will be rejected.

1. Precious in His Sight: What does it Mean to be Prized by God?

2. Rejecting God’s Cornerstone: What Happens When We Disobey?

1. Matthew 21:42 - Jesus said to them, "Have you never read in the Scriptures: 'The stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; the Lord has done this, and it is marvelous in our eyes'?

2. Psalm 118:22 - The stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone.

1 Peter 2:8 And a stone of stumbling, and a rock of offence, even to them which stumble at the word, being disobedient: whereunto also they were appointed.

This passage from 1 Peter 2:8 describes how those who are disobedient and stumble at the word of God are appointed for a purpose.

1. God's Plan for the Unbeliever: Uncovering the Purpose of Disobedience

2. The Power of God's Word: Understanding the Effects of Our Reactions

1. Isaiah 8:14 - And he shall be for a sanctuary; but for a stone of stumbling and for a rock of offence to both the houses of Israel, for a gin and for a snare to the inhabitants of Jerusalem.

2. Romans 9:33 - As it is written, Behold, I lay in Sion a stumblingstone and rock of offence: and whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed.

1 Peter 2:9 But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light:

Believers are chosen to be a royal priesthood, a holy nation, and a peculiar people, and must show forth God's praises.

1. Called to Live as a Set-Apart People

2. Called to Glorify God

1. Isaiah 43:7 - Everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made.

2. Ephesians 3:10 - His intent was that now, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms.

1 Peter 2:10 Which in time past were not a people, but are now the people of God: which had not obtained mercy, but now have obtained mercy.

This passage from 1 Peter affirms the transformation of a people who were once not part of God's people, but now have obtained mercy and are considered the people of God.

1. The Power of Transformation: How God's Mercy Can Change Lives

2. The Beloved Community: Understanding Our Place in God's Plan

1. Romans 5:20-21 - "But where sin abounded, grace did much more abound: That as sin hath reigned unto death, even so might grace reign through righteousness unto eternal life by Jesus Christ our Lord."

2. Ephesians 2:4-5 - "But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;)"

1 Peter 2:11 Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul;

Peter encourages believers to abstain from sinful desires and urges them to live holy lives.

1. Walking in Holiness: Abstaining from Fleshly Lusts

2. The War Against Our Souls: Resisting Sinful Desires

1. Romans 6:12-13 - "Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof. Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God."

2. James 4:7 - "Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you."

1 Peter 2:12 Having your conversation honest among the Gentiles: that, whereas they speak against you as evildoers, they may by your good works, which they shall behold, glorify God in the day of visitation.

Christians should conduct themselves with integrity and good works among non-believers so that God may be glorified.

1. Living a Life of Integrity in a World of Darkness

2. The Power of a Good Example in our Everyday Lives

1. Matthew 5:16 “Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.”

2. Titus 2:7-8 “In all things shewing thyself a pattern of good works: in doctrine shewing uncorruptness, gravity, sincerity, Sound speech, that cannot be condemned; that he that is of the contrary part may be ashamed, having no evil thing to say of you.”

1 Peter 2:13 Submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake: whether it be to the king, as supreme;

Christians should obey the laws of government, even if the government is not Christian.

1. Obey the Law of the Land

2. Faithful Citizenship

1. Romans 13:1-7

2. 1 Timothy 2:1-3

1 Peter 2:14 Or unto governors, as unto them that are sent by him for the punishment of evildoers, and for the praise of them that do well.

Christians should be subject to government authorities, and should be obedient to them, whether they are punishing evildoers or commending those who do good.

1. The Obligation of Christians to Obey Government Authorities

2. Doing Good and Avoiding Evil: Our Duty to Society

1. Romans 13:1-7

2. Titus 3:1-2

1 Peter 2:15 For so is the will of God, that with well doing ye may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men:

We should do what is right and good so that those who oppose us will be put to silence.

1. Doing Good in the Face of Opposition

2. The Power of Well Doing

1. James 1:27 - Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world.

2. Proverbs 3:27 - Withhold not good from them to whom it is due, when it is in the power of thine hand to do it.

1 Peter 2:16 As free, and not using your liberty for a cloke of maliciousness, but as the servants of God.

Christians should use their freedom to serve God rather than use it to do wrong.

1. Use your freedom to serve God rather than to do wrong.

2. Embrace God's calling and use your freedom to do what is right.

1. Galatians 5:13 - "For, brethren, ye have been called unto liberty; only use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another."

2. Romans 6:18 - "Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness."

1 Peter 2:17 Honour all men. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honour the king.

We should honor all people, love our Christian family, fear God, and respect our leaders.

1. The Power of Respect: Why We Should Honor All People

2. Fear God, Love the Brotherhood: The Importance of Christian Fellowship

1. 1 Peter 2:17

2. Romans 13:1-7

1 Peter 2:18 Servants, be subject to your masters with all fear; not only to the good and gentle, but also to the froward.

Peter instructs servants to be obedient to their masters, regardless of their temperaments.

1. "Submission to Authority: A Guide for Servants"

2. "God's Expectations of Obedience"

1. Colossians 3:22-24 - "Servants, obey in all things your masters according to the flesh; not with eye service, as men pleasers; but in singleness of heart, fearing God; And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men; Knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ."

2. Ephesians 6:5-8 - "Servants, be obedient to them that are your masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in singleness of your heart, as unto Christ; Not with eyeservice, as menpleasers; but as the servants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart; With good will doing service, as to the Lord, and not to men: Knowing that whatsoever good thing any man doeth, the same shall he receive of the Lord, whether he be bond or free."

1 Peter 2:19 For this is thankworthy, if a man for conscience toward God endure grief, suffering wrongfully.

Christians should endure suffering, even if it is wrongfully inflicted, for the sake of

conscience towards God.

1. "Suffering for the Sake of Conscience"

2. "Enduring Suffering with a Clear Conscience"

1. Matthew 5:10-12, "Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

2. Hebrews 12:1-3, "Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured from sinners such hostility against himself, so that you may not grow weary or fainthearted."

1 Peter 2:20 For what glory is it, if, when ye be buffeted for your faults, ye shall take it patiently? but if, when ye do well, and suffer for it, ye take it patiently, this is acceptable with God.

Suffering patiently when doing good is acceptable with God.

1. The Power of Patience in Doing Good

2. Suffering and Acceptability with God

1. James 1:2-4 - Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

2. Romans 5:3-5 - Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.

1 Peter 2:21 For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us,

leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps:

Christians are called to follow the example of Jesus and to suffer for the sake of righteousness.

1. We are Called to Follow the Example of Christ

2. The Power of Suffering for Righteousness

1. Matthew 16:24-25 - “Then Jesus told his disciples, ‘If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.’”

2. Romans 8:17 - “And if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.”

1 Peter 2:22 Who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth:

The passage describes Jesus as having done no sin and having no guile in His mouth.

1. The Holiness of Jesus Christ: How His Perfection Sets an Example for Believers

2. The Power of a Pure Tongue: How Jesus' Words Can Transform Our Lives

1. Matthew 22:37-40 – Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, and mind.

2. Ephesians 4:29-32 – Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear.

1 Peter 2:23 Who, when he was reviled, reviled not again; when he suffered, he threatened not; but committed himself to him that judgeth righteously:

Jesus Christ suffered without retaliating and trusted in God to judge him justly.

1. The Power of Forgiveness: How Jesus Showed Us How to Respond to Suffering

2. Trusting God in Hard Times: The Example of Jesus

1. Matthew 5:38-42 - Jesus' teaching on loving your enemies and not retaliating.

2. Isaiah 53:7 - Isaiah's prophecy of Jesus' suffering and trusting in God.

1 Peter 2:24 Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed.

The passage speaks of Jesus, who bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that we can be healed and live righteously.

1. The Power of Jesus' Sacrifice: How Jesus Paid the Ultimate Price for Our Salvation

2. The Gift of Healing: How Jesus Offers Us a New Life of Righteousness

1. Isaiah 53:5 But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.

2. Ephesians 2:4-5 But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;)

1 Peter 2:25 For ye were as sheep going astray; but are now returned unto the Shepherd and Bishop of your souls.

Christians have strayed from the path of righteousness but can find their way back if they return to Jesus, the Shepherd and Bishop of their souls.

1. Jesus, the Shepherd Who Guides the Lost Sheep

2. Turning Back to Jesus, the Bishop of Our Souls

1. Isaiah 53:6 – All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the Lord hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.

2. John 10:11 – I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep.

1 Peter 3 is the third chapter of the First Epistle of Peter in the New Testament. This chapter primarily focuses on instructions for various relationships, including marriage and interactions with unbelievers.

1st Paragraph: The chapter begins with instructions for wives and husbands. Wives are encouraged to submit to their own husbands, even if they are disobedient to the word, with the hope that their godly conduct may win them over (1 Peter 3:1-2). The author emphasizes inner beauty and a gentle spirit as valuable qualities that should characterize wives rather than external adornment (1 Peter 3:3-4). Husbands, on the other hand, are instructed to live considerately with their wives, showing them honor as fellow heirs of God's grace (1 Peter 3:7).

2nd Paragraph: In verses 8-12, there's an emphasis on unity, compassion, and overcoming evil with good. Believers are called to be harmonious, sympathetic, loving as brothers and sisters, tender-hearted, and humble in their interactions with one another (1 Peter 3:8). They are encouraged not to repay evil for evil or insult for insult but instead bless others so that they may inherit a blessing themselves (1 Peter 3:9-12). The author highlights that those who desire to love life and see good days must turn away from evil and pursue righteousness.

3rd Paragraph: From verse 13 onwards, there's an exhortation for believers to be prepared to give a defense for their faith when faced with opposition or persecution. The author encourages them not to fear those who might harm them but instead sanctify Christ as Lord in their hearts. They should always be ready to provide a reason for their hope while maintaining a gentle and respectful attitude towards others (1 Peter 3:14-16). The author also points out that it is better to suffer for doing good than for doing evil—highlighting Christ's example of suffering unjustly but ultimately triumphing over sin through His death and resurrection.

In summary, 1 Peter 3 provides instructions regarding various relationships within the Christian community. It addresses the roles of wives and husbands emphasizing submission,respect,and mutual honor.It calls believers towards unity,sympathy,and overcoming evil through blessings rather than retaliation.It also encourages readiness in defending one’s faith while maintaining a gentle attitude towards others recognizing Christ’s example of suffering unjustly.The chapter emphasizes living accordingto godly principles within relationships,testifyingto our hope,and enduring persecution faithfully.

1 Peter 3:1 Likewise, ye wives, be in subjection to your own husbands; that, if any obey not the word, they also may without the word be won by the conversation of the wives;

Wives should submit to their husbands and by doing so, husbands may be won over without preaching to them.

1. Following God's Plan: Submitting to Your Husband

2. The Power of a Godly Example in Marriage

1. Ephesians 5:22-33 - Wives, submit to your husbands as to the Lord.

2. Colossians 3:18-19 - Wives, submit to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord.

1 Peter 3:2 While they behold your chaste conversation coupled with fear.

Believers should live their lives in such a way that it reflects a reverence for God.

1. Live a life that reflects reverence for God.

2. Demonstrate your faith through your actions.

1. Colossians 3:12-17 - Put on compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience.

2. James 2:26 - Faith without works is dead.

1 Peter 3:3 Whose adorning let it not be that outward adorning of plaiting the hair, and of wearing of gold, or of putting on of apparel;

Peter encourages believers to not focus on outward appearances, such as elaborate hairstyles and expensive clothing.

1. "Beauty From Within: Rejecting The World's Standard of Beauty"

2. "True Adornment: Appearances Versus Character"

1. Isaiah 61:10 - "I will greatly rejoice in the Lord; my soul shall be joyful in my God, for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation; he has covered me with the robe of righteousness."

2. Colossians 3:12 - "Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience."

1 Peter 3:4 But let it be the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, even the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price.

Christians should strive to cultivate a meek and quiet spirit, which is highly esteemed by God.

1. "The Beauty of a Meek and Quiet Spirit"

2. "The Value of a Meek and Quiet Spirit"

1. James 1:19-20 - “Know this, my beloved brothers: let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger; for the anger of man does not produce the righteousness of God.”

2. Isaiah 66:2 - “For all those things my hand has made, and all those things exist,” says the Lord. “But on this one will I look: on him who is poor and of a contrite spirit, and who trembles at My word.”

1 Peter 3:5 For after this manner in the old time the holy women also, who trusted in God, adorned themselves, being in subjection unto their own husbands:

Holy women of the past trusted in God and adorned themselves while being in subjection to their husbands.

1. The Power of a Godly Wife

2. Trust in God and His Plan for Marriage

1. Ephesians 5:22-24 - Wives submit to your husbands

2. Proverbs 31:10-31 - The virtuous wife

1 Peter 3:6 Even as Sara obeyed Abraham, calling him lord: whose daughters ye are, as

long as ye do well, and are not afraid with any amazement.

Christians should follow the example of Sarah who obeyed Abraham and called him lord, and if they do good and do not fear, they will be blessed.

1. The Power of Obedience: Learning from the Example of Sarah

2. Fear Not: Overcoming Anxiety and Reaping the Blessing of Faith

1. Genesis 21:12 - And God said unto Abraham, Let it not be grievous in thy sight because of the lad, and because of thy bondwoman; in all that Sarah hath said unto thee, hearken unto her voice; for in Isaac shall thy seed be called.

2. Hebrews 13:7 - Remember them which have the rule over you, who have spoken unto you the word of God: whose faith follow, considering the end of their conversation.

1 Peter 3:7 Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with them according to knowledge, giving honour unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life; that your prayers be not hindered.

Husbands should honor their wives and treat them with respect, so that their prayers will not be hindered.

1. The Power of Mutual Respect in Marriage

2. Honoring Your Spouse: A Pathway to Answered Prayers

1. Ephesians 5:25-33 - Husbands should love their wives as Christ loved the church.

2. Colossians 3:19 - Husbands should be kind and tenderhearted towards their wives.

1 Peter 3:8 Finally, be ye all of one mind, having compassion one of another, love as brethren, be pitiful, be courteous:

Passage Peter encourages Christians to be unified, kind, loving, and courteous to one another.

1. “Living in Unity: Why We Need to Love Our Brothers and Sisters in Christ”

2. “Compassion in the Church: How We Can Show Kindness to Each Other”

1. John 13:34-35 “A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.”

2. Romans 12:10 “Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another.”

1 Peter 3:9 Not rendering evil for evil, or railing for railing: but contrariwise blessing; knowing that ye are thereunto called, that ye should inherit a blessing.

We should not respond to evil with more evil, instead we should bless those who do us wrong, understanding that it is our calling to inherit a blessing from God.

1: Don't respond to evil with more evil; instead, bless those who do you wrong, knowing that God has called you to receive a blessing.

2: We should not be seeking revenge for wrongs done against us, instead we should bless those who have hurt us and trust that God will provide us with a blessing.

1: Romans 12:14-21 - Bless those who persecute you; do not curse them.

2: Matthew 5:43-48 - Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you.

1 Peter 3:10 For he that will love life, and see good days, let him refrain his tongue from evil, and his lips that they speak no guile:

To live a life of love and joy, one must refrain from speaking evil and guile.

1. The Power of Words: How to Speak Life and Love

2. Cultivating Good Days: How to Refrain from Evil

1. James 3:5-12 - Taming the Tongue

2. Proverbs 12:18 - Righteous Words Bring Joy and Life

1 Peter 3:11 Let him eschew evil, and do good; let him seek peace, and ensue it.

Christians should turn away from evil and do good, pursue peace and continue to pursue it.

1. "Choosing the Path of Peace"

2. "Turning Away From Evil"

1. Romans 12:18 - "If possible, so far as it depends on you, be at peace with all men."

2. Philippians 4:8 - "Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, dwell on these things."

1 Peter 3:12 For the eyes of the Lord are over the righteous, and his ears are open unto their prayers: but the face of the Lord is against them that do evil.

The Lord is attentive to the prayers of the righteous and will oppose those who do evil.

1. God hears the prayers of the righteous and will protect them.

2. We must strive to do what is right in the Lord's eyes, for He will oppose evil.

1. Psalm 34:15 - The eyes of the LORD are on the righteous, and his ears are open to their cry.

2. Proverbs 15:29 - The LORD is far from the wicked, but he hears the prayer of the righteous.

1 Peter 3:13 And who is he that will harm you, if ye be followers of that which is good?

Believers in Christ should not fear harm from those who oppose them because doing good brings protection.

1. Do not fear those who oppose God because He will protect those who follow Him.

2. Put your trust in God and you will be safe from harm.

1. Isaiah 41:10 - "Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness."

2. Psalm 34:7 - "The angel of the LORD encampeth round about them that fear him, and delivereth them."

1 Peter 3:14 But and if ye suffer for righteousness' sake, happy are ye: and be not afraid of their terror, neither be troubled;

Christians should not be afraid to suffer persecution for their faith in God, as it brings them joy.

1. Let Not Your Hearts Be Troubled: How the Lord Comforts Us Through Persecution

2. Rejoice in the Lord: Finding Joy in Suffering for Righteousness

1. Isaiah 41:10 - “Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness.”

2. 2 Corinthians 4:17-18 - “For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory; While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal.”

1 Peter 3:15 But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear:

Christians should always be ready to explain their faith with humility and respect.

1. The importance of living a life of faith and being able to explain it to others.

2. How to share the hope of the gospel with gentleness and reverence.

1. Matthew 5:16 - Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.

2. Colossians 4:5-6 - Walk in wisdom toward them that are without, redeeming the time. Let your speech be always with grace, seasoned with salt, that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man.

1 Peter 3:16 Having a good conscience; that, whereas they speak evil of you, as of evildoers, they may be ashamed that falsely accuse your good conversation in Christ.

The passage encourages Christians to maintain a good conscience, so that their persecutors may be ashamed of their false accusations.

1. "A Good Conscience: The Foundation of Christian Living"

2. "Living in the Light: Overcoming Persecution through a Good Conscience"

1. Romans 12:1-2 - Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

2. 1 Corinthians 10:31 - So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God.

1 Peter 3:17 For it is better, if the will of God be so, that ye suffer for well doing, than for evil doing.

It is better to suffer for doing good than for doing evil, according to the will of God.

1. The Power of Doing Good: How to Live a Life of Godly Suffering

2. The Rewards of Righteous Suffering: Learning to Live with God's Will

1. James 1:2-4 - Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

2. Philippians 1:29 - For it has been granted to you that for the sake of Christ you should not only believe in him but also suffer for his sake.

1 Peter 3:18 For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit:

Christ suffered and died to bring us to God, but He was made alive by the Spirit.

1. "The Just and the Unjust: Christ's Ultimate Sacrifice"

2. "The Power of the Resurrection"

1. Isaiah 53:5 - But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed.

2. Romans 8:11 - And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies because of his Spirit who lives in you.

1 Peter 3:19 By which also he went and preached unto the spirits in prison;

Jesus preached to the spirits in prison.

1. The Power of Jesus: Delivering God's Message to All.

2. How the Gospel of Jesus Can Transform Even the Most Seemingly Hopeless.

1. Ephesians 4:8-10 - Therefore it says, “When he ascended on high he led a host of captives, and he gave gifts to men.” (In saying, “He ascended,” what does it mean but that he had also descended into the lower regions, the earth? He who descended is the one who also ascended far above all the heavens, that he might fill all things.)

2. Hebrews 2:14-15 - Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, he himself likewise partook of the same things, that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong slavery.

1 Peter 3:20 Which sometime were disobedient, when once the longsuffering of God waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was a preparing, wherein few, that is, eight souls were saved by water.

In the days of Noah, God waited patiently while the ark was being prepared, and only eight souls were saved in the end.

1. Learning to wait patiently on God, trusting that He will keep His promises.

2. The importance of obedience to God's will.

1. Genesis 6:5-7 - And God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. And it repented the Lord that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him at his heart. And the Lord said, I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth; both man, and beast, and the creeping thing, and the fowls of the air; for it repenteth me that I have made them.

2. Romans 5:6-8 - For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die. But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

1 Peter 3:21 The like figure whereunto even baptism doth also now save us (not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God,) by the resurrection of Jesus Christ:

Baptism is seen as a representation of the salvation that comes from Jesus Christ's resurrection, which brings us a good conscience before God.

1. Baptism is a powerful symbol of our salvation through Jesus Christ.

2. We must have a good conscience before God through Jesus Christ's resurrection.

1. Romans 6:3-4 - Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.

2. Romans 10:9-10 - That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

1 Peter 3:22 Who is gone into heaven, and is on the right hand of God; angels and authorities and powers being made subject unto him.

The passage speaks of Christ's supremacy and authority, with all angels and authorities and powers being made subject unto Him.

1. The Majesty and Power of Christ

2. Understanding the Sovereignty of Christ

1. Colossians 1:15-17 Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature:

2. Revelation 5:11-14 And every creature which is in heaven, and on the earth, and under the earth, and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, heard I saying, Blessing, and honour, and glory, and power, be unto him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb for ever and ever.

First Peter 4 is the fourth chapter of the first epistle of Peter, where the apostle addresses believers and encourages them to live in light of their new identity in Christ. The chapter emphasizes the importance of living for God's purposes, enduring suffering, and exercising love and hospitality towards one another.

1st Paragraph: Peter urges believers to arm themselves with the mindset of Christ (1 Peter 4:1-6). He reminds them that since Christ suffered in His earthly life, they should be prepared to suffer as well. By embracing a mindset focused on God's will rather than indulging in sinful desires, they can live for the remainder of their time on earth according to God's purposes. The apostle highlights that their past lives were characterized by worldly behaviors, but now they are called to live differently—honoring God rather than following human desires.

2nd Paragraph: Peter encourages believers to love one another deeply and exercise hospitality (1 Peter 4:7-11). He emphasizes that the end of all things is near, urging them to be clear-minded and self-controlled in prayer. They should fervently love one another because love covers a multitude of sins. Believers are also encouraged to use their spiritual gifts for serving one another faithfully—whether it be speaking or serving—to bring glory to God through Jesus Christ.

3rd Paragraph: The chapter concludes by addressing suffering for being a Christian (1 Peter 4:12-19). Peter assures believers that they should not be surprised when facing fiery trials as if something strange were happening. Instead, they should rejoice because they share in Christ's sufferings—a cause for joy and future glory. If persecuted for bearing the name of Christ, believers are blessed because it demonstrates that the Spirit of glory rests upon them. They are encouraged not to be ashamed but glorify God even amidst persecution while entrusting themselves into His faithful care.

In summary,

Chapter four of First Peter exhorts believers to live with a transformed mindset centered on God's will.

Peter urges them to embrace suffering as partakers in Christ's sufferings while leaving behind worldly behaviors.

Believers are encouraged to deeply love one another and exercise hospitality using their spiritual gifts faithfully.

The chapter concludes by assuring believers that although they may face persecution or trials for being Christians, they can rejoice knowing they share in Christ's sufferings and future glory. They are called not to be ashamed but instead glorify God amidst hardship while entrusting themselves into His faithful care.

1 Peter 4:1 Forasmuch then as Christ hath suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves likewise with the same mind: for he that hath suffered in the flesh hath ceased from sin;

Christians should follow the example of Christ and arm themselves with the same mindset, as Christ has suffered for us and ceased from sin.

1. Living a Life of Sacrifice: How to Follow in Christ's Example

2. Ceasing from Sin: How to Live a Life of Holiness

1. Romans 6:1-2 - "What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?"

2. Galatians 5:24 - "And they that are Christ’s have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts."

1 Peter 4:2 That he no longer should live the rest of his time in the flesh to the lusts of men, but to the will of God.

Believers should no longer live according to the desires of men, but according to the will of God.

1. The Power of God’s Will: How to Live a Life of Obedience

2. Choosing God’s Will Over Your Own Desires

1. Romans 12:2 - Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.

2. Ephesians 5:15-17 - Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, making the best use of the time, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is.

1 Peter 4:3 For the time past of our life may suffice us to have wrought the will of the Gentiles, when we walked in lasciviousness, lusts, excess of wine, revellings, banquetings, and abominable idolatries:

The time past of our life was spent following the desires of the Gentiles, including indulging in sinful behaviors and worshipping idols.

1. The Power of Repentance

2. The Goodness of God's Forgiveness

1. Isaiah 55:7 - Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the Lord, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.

2. Romans 5:8- But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

1 Peter 4:4 Wherein they think it strange that ye run not with them to the same excess of riot, speaking evil of you:

Christians are being criticized for not participating in the same sinful activities as their peers.

1. Abstain from Sinful Behaviors and Refuse to be Conformed to the World

2. Do Not Conform to the World, but Be Transformed by the Renewal of Your Mind

1. Romans 12:2 - Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

2. 1 John 2:15-17 - Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world—the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride in possessions—is not from the Father but is from the world. And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever.

1 Peter 4:5 Who shall give account to him that is ready to judge the quick and the dead.

Passage: Everyone will have to give an account of their actions to God, who is ready to judge both the living and the dead.

1. No one can escape the judgment of God - we must be prepared.

2. All of us must live a life that is pleasing to God, so that we do not have to fear the day of judgment.

1. Hebrews 9:27 - And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment:

2. Romans 14:12 - So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God.

1 Peter 4:6 For for this cause was the gospel preached also to them that are dead, that they might be judged according to men in the flesh, but live according to God in the

spirit.

The gospel was preached to those who have died so that they may be judged by men in the flesh but live in the spirit of God.

1. The Power of the Gospel: How the Gospel Can Transform Lives

2. The Life-Giving Spirit of God: Experiencing a Life Refreshed by the Holy Spirit

1. John 6:63 - It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh is no help at all.

2. Romans 8:11 - If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you.

1 Peter 4:7 But the end of all things is at hand: be ye therefore sober, and watch unto prayer.

We should be alert and ready for the end of the world, and focus on prayer.

1. When the End is Near: The Importance of Praying in Times of Uncertainty

2. Be Sober and Pray: How to Prepare for the End of the World

1. Matthew 6:5-13 - Jesus' teaching on prayer

2. 1 Thessalonians 5:6-8 - Paul's teaching on being alert and watchful

1 Peter 4:8 And above all things have fervent charity among yourselves: for charity shall cover the multitude of sins.

Christians should have a fervent love for one another, for love covers a multitude of sins.

1. "The Power of Love: How Love Covers Our Sins"

2. "Fervent Charity: The Greatest Commandment of All"

1. 1 Corinthians 13:4-7 - "Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres."

2. James 5:16 - "Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working."

1 Peter 4:9 Use hospitality one to another without grudging.

Christians should show hospitality to one another without complaint.

1. Generosity: A lesson from 1 Peter 4:9

2. The Power of Hospitality: Showing Love to Fellow Believers

1. Romans 12:13 - Share with God’s people who are in need. Practice hospitality.

2. Hebrews 13:2 - Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by so doing some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it.

1 Peter 4:10 As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.

Christians should use their gifts to serve one another in humility and thankfulness.

1. "Stewards of God's Grace"

2. "Humility in Serving Others"

1. Matthew 25:14-30 - Parable of the Talents

2. Ephesians 4:7 - Each of us has a gift to use for the benefit of the body of Christ

1 Peter 4:11 If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God; if any man minister, let him do it as of the ability which God giveth: that God in all things may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom be praise and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.

Christians should use their words and abilities to glorify God through Jesus Christ.

1. "Glorifying God through Jesus Christ"

2. "Using our Words and Abilities to Honor God"

1. Ephesians 2:10: For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

2. Colossians 1:10: so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God.

1 Peter 4:12 Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you:

Peter encourages believers to not be surprised when facing trials, as it is part of the Christian experience.

1. "Facing Trials with Faith: How to Find Strength in Difficult Times"

2. "The Fire Test: Understanding Trials in the Life of a Believer"

1. James 1:2-4 - “Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.”

2. Romans 8:18 - “For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us.”

1 Peter 4:13 But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy.

Believers should take joy in suffering, as it is part of being a follower of Christ, and when Christ's glory is revealed, they will be filled with joy.

1. Rejoice in Suffering: How to Find Joy in Pain

2. The Glory of Christ: Gaining Joy from His Revealed Splendor

1. Romans 5:3-5 - Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not put us to shame.

2. Isaiah 35:10 - And the ransomed of the Lord shall return and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain gladness and joy, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

1 Peter 4:14 If ye be reproached for the name of Christ, happy are ye; for the spirit of glory and of God resteth upon you: on their part he is evil spoken of, but on your part he is glorified.

Believers in Christ should not be ashamed of being reproached for his name, as it is a sign that the Spirit of God rests upon them and He is glorified.

1. Rejoice in Reproach: Celebrating Persecution for Christ's Sake

2. The Blessing of the Spirit: Experiencing God's Rest in the Face of Criticism

1. 2 Timothy 3:12 - All who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted.

2. Acts 5:41 - The apostles rejoiced that they were counted worthy to suffer dishonor for the name of Jesus.

1 Peter 4:15 But let none of you suffer as a murderer, or as a thief, or as an evildoer, or as a busybody in other men's matters.

Christians should not suffer in any way for being a murderer, thief, evildoer, or busybody.

1. "Living a Life of Purity"

2. "Living According to God's Will"

1. Proverbs 11:3 - The integrity of the upright guides them, but the crookedness of the treacherous destroys them.

2. Ephesians 4:28 - Let the thief no longer steal, but rather let him labor, doing honest work with his own hands, so that he may have something to share with anyone in need.

1 Peter 4:16 Yet if any man suffer as a Christian, let him not be ashamed; but let him glorify God on this behalf.

Christians should not be ashamed to suffer for their faith, but should glorify God in doing so.

1. "The Power of Faith: How to Persevere Through Suffering"

2. "The Strength of Our Convictions: Persevering in the Face of Adversity"

1. Romans 5:3-5 - Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; 4 perseverance, character; and character, hope. 5 And hope does not put us to shame, because God’s love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.

2. James 1:2-4 - Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, 3 because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. 4 Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.

1 Peter 4:17 For the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God: and if it first begin at us, what shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel of God?

The time has come for judgment to start with the house of God, and if that is the case, what will be the outcome for those who do not obey the gospel of God?

1. "The Coming Judgment of God: Are You Ready?"

2. "The Gospel: The Only Way to Escape God's Judgment"

1. Romans 2:5-11

2. James 2:13-17

1 Peter 4:18 And if the righteous scarcely be saved, where shall the ungodly and the sinner appear?

Peter is asking a rhetorical question, suggesting that the ungodly and sinners will not have a good outcome in comparison to the righteous.

1: We must strive to live a righteous life, trusting in God's grace, so that we may be saved.

2: Our faith should be centered in God, and our actions should follow His righteousness, so that we may be saved.

1: Matthew 7:13-14 - "Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it."

2: Ephesians 4:17-19 - "This I say, therefore, and testify in the Lord, that you should no longer walk as the rest of the Gentiles walk, in the futility of their mind, having their understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God, because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart; who, being past feeling, have given themselves over to lewdness, to work all uncleanness with greediness."

1 Peter 4:19 Wherefore let them that suffer according to the will of God commit the keeping of their souls to him in well doing, as unto a faithful Creator.

The passage encourages believers to entrust their souls to God and to do good works.

1. "The Power of Trusting in God"

2. "The Importance of Doing Good Works"

1. Matthew 6:25-34 - Do not worry, trust in God and seek His kingdom first

2. James 2:14-26 - Faith without works is dead, demonstrate faith through actions.

First Peter 5 is the fifth and final chapter of the first epistle of Peter, where the apostle provides instructions to both elders and younger believers, emphasizing humility, trust in God's care, and resistance against the devil's attacks.

1st Paragraph: Peter addresses the elders and exhorts them to shepherd God's flock with humility (1 Peter 5:1-4). He encourages them to willingly serve as overseers, not out of compulsion but with a genuine desire to care for God's people. The elders are urged to be examples of humility rather than lording their authority over others. They should eagerly await their eternal reward from Christ when He appears.

2nd Paragraph: Peter turns his attention to younger believers and instructs them to clothe themselves with humility towards one another (1 Peter 5:5-7). He emphasizes that God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble. Younger believers are encouraged to submit themselves under God's mighty hand while casting all their anxieties upon Him because He cares for them. They are reminded that in due time, God will exalt them.

3rd Paragraph: The chapter concludes by warning about the devil's attacks and encouraging steadfastness (1 Peter 5:8-14). Believers are urged to be sober-minded and watchful because their adversary, the devil, prowls around seeking someone to devour. They should resist him steadfastly in faith knowing that other believers throughout the world are facing similar trials. The apostle sends greetings from Mark and instructs believers in various locations on how they should greet one another with love.

In summary,

Chapter five of First Peter provides instructions for both elders and younger believers.

Elders are exhorted to shepherd God's flock with humility while eagerly awaiting their eternal reward.

Younger believers are encouraged to clothe themselves with humility towards one another, submitting under God's care as they cast their anxieties upon Him.

The chapter concludes by warning about the devil's attacks and urging steadfastness in resisting him. Believers are reminded of fellow Christians facing similar trials worldwide while receiving greetings from Mark along with instructions on greeting one another with love.

1 Peter 5:1 The elders which are among you I exhort, who am also an elder, and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that shall be revealed:

Peter, an elder himself, exhorts the other elders among the believers to be witness to the sufferings of Christ and partakers of the glory that will be revealed.

1. Bearing Witness to Christ: Living in the Light of His Sufferings

2. Rejoicing in the Glory of God: Experiencing His Reflection Through Christ

1. 1 John 1:7 - But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.

2. 2 Corinthians 3:18 - But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord.

1 Peter 5:2 Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind;

Peter instructs pastors to willingly lead God's flock without expecting material gain.

1. The Benefits of Serving with a Willing Mind

2. The Blessings of Being a Shepherd of God's Flock

1. Acts 20:28-35 - Paul's exhortation to the elders of the church of Ephesus

2. Jeremiah 3:15 - God's call to shepherds to tend His flock.

1 Peter 5:3 Neither as being lords over God's heritage, but being ensamples to the flock.

Christians should not be domineering but should instead serve as examples to the flock.

1. "Serving as an Example: What it Means to Lead God's People"

2. "Leadership in the Body of Christ: The Importance of Humility"

1. Matthew 20:25-27 - Jesus said, “You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them. It shall not be so among you. But whoever would be great among you must be your servant, and whoever would be first among you must be your slave, even as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

2. 1 Corinthians 11:1 - Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ.

1 Peter 5:4 And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away.

Believers will be rewarded with an eternal crown of glory when Jesus Christ, the Chief Shepherd, appears.

1. The Reward of Believing: A Look at 1 Peter 5:4

2. The Eternal Glory of Christ: Understanding the Crown of Glory in 1 Peter 5:4

1. Psalm 23:1-4

2. Matthew 25:31-46

1 Peter 5:5 Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder. Yea, all of you be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble.

Christians should submit to one another and clothe themselves in humility, as God opposes the proud and shows grace to the humble.

1. Pride vs. Humility: Why God Despises the One and Loves the Other

2. "Clothed in Humility": What Does it Mean to Follow God's Command?

1. James 4:6 - "God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble."

2. Philippians 2:3-8 - "Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others."

1 Peter 5:6 Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time:

We should humble ourselves before God, so that He may lift us up when the time is right.

1. The importance of humility and how it brings God's favor.

2. The timing of God's blessing and how it is always perfect.

1. James 4:10 - Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up.

2. Proverbs 16:18 - Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall.

1 Peter 5:7 Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you.

Passage:

In his first letter to the church, Peter encourages believers to cast their worries and cares upon the Lord, because He cares for them.

Peter exhorts Christians to trust God with their anxieties and cares, as He is faithfully attentive to them.

1. “The Lord's Care for His People”

2. “Casting Our Care on the Lord”

1. Matthew 6:25-34 - Jesus' teaching on not worrying

2. Psalm 55:22 - Cast your burden on the Lord, and He will sustain you.

1 Peter 5:8 Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:

Believers must remain vigilant and sober-minded, as the devil is ever present and looking for an opportunity to attack.

1. The Devil is Always Lurking: Understanding the Need for Vigilance.

2. The Power of Sober Mindedness: Staying Alert Against the Enemy.

1. Ephesians 6:10-18 - Putting on the whole armour of God to stand against the schemes of the devil.

2. James 4:7 - Resisting the devil and he will flee from you.

1 Peter 5:9 Whom resist stedfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world.

The Bible encourages believers to remain steadfast in their faith, even in the face of suffering, as many of their fellow believers are also struggling.

1. Remain Steadfast in Your Faith: A Study in 1 Peter 5:9

2. Overcoming Trials Through Faith: 1 Peter 5:9

1. James 1:2-4 - Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness.

2. Hebrews 10:35-36 - Therefore do not throw away your confidence, which has a great reward. For you have need of endurance, so that when you have done the will of God you may receive what is promised.

1 Peter 5:10 But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle you.

The God of all grace calls us to eternal glory through Jesus Christ after we have suffered for a while.

1. Trust in God's Grace: Finding Strength Through Hard Times

2. The Eternal Glory of God: Reaching Our Highest Calling

1. Isaiah 40:31 – But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.

2. Romans 8:18 – For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.

1 Peter 5:11 To him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.

Peter encourages believers to honor God with praises and glory, forever and ever.

1. The Power of Praise: How Honoring God Reaps Eternal Rewards

2. Rejoice in the Lord: Celebrating the Glorious Dominion of God

1. Psalm 103:19–22—The Lord has established his throne in heaven, and his kingdom rules over all.

2. Revelation 5:12—Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and praise!

1 Peter 5:12 By Silvanus, a faithful brother unto you, as I suppose, I have written briefly, exhorting, and testifying that this is the true grace of God wherein ye stand.

Silvanus has written a brief letter to the believers, testifying that they are standing in the true grace of God.

1. Standing in the True Grace of God

2. The Privilege of Receiving God's Grace

1. Ephesians 2:8-9 For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.

2. Titus 2:11-12 For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age.

1 Peter 5:13 The church that is at Babylon, elected together with you, saluteth you; and so doth Marcus my son.

The church of Babylon sends its regards to the believers.

1. God's love knows no bounds, even extending to believers in faraway places.

2. We are all connected in the body of Christ, no matter how distant.

1. Acts 2:44-45 - "And all who believed were together and had all things in common. And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need."

2. Ephesians 4:4-6 - "There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call— one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all."

1 Peter 5:14 Greet ye one another with a kiss of charity. Peace be with you all that are in Christ Jesus. Amen.

Believers should show love for one another by greeting each other with a kiss of charity and wishing peace to those in Christ Jesus.

1. Love One Another: The Significance of a Kiss of Charity

2. The Blessings of Being in Christ Jesus: Experiencing Peace

1. Romans 12:10 - "Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor."

2. Colossians 3:15 - "And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful."

Second Peter 1 is the first chapter of the second epistle of Peter, where the apostle encourages believers to grow in their faith and reminds them of the importance of knowledge, virtue, and assurance in their walk with Christ.

1st Paragraph: Peter begins by emphasizing the importance of faith and knowledge (2 Peter 1:1-4). He addresses his letter to those who have received a faith equal in standing to that of the apostles. Through God's divine power, believers have been granted everything they need for life and godliness. By knowing Christ and His promises, they can escape the corruption caused by worldly desires and partake in God's divine nature.

2nd Paragraph: Peter urges believers to add virtue, knowledge, self-control, steadfastness, godliness, brotherly affection, and love to their faith (2 Peter 1:5-11). By diligently pursuing these qualities and growing in them, believers will be effective and fruitful in their knowledge of Jesus Christ. Those who lack these qualities are described as nearsighted or blind. Peter emphasizes that if believers practice these virtues abundantly, they will never stumble but rather receive a rich welcome into the eternal kingdom.

3rd Paragraph: The chapter concludes with Peter reminding his readers about his impending death (2 Peter 1:12-21). He wants them always to be reminded of these things even after he is gone. He assures them that he did not follow cleverly devised myths when proclaiming Christ but witnessed His majesty firsthand on the holy mountain. Moreover, he emphasizes that no prophecy of Scripture came from human interpretation but was given through men inspired by the Holy Spirit.

In summary,

Chapter one of Second Peter calls believers to grow in their faith by adding various virtues to their lives.

Peter highlights how through God's power they have been granted everything needed for life and godliness.

Believers are urged to diligently pursue virtues such as knowledge, self-control, godliness, brotherly affection,

and love alongside their faith—resulting in effectiveness and fruitfulness.

The chapter concludes with reminders about Peter's impending death while emphasizing his firsthand witness of Christ's majesty.

He affirms that Scripture is not based on human interpretation but comes from men inspired by the Holy Spirit—a testament to its authority as a reliable guide for believers.

2 Peter 1:1 Simon Peter, a servant and an apostle of Jesus Christ, to them that have obtained like precious faith with us through the righteousness of God and our Saviour Jesus Christ:

Simon Peter, a servant and apostle of Jesus Christ, writes to those who have obtained the same faith in God and Jesus Christ through righteousness.

1. The Precious Faith of Jesus Christ

2. Obtaining Righteousness Through God and Jesus Christ

1. Romans 3:21-22, "But now the righteousness of God apart from the law is revealed, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets, even the righteousness of God, through faith in Jesus Christ, to all and on all who believe."

2. Galatians 2:16, "knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law but by faith in Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, that we might be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the law; for by the works of the law no flesh shall be justified."

2 Peter 1:2 Grace and peace be multiplied unto you through the knowledge of God, and of Jesus our Lord,

2 Peter 1:2 encourages believers to seek knowledge of God and Jesus, which will bring grace and peace.

1. Knowing God and Jesus brings peace and joy.

2. Growing in knowledge of God brings spiritual growth.

1. Jeremiah 29:13 - You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart.

2. Galatians 5:22-23 - But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness.

2 Peter 1:3 According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue:

God has given us all the things we need for life and for living a godly life, through knowing Jesus who has called us to be holy and to do good.

1. Embracing God's Gift of Life and Godliness

2. Living Life with God's Calling

1. Romans 8:28-29 – “And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose. For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren.”

2. Ephesians 2:10 – “For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.”

2 Peter 1:4 Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.

God has given us many great and precious promises, allowing us to become partakers of His divine nature and escape the corruption of the world caused by our desires.

1. The Promises of God: Becoming Partakers of His Divine Nature

2. Escaping the Corrupting Influence of Lust

1. Romans 8:14-17 For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.

2. Ephesians 2:1-10 For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God.

2 Peter 1:5 And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge;

Believers should diligently add virtue and knowledge to their faith.

1. The Power of Diligent Faith: How to Grow in Virtue and Knowledge

2. Building a Strong Foundation: Faith, Virtue, and Knowledge

1. James 1:5 - "If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him."

2. Colossians 3:14-15 - "And above all these things put on charity, which is the bond of perfectness. And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful."

2 Peter 1:6 And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness;

Peter encourages Christians to add knowledge, temperance, patience, and godliness to their faith.

1. Growing in Godliness: The Journey of a Christian

2. Cultivating Patience and Temperance in a Fast-Paced World

1. James 1:2-4 – “Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.”

2. Romans 5:3-5 – “Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. And hope does not put us to shame, because God’s love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.”

2 Peter 1:7 And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity.

Peter encourages his readers to pursue godliness, brotherly kindness, and charity.

1. "Godliness and Love: An Invitation to Pursue a Higher Calling"

2. "The Path to Holiness: Expressing Brotherly Kindness and Charity"

1. Romans 12:10 - "Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves."

2. 1 John 3:16-18 - "This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters. If anyone has material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need but has no pity on them, how can the love of God be in that person? Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth."

2 Peter 1:8 For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Peter encourages his readers to be fruitful in the knowledge of Jesus Christ by making sure that virtues like faith, virtue, knowledge, temperance, patience, godliness, and brotherly kindness are present in their lives.

1. Abundant Fruitfulness: Cultivating a Life of Goodness in Christ

2. The Path to Knowledge: Growing in Faith, Virtue, Temperance, Patience, and Godliness

1. Colossians 3:16-17 - Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.

2. James 1:2-4 - My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.

2 Peter 1:9 But he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins.

A person who does not have the essential qualities of faith, virtue, knowledge, temperance, patience, godliness, brotherly kindness, and charity is spiritually blind and has forgotten the forgiveness of their past sins.

1. "The Benefits of Having Faith"

2. "The Power of God's Forgiveness"

1. John 8:12 - When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.”

2. Romans 8:1-2 - Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit who gives life has set you free from the law of sin and death.

2 Peter 1:10 Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall:

Believers should strive to make their calling and election sure, as doing so will ensure they never fall.

1. "Secure Your Calling: The Path to Perseverance"

2. "Living with Confidence: Making Your Election Sure"

1. Romans 8:28-30 - And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose. For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren. Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified.

2. Hebrews 3:12-14 - Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God. But exhort one another daily, while it is called To day; lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin. For we are made partakers of Christ, if we hold the beginning of our confidence stedfast unto the end.

2 Peter 1:11 For so an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

Peter encourages believers to make every effort to add to their faith so that they may receive an abundant entrance into the eternal kingdom of Christ.

1: God promises an abundant entrance into His kingdom for believers who make an effort to add to their faith.

2: We can experience an eternal joy by striving to add to our faith in Jesus.

1: James 2:14-17 – faith without works is dead.

2: 1 Corinthians 15:58 – Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.

2 Peter 1:12 Wherefore I will not be negligent to put you always in remembrance of these things, though ye know them, and be established in the present truth.

Peter encourages his readers to remember the truth and be established in it.

1. The importance of remembering the truth.

2. Establishing yourself in the truth.

1. Isaiah 26:3 - You will keep in perfect peace all who trust in You, all whose thoughts are fixed on You!

2. Psalm 119:11 - I have hidden Your Word in my heart, that I might not sin against You.

2 Peter 1:13 Yea, I think it meet, as long as I am in this tabernacle, to stir you up by putting you in remembrance;

Peter encourages believers to remain steadfast and faithful to the gospel, no matter their current circumstances.

1. Stand Firm in Your Faith: How to Remain Steadfast in Difficult Times

2. The Power of Remembrance: How to Stay Committed to the Gospel

1. Isaiah 40:31-But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.

2. Hebrews 13:5-Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.

2 Peter 1:14 Knowing that shortly I must put off this my tabernacle, even as our Lord Jesus Christ hath shewed me.

The Apostle Peter is aware that his earthly body will soon perish and that he must prepare for his death, as Jesus showed him.

1. Learning to Live in the Shadow of Death

2. Preparing for Eternity

1. Luke 12:20 - "But God said to him, 'You fool! This very night your life will be demanded from you.'"

2. Philippians 1:20-21 - "I eagerly expect and hope that I will in no way be ashamed, but will have sufficient courage so that now as always Christ will be exalted in my body, whether by life or by death. For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain."

2 Peter 1:15 Moreover I will endeavour that ye may be able after my decease to have these things always in remembrance.

The author of 2 Peter encourages his readers to remember the truths that he is teaching them after his death.

1. Remembering God's Promises: How We Can Persevere in Faith

2. The Power of Remembrance: Reflecting on God's Truths

1. Psalm 119:11 “I have stored up your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you.”

2. Philippians 4:8 “Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.”

2 Peter 1:16 For we have not followed cunningly devised fables, when we made known unto you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of his majesty.

The author of 2 Peter was an eyewitness to the power and coming of Jesus Christ and was not relying on fabricated stories when conveying this message.

1. The Reliable Witnesses of Jesus: An Examination of 2 Peter 1:16

2. The Majesty of Jesus: An Exploration of 2 Peter 1:16

1. Matthew 17:1-8 - Jesus' Transfiguration

2. Acts 1:3-8 - Jesus' Ascension into Heaven

2 Peter 1:17 For he received from God the Father honour and glory, when there came such a voice to him from the excellent glory, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.

Passage God the Father gave honor and glory to Jesus when a voice from the excellent glory declared that Jesus was His beloved Son and in whom He was well pleased.

1. The Immeasurable Worth of Jesus - Exploring the honor and glory Jesus received from His Father.

2. The Joy of the Father - Understanding the significance of the Father's pleasure in Jesus.

1. Isaiah 42:1 - "Behold my servant, whom I uphold; mine elect, in whom my soul delighteth; I have put my spirit upon him: he shall bring forth judgment to the Gentiles."

2. Matthew 3:17 - "And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."

2 Peter 1:18 And this voice which came from heaven we heard, when we were with him in the holy mount.

The author of 2 Peter recounts a time when he heard a voice from heaven while he was on the holy mount.

1. The Power of Hearing God's Voice

2. The Importance of Holiness

1. Isaiah 30:21 - And thine ears shall hear a word behind thee, saying, This is the way, walk ye in it, when ye turn to the right hand, and when ye turn to the left.

2. Matthew 7:24-27 - Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock: And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock.

2 Peter 1:19 We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts:

Peter encourages readers to pay attention to the sure word of prophecy, as it is a light that will guide them in the darkness until Jesus returns.

1. The Light of Prophecy: Trusting in the Word of God

2. God's Unfailing Word: The Reliable Guide for Life

1. Psalm 119:105 - Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.

2. Isaiah 8:20 - To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them.

2 Peter 1:20 Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation.

The Bible is divinely inspired and is not to be interpreted without taking into account the entire context of the scripture.

1. The Bible as God's Word: How to Interpret Its Prophecies

2. Understanding Context: A Guide to Biblical Interpretation

1. Deuteronomy 29:29 - "The secret things belong to the Lord our God, but the things that are revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may do all the words of this law."

2. Isaiah 28:10-11 - "For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little."

2 Peter 1:21 For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.

Prophecy in the Bible did not come from the will of man, but from the Holy Spirit, inspiring holy men of God.

1. "The Power of Prophecy: God's Voice Through Man"

2. "The Uniqueness of Biblical Prophecy: God's Word for Us"

1. Isaiah 59:21 - "As for me, this is my covenant with them, saith the Lord; My spirit that is upon thee, and my words which I have put in thy mouth, shall not depart out of thy mouth, nor out of the mouth of thy seed, nor out of the mouth of thy seed’s seed, saith the Lord, from henceforth and for ever."

2. Hebrews 1:1-2 - "God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds."

Second Peter 2 is the second chapter of the second epistle of Peter, where the apostle warns against false teachers and their destructive influence within the church. He exposes their deceptive practices, describes their impending judgment, and encourages believers to remain steadfast in the truth.

1st Paragraph: Peter begins by highlighting the presence of false prophets and teachers (2 Peter 2:1-3). He warns that just as there were false prophets among God's people in the past, there will also be false teachers among them who will introduce destructive heresies. These deceitful individuals will exploit believers with their deceptive words, denying even the Lord who bought them. Their greed and manipulation will lead many astray, bringing destruction upon themselves.

2nd Paragraph: The apostle provides examples from history to illustrate God's judgment on those who reject His authority (2 Peter 2:4-10a). He points out that God did not spare angels when they sinned but cast them into hell. He also mentions Noah's generation and Sodom and Gomorrah as examples of divine judgment on wickedness. However, he assures believers that God knows how to rescue the godly from trials while reserving punishment for the unrighteous. Peter emphasizes that those who indulge in sin and despise authority are especially susceptible to destruction.

3rd Paragraph: Peter continues his description of false teachers' characteristics (2 Peter 2:10b-22). He portrays them as arrogant, self-willed individuals who do not hesitate to blaspheme celestial beings or speak evil against what they do not understand. They are driven by fleshly desires and entice others into immorality while promising freedom from consequences. However, they themselves are slaves of corruption. The apostle compares them to Balaam—a prophet motivated by greed—and likens their fate to a dog returning to its vomit or a washed pig returning to wallow in mud.

In summary,

Chapter two of Second Peter serves as a warning against false teachers infiltrating the church.

Peter exposes their deceptive practices, emphasizing how they deny Christ and exploit believers for personal gain.

He provides historical examples illustrating God's judgment on those who reject His authority,

assuring believers that God knows how to rescue the godly while reserving punishment for evildoers.

The chapter concludes by describing further characteristics of false teachers—arrogant individuals driven by sinful desires—who entice others into immorality while being slaves of corruption themselves.

Peter compares them unfavorably with Balaam and depicts their fate as one marked by spiritual degradation and ultimate destruction.

2 Peter 2:1 But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction.

False prophets and teachers have existed in the past and will continue to exist, who bring in heresies and deny the Lord that bought them, leading to their own destruction.

1. The Danger of False Prophets and Teachers

2. The Consequences of Denying the Lord

1. Jeremiah 23:16-17 - “Thus says the Lord of hosts: “Do not listen to the words of the prophets who prophesy to you. They make you worthless; They speak a vision of their own heart, Not from the mouth of the Lord.”

2. Matthew 7:15-20 - “Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves. You will know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes from thornbushes or figs from thistles? Even so, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a bad tree bear good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. Therefore by their fruits you will know them.”

2 Peter 2:2 And many shall follow their pernicious ways; by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of.

Many people will follow bad examples and as a result, the truth will be maligned.

1. The Power of Example: Living a Life of Integrity

2. Don't Let Others Define Your Truth

1. Proverbs 22:1 - "A good name is to be chosen rather than great riches, and favor is better than silver or gold."

2. 1 Peter 3:16 - "having a good conscience, so that, when you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame."

2 Peter 2:3 And through covetousness shall they with feigned words make merchandise of you: whose judgment now of a long time lingereth not, and their damnation slumbereth not.

People use deceptive words to make money off of others, and they will be judged and punished for this.

1. Do Not Be Deceived: The Danger of Covetousness

2. Guard Your Heart: The Dangers of Greed

1. Proverbs 28:25 - He that is of a proud heart stirreth up strife: but he that putteth his trust in the Lord shall be made fat.

2. Ephesians 5:3-5 - But fornication, and all uncleanness, or covetousness, let it not be

once named among you, as becometh saints; Neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor jesting, which are not convenient: but rather giving of thanks. For this ye know, that no whoremonger, nor unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, hath any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God.

2 Peter 2:4 For if God spared not the angels that sinned, but cast them down to hell, and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved unto judgment;

God will judge those who sin and do not repent.

1. God's Mercy and Judgment

2. Righteousness and Repentance

1. Hebrews 10:30 “For we know him that hath said, Vengeance belongeth unto me, I will recompense, saith the Lord. And again, The Lord shall judge his people.”

2. Ezekiel 18:30-32 “Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, every one according to his ways, saith the Lord GOD. Repent, and turn yourselves from all your transgressions; so iniquity shall not be your ruin. Cast away from you all your transgressions, whereby ye have transgressed; and make you a new heart and a new spirit: for why will ye die, O house of Israel? For I have no pleasure in the death of him that dieth, saith the Lord GOD: wherefore turn yourselves, and live ye.”

2 Peter 2:5 And spared not the old world, but saved Noah the eighth person, a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood upon the world of the ungodly;

God did not spare the people of the old world, but instead saved Noah, who preached righteousness, and brought the flood to punish the ungodly.

1. "Noah: A Model of Faith in Unfavorable Circumstances"

2. "God's Justice and Mercy in the Story of Noah's Ark"

1. Romans 1:18-32 – God's wrath against unrighteousness

2. Hebrews 11:7 – Noah's faith and obedience to God

2 Peter 2:6 And turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrha into ashes condemned them with an overthrow, making them an ensample unto those that after should live ungodly;

God condemned Sodom and Gomorrha by turning them into ashes, making them an example to those who live ungodly.

1. The Consequences of Unrighteousness: A Warning from Sodom and Gomorrha

2. Living Righteously: A Lesson from God's Condemnation of Sodom and Gomorrha

1. Romans 6:23 - For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

2. Isaiah 1:16-17 - Wash you, make you clean; put away the evil of your doings from before mine eyes; cease to do evil; Learn to do well; seek judgment, relieve the oppressed, judge the fatherless, plead for the widow.

2 Peter 2:7 And delivered just Lot, vexed with the filthy conversation of the wicked:

Lot was rescued from the wicked by God, who was distressed at the immorality of their speech.

1. The Power of God to Overcome Evil

2. The Danger of Unholy Conversation

1. Romans 12:2 - “And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.”

2. Proverbs 4:23 - “Keep your heart with all diligence, for out of it spring the issues of life.”

2 Peter 2:8 (For that righteous man dwelling among them, in seeing and hearing, vexed his righteous soul from day to day with their unlawful deeds;)

A righteous man living among the wicked was heartbreakingly tormented daily by their lawless actions.

1. The Power of Seeing and Hearing God's Word

2. The Heartbreak of Sin and Righteousness

1. Psalm 119:136 (My eyes shed streams of tears, because people do not keep your law.)

2. Proverbs 24:11 (Rescue those who are being taken away to death; hold back those who are stumbling to the slaughter.)

2 Peter 2:9 The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptations, and to reserve the unjust unto the day of judgment to be punished:

God knows how to save the righteous from trials and will punish the wicked on the day of judgment.

1. The Power of God: How God Saves and Judges His People

2. The Righteous and the Wicked: Trusting in God's Justice

1. Psalm 37:39-40 - But the salvation of the righteous is of the LORD: he is their strength in the time of trouble. And the LORD shall help them, and deliver them: he shall deliver them from the wicked, and save them, because they trust in him.

2. Romans 12:19 - Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord.

2 Peter 2:10 But chiefly them that walk after the flesh in the lust of uncleanness, and despise government. Presumptuous are they, selfwilled, they are not afraid to speak evil of dignities.

Peter warns against those who live in the desires of the flesh and ignore authority, as they are arrogant and will speak ill of those in power.

1: Respect Authority

2: Walk in Holiness

1: Romans 13:1-2 - Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God.

2: Titus 3:1-2 - Put them in mind to be subject to principalities and powers, to obey magistrates, to be ready to every good work, To speak evil of no man, to be no brawlers, but gentle, shewing all meekness unto all men.

2 Peter 2:11 Whereas angels, which are greater in power and might, bring not railing accusation against them before the Lord.

Angels, being more powerful and mightier than humans, do not accuse humans before the Lord.

1. "The Significance of Angels in Our Faith"

2. "The Power of God's Mercy and Grace"

1. Hebrews 1:14 - "Are they not all ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation?"

2. Romans 5:8 - "But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us."

2 Peter 2:12 But these, as natural brute beasts, made to be taken and destroyed, speak evil of the things that they understand not; and shall utterly perish in their own corruption;

Peter warns against those who speak evil of things they do not understand, as they will perish in their own corruption.

1. Beware of speaking evil of that which you do not understand

2. The consequences of speaking ill of that which you do not know

1. James 3:1-2 - Let not many of you become teachers, my brethren, knowing that as such we will incur a stricter judgment. For we all stumble in many ways. If anyone does not stumble in what he says, he is a perfect man, able to bridle the whole body as well.

2. Proverbs 18:13- He who gives an answer before he hears, it is folly and shame to him.

2 Peter 2:13 And shall receive the reward of unrighteousness, as they that count it pleasure to riot in the day time. Spots they are and blemishes, sporting themselves with their own deceivings while they feast with you;

False teachers are unrighteous, and they revel in their sins, even while enjoying the company of others.

1. “God’s Judgement on the Unrighteous”

2. “Living Righteous Lives in a Sinful World”

1. Romans 6:23, “For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

2. James 4:17, “Therefore, to one who knows the right thing to do and does not do it, to him it is sin.”

2 Peter 2:14 Having eyes full of adultery, and that cannot cease from sin; beguiling unstable souls: an heart they have exercised with covetous practices; cursed children:

People with eyes full of adultery and an inability to cease from sin are beguiling unstable souls and exercising their heart with covetous practices, resulting in cursed children.

1. Do Not Give In To Temptation- 2 Peter 2:14

2. The Curse Of Covetous Practices- 2 Peter 2:14

1. James 1:13-15 Let no one say when he is tempted, “I am tempted by God”; for God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He Himself tempt anyone.

2. Colossians 3:5 Therefore put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry.

2 Peter 2:15 Which have forsaken the right way, and are gone astray, following the way

of Balaam the son of Bosor, who loved the wages of unrighteousness;

Peter warns against false teachers, who have gone astray and are following the way of Balaam, who sought financial gain.

1. The Dangers of False Teachers

2. Following God's Ways and Not the World's

1. Jeremiah 17:9, "The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?"

2. James 4:7-8, "Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded."

2 Peter 2:16 But was rebuked for his iniquity: the dumb ass speaking with man's voice forbad the madness of the prophet.

Peter rebuked an unnamed person for their wrongdoings, and a donkey speaking with a human voice rebuked the prophet's foolishness.

1. Don't be Foolish - Lessons from the Story of Peter and the Donkey

2. The Power of Rebuke - How One Voice Can Change Lives

1. 2 Peter 2:16 - But was rebuked for his iniquity: the dumb ass speaking with man's voice forbad the madness of the prophet.

2. Numbers 22:28-30 - Then the Lord opened the mouth of the donkey, and she said to Balaam, “What have I done to you, that you have struck me these three times?” And Balaam said to the donkey, “Because you have made a mockery of me. I wish I had a sword in my hand, for now I would have killed you.” So the donkey said to Balaam, “Am I not your donkey on which you have ridden, ever since I became yours, to this day? Was I ever disposed to do this to you?” And he said, “No.”

2 Peter 2:17 These are wells without water, clouds that are carried with a tempest; to whom the mist of darkness is reserved for ever.

People who do not follow God are like wells without water and clouds without rain, and are doomed to darkness forever.

1: God desires that we choose to live in the light of His truth, not in the darkness of evil.

2: We must use our time to seek God and find His truth, so that we may be guided away from the darkness of sin.

1: John 8:12 - Jesus said to the people, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

2: Isaiah 60:19-20 – “The Lord will be your everlasting light, and your God will be your glory. Your sun will never set again, and your moon will wane no more; the Lord will be your everlasting light, and your days of sorrow will end.”

2 Peter 2:18 For when they speak great swelling words of vanity, they allure through the lusts of the flesh, through much wantonness, those that were clean escaped from them who live in error.

People who use grandiose words and flattery to entice listeners may lead them to indulge in sinful desires.

1. Beware of False Prophets and their Deceitful Words

2. The Danger of Lust and Temptation

1. Jeremiah 23:17 - They speak visions of their own heart, and not out of the mouth of the Lord.

2. Matthew 5:27-28 - Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, Thou shalt not commit adultery: But I say unto you, That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart.

2 Peter 2:19 While they promise them liberty, they themselves are the servants of corruption: for of whom a man is overcome, of the same is he brought in bondage.

False teachers promise freedom and liberty, but actually bring about enslavement and

corruption.

1. The Dangers of False Teaching: How to Avoid Slavery to Sin

2. The Freedom of Following God: A Path to True Liberty

1. Galatians 5:1 "For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery."

2. John 8:36 "So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed."

2 Peter 2:20 For if after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, they are again entangled therein, and overcome, the latter end is worse with them than the beginning.

After people have been saved from the corruptions of the world, if they fall back into it, their punishment will be worse than before.

1. Realizing the Consequences of Falling Away from God

2. The Danger of Returning to a Life of Sin

1. Hebrews 10:26-31 - Warning against falling away after accepting salvation

2. Romans 6:1-2 - Explaining that we are no longer slaves to sin after accepting salvation

2 Peter 2:21 For it had been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than, after they have known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered unto them.

This passage from 2 Peter cautions against turning away from the path of righteousness after having known it.

1. Staying the Course: The Importance of Remaining on the Path of Righteousness

2. The Consequences of Turning from the Commandments: A Warning from 2 Peter

1. Romans 6:12-14 - "Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its passions. Do not present your members to sin as instruments for unrighteousness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and your members to God as instruments for righteousness. For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace."

2. Proverbs 4:25-27 - "Let your eyes look directly forward, and your gaze be straight before you. Ponder the path of your feet; then all your ways will be sure. Do not swerve to the right or to the left; turn your foot away from evil."

2 Peter 2:22 But it is happened unto them according to the true proverb, The dog is turned to his own vomit again; and the sow that was washed to her wallowing in the mire.

Passage People often return to their old habits and behaviors, no matter how much effort they put into changing.

1. God is there to help us break our old habits and behaviors, no matter how difficult it may seem.

2. Don't let your old ways define you; God has the power to help you break free.

1. Romans 12:2 - "Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect."

2. Galatians 5:16 - "But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh."

Second Peter 3 is the third and final chapter of the second epistle of Peter, where the apostle addresses the issue of scoffers questioning the second coming of Christ. He encourages believers to remember God's promise, warns about the impending judgment, and emphasizes the need for holy living and steadfastness in anticipation of Christ's return.

1st Paragraph: Peter addresses those who doubt or mock Christ's return (2 Peter 3:1-7). He reminds believers to recall both the words spoken by the prophets in the past and the commandments given by Jesus through His apostles. Scoffers will arise in these last days, mocking Christ's promise of His coming. However, they deliberately overlook that God created everything by His word and that a day is coming when heavens and earth will be judged and destroyed by fire.

2nd Paragraph: The apostle reassures believers that God is patient regarding His promise (2 Peter 3:8-10). He reminds them not to forget that with God, a day is like a thousand years and vice versa. The apparent delay in Christ's return should not be interpreted as slowness but as an opportunity for repentance and salvation. The day of judgment will come unexpectedly like a thief when heavens will pass away with a roar, elements will be burned up, and earth along with its works will be exposed.

3rd Paragraph: Peter exhorts believers to live holy lives while waiting for Christ's return (2 Peter 3:11-18). Since everything will be dissolved in this manner, he emphasizes how important it is to live lives characterized by holiness and godliness. Believers should eagerly await new heavens and a new earth where righteousness dwells. They are urged to make every effort to be found blameless before God—steadfast in their faith—while growing in knowledge of Jesus Christ. In conclusion, Peter warns against being carried away by lawless people but encourages them to grow in grace while glorifying Jesus both now and forever.

In summary,

Chapter three of Second Peter addresses skepticism regarding Christ's return.

Peter reminds believers to recall prophetic words about this event while warning about scoffers who mock it.

He assures them that although there may seem like a delay from human perspective,

God is patient because He desires repentance before judgment comes suddenly like fire.

Believers are encouraged to live holy lives characterized by godliness while eagerly anticipating the new heavens and earth promised by God. They are urged to remain steadfast in their faith, growing in knowledge of Jesus Christ while guarding against lawlessness.

Peter concludes with an exhortation to grow in grace while giving glory to Jesus both now and forevermore.

2 Peter 3:1 This second epistle, beloved, I now write unto you; in both which I stir up your pure minds by way of remembrance:

Peter encourages the readers to remember the truth of the gospel and emphasizes the importance of being mindful of its teachings.

1. The importance of remembering the gospel and living according to its teachings

2. How the truth of the gospel can keep us from straying

1. 1 Peter 1:13-16 - Therefore, gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and rest your hope fully upon the grace that is to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ; as obedient children, not conforming yourselves to the former lusts, as in your ignorance; but as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, because it is written, “Be holy, for I am holy.”

2. Romans 12:2 - And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

2 Peter 3:2 That ye may be mindful of the words which were spoken before by the holy prophets, and of the commandment of us the apostles of the Lord and Saviour:

Peter reminds believers to remember the words of the holy prophets and the commandments of the apostles of the Lord and Saviour.

1. The Significance of Remembering God's Word

2. Obeying God's Commandments as a Follower of Christ

1. Isaiah 40:8 - "The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever."

2. John 14:15 - "If you love me, you will keep my commandments."

2 Peter 3:3 Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts,

In the last days, there will be people who mock and follow their own desires.

1. Walking in the Light of God: Avoiding the Temptation of Worldly Desires

2. Living in the End Times: Following God’s Ways and Not Man’s

1. Matthew 6:24 - “No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money.”

2. Psalm 1:1-2 - “Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers; but his delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law he meditates day and night.”

2 Peter 3:4 And saying, Where is the promise of his coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation.

People are asking where is the promise of Jesus coming since the fathers have fallen asleep and all things continue as they were since the beginning of creation.

1. "Waiting for Jesus: Patience and Hope in Uncertain Times"

2. "The Assurance of God's Promise: Why We Believe in Jesus"

1. Isaiah 40:31 - "But those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint."

2. Romans 8:24-25 - "For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience."

2 Peter 3:5 For this they willingly are ignorant of, that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of the water and in the water:

People are willingly ignorant of the fact that God created the heavens and the earth through His word.

1. The Power of God's Word to Create

2. The Willful Ignorance of Man

1. Genesis 1:1-31 - God creates the world through His word.

2. Romans 1:21-23 - People are willfully ignorant of God's truth.

2 Peter 3:6 Whereby the world that then was, being overflowed with water, perished:

The world that existed before the Flood was destroyed by the waters.

1. The Waters of Judgment - Exploring God's Wrath and Mercy.

2. The Reality of Flood: Understanding Our Place in The Divine Plan.

1. Genesis 6-9 - The story of Noah's Flood.

2. Psalm 29:10 - The voice of the LORD maketh the waters to tremble.

2 Peter 3:7 But the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men.

The Bible speaks about the day of judgment and the destruction of ungodly men, which will be brought about by the same word that created the heavens and earth.

1. The Reality of Judgment Day: Why We Should Care About Our Choices Now

2. Fire and Brimstone: How the Word of God Shapes Our Moral Decisions

1. Romans 6:23 - For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

2. James 4:17 - So whoever knows the right thing to do and fails to do it, for him it is sin.

2 Peter 3:8 But, beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.

Peter encourages believers to remember that God's perception of time is vastly different from our own.

1. God's Timelessness: How We Should View Time in Light of Eternity

2. Rethinking Our Perception of Time: What We Can Learn from Peter's Words

1. Ecclesiastes 3:11 - He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the human heart; yet no one can fathom what God has done from beginning to end.

2. Isaiah 40:28 - Do you not know? Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He will not grow tired or weary, and his understanding no one can fathom.

2 Peter 3:9 The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.

God is patient and loving, wanting all people to turn away from their sins and be saved.

1. God's Love and Patience: The Unending Mercy of the Lord

2. The Power of Repentance: Reversing the Course of Our Lives

1. Isaiah 55:6-7 - Seek the Lord while He may be found; call upon Him while He is near. Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him return to the Lord, and He will have mercy on him; and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon.

2. Luke 15:11-32 - The Parable of the Prodigal Son.

2 Peter 3:10 But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up.

The day of the Lord will come unexpectedly, with a great noise, causing the elements to melt and the earth and its works to be burned up.

1. The Unpredictability of God's Timing

2. The Consequences of Unbelief

1. Matthew 24:36-44 - Jesus' discourse on the signs of his coming

2. Isaiah 65:17-18 - The Lord's promise of a new heaven and a new earth

2 Peter 3:11 Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness,

Peter encourages believers to live a holy life, as all earthly things will one day pass away.

1. The Impermanence of Earthly Things: How Should We Live in Light of This?

2. Holiness: The Mark of True Believers.

1. Isaiah 40:8 - "The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever."

2. James 4:14 - "Yet you do not know what tomorrow will bring. What is your life? For you are a mist that appears for a little time and then vanishes."

2 Peter 3:12 Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat?

Peter encourages believers to eagerly await the second coming of Christ, in which the heavens will be dissolved with fire and the elements will melt with great heat.

1. The Second Coming: Staying Ready and Prepared

2. The Day of the Lord: Our Hope and Confidence

1. Romans 13:11-12 - "And do this, understanding the present time: The hour has already come for you to wake up from your slumber, because our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed. The night is nearly over; the day is almost here."

2. 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17 - "For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever."

2 Peter 3:13 Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new

earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness.

Christians should look forward to the promise of a new heaven and earth, where righteousness will be the norm.

1. "The Promise of a New Heaven and Earth"

2. "Living Righteously in Anticipation of a New Earth"

1. Isaiah 65:17, “For, behold, I create new heavens and a new earth: and the former shall not be remembered, nor come into mind."

2. Romans 8:19-21, “For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God. For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to corruption and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now.”

2 Peter 3:14 Wherefore, beloved, seeing that ye look for such things, be diligent that ye may be found of him in peace, without spot, and blameless.

Believers should be diligent and strive to be found in peace, without spot and blameless.

1: We are called to be diligent in our faith and strive for righteousness.

2: We must strive to be found blameless before God and live in peace.

1: Romans 12:2 - Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.

2: James 1:22 - Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says.

2 Peter 3:15 And account that the longsuffering of our Lord is salvation; even as our beloved brother Paul also according to the wisdom given unto him hath written unto you;

Peter encourages believers to remember that the Lord's patience is a means of salvation and to heed the wisdom given to Paul in his writings.

1. God's Patience Brings Salvation

2. The Wisdom of Paul's Writings

1. Romans 10:9-10 - That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

2. 2 Timothy 3:16-17 - All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works.

2 Peter 3:16 As also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things; in which are some things hard to be understood, which they that are unlearned and unstable wrest, as they do also the other scriptures, unto their own destruction.

Peter warns of those who misinterpret Scripture and cause their own destruction.

1. The Danger of Misinterpreting Scripture

2. The Need for Understanding Scripture

1. Proverbs 3:5-6 - Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.

2. Isaiah 28:10-13 - For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little: For with stammering lips and another tongue will he speak to this people. To whom he said, This is the rest wherewith ye may cause the weary to rest; and this is the refreshing: yet they would not hear. But the word of the Lord was unto them precept upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little; that they might go, and fall backward, and be broken, and snared, and taken.

2 Peter 3:17 Ye therefore, beloved, seeing ye know these things before, beware lest ye also, being led away with the error of the wicked, fall from your own stedfastness.

Believers should be aware of the error of the wicked, and remain steadfast in their faith.

1. Stand Firm in Your Faith

2. Avoid the Error of the Wicked

1. Matthew 10:22 - "And you will be hated by all for my name's sake. But he who endures to the end will be saved."

2. Colossians 1:23 - "if indeed you continue in the faith, grounded and steadfast, and are not moved away from the hope of the gospel which you heard."

2 Peter 3:18 But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen.

Growing in grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ brings glory both now and forever.

1. Living in Grace: A Path to Fulfillment

2. Knowing Jesus: The Key to Lasting Peace

1. Ephesians 2:8-10 - For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

2. John 14:27 - Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.

First John 1 is the opening chapter of the first epistle of John, where the apostle emphasizes the importance of fellowship with God and one another, acknowledging sin, and walking in the light.

1st Paragraph: John begins by proclaiming his firsthand experience with Jesus Christ (1 John 1:1-4). He testifies that he has seen, heard, and touched Jesus—the Word of life. The purpose of his proclamation is to invite others into fellowship with him and with God. By sharing in this fellowship, believers can experience true joy and have their joy made complete.

2nd Paragraph: John highlights the significance of walking in the light (1 John 1:5-7). He declares that God is light, and there is no darkness in Him. If believers claim to have fellowship with God while living in darkness—meaning a lifestyle characterized by sin—they are deceiving themselves. However, if they walk in the light as Christ is in the light, they have genuine fellowship with one another as His blood cleanses them from all sin.

3rd Paragraph: The apostle addresses those who deny their sinful nature (1 John 1:8-10). He asserts that if anyone claims to be without sin, they deceive themselves and make God out to be a liar. However, if believers confess their sins honestly before God—acknowledging their need for forgiveness—He is faithful and just to forgive them while purifying them from all unrighteousness. By recognizing their sinful state and seeking forgiveness through confession, believers can maintain a right relationship with God.

In summary,

Chapter one of First John emphasizes fellowship with God and one another.

John testifies about his personal experience with Jesus Christ as an invitation into this fellowship.

Believers are encouraged to walk in the light—living according to godly principles—and avoiding a lifestyle characterized by sin. Through walking in the light, genuine fellowship can be experienced, and cleansing from sin occurs through Christ's blood.

The chapter concludes by addressing those who deny their sinful nature.

Believers are urged to honestly confess their sins before God for forgiveness and purification from unrighteousness—a vital aspect of maintaining a right relationship with Him.

1 John 1:1 That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, of the Word of life;

The Apostle John writes that he and other Christians have heard, seen, and touched the Word of Life, which has been in existence since the beginning.

1. The Living Word: How to Experience the Presence of Jesus in Our Lives

2. From Touch to Transformation: How to Let Go of the Past and Find Renewal in Christ

1. Philippians 3:8-11 - Knowing Jesus and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, and so, somehow, attaining to the resurrection from the dead.

2. John 14:1-3 - Jesus saying to his disciples, "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in me. In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you."

1 John 1:2 (For the life was manifested, and we have seen it, and bear witness, and shew unto you that eternal life, which was with the Father, and was manifested unto us;)

Passage: John writes that the life that was with the Father has been manifested to us, and we have seen it, heard it, and witnessed it.

1. God is constantly revealing Himself and His love to us.

2. The joy of being a witness of the life of God.

1. 1 John 4:9 - In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him.

2. 2 Corinthians 4:6 - For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

1 John 1:3 That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ.

Passage We share our experiences of Jesus Christ so that others may also share fellowship with us and with God the Father and his Son Jesus Christ.

1. The Fellowship of Jesus Christ: How Sharing Our Experiences Can Lead to Spiritual Unity

2. The Power of Fellowship: How Connecting with Others Can Bring Us Closer to God

1. Romans 5:1-2 - Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand.

2. Philippians 2:1-3 - Therefore if you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any common sharing in the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind.

1 John 1:4 And these things write we unto you, that your joy may be full.

The author of 1 John is writing to bring joy to the readers.

1. The Joy of Fellowship: Experiencing God's Love through Community

2. Restoring Joy: Discovering True Joy through the Word of God

1. Nehemiah 8:10 - "The joy of the Lord is your strength"

2. Philippians 4:4-7 - "Rejoice in the Lord always, and again I say, rejoice"

1 John 1:5 This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all.

The message that we have heard from God is that He is a source of light, and that He contains no darkness.

1. God is our source of light and hope, and He will guide us on the path to righteousness.

2. God is our protector and provider, and He will never lead us astray.

1. Psalm 119:105, "Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path."

2. Matthew 5:14-16, "You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven."

1 John 1:6 If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth:

We cannot claim to have fellowship with God if we are living in darkness, as it is contrary to truth.

1. Walking in the Light of God's Truth

2. Living in Fellowship with God

1. Ephesians 5:8-10 - For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light.

2. John 8:12 - Jesus spoke to the people once more and said, “I am the light of the world. If you follow me, you won’t have to walk in darkness, because you will have the light that leads to life.”

1 John 1:7 But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.

The passage emphasizes that walking in the light brings fellowship with one another and the cleansing power of the blood of Jesus Christ.

1. The Power of a Light-Filled Life

2. The Cleansing Blood of Jesus

1. Isaiah 2:5 - O house of Jacob, come ye, and let us walk in the light of the Lord.

2. Revelation 7:14 - And I said unto him, Sir, thou knowest. And he said to me, These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

1 John 1:8 If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

No one is without sin, and it is important to be honest about that.

1. We All Struggle with Sin: Examining our Actions in Light of 1 John 1:8

2. The Power of Honesty: Learning to Own up to our Mistakes in Light of 1 John 1:8

1. Romans 3:23 - For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.

2. James 5:16 - Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed.

1 John 1:9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Passage: The Bible tells us that we can confess our sins and God will forgive and cleanse us from our wrongs.

We can turn to God and seek His forgiveness for our transgressions.

1. The Power of Confession: Recognizing Our Sins and Seeking Forgiveness

2. God's Faithfulness and Justice: Turning to Him for Cleansing and Mercy

1. Psalm 51:1-5 – “Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin! For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me. Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight, so that you may be justified in your words and blameless in your judgment. Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me.”

2. Ezekiel 36:25-27 – “I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean from all your uncleannesses, and from all your idols I will cleanse you. And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules.”

1 John 1:10 If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

We cannot deny our sins, as this would be a direct contradiction to God's Word.

1. God's Word is True and Unchanging; We Cannot Deny Our Sin

2. Do Not Fall Prey to Self-Deception: We are All Sinful

1. Romans 3:23 - "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."

2. James 3:2 - "For we all stumble in many ways. And if anyone does not stumble in what he says, he is a perfect man, able also to bridle his whole body."

1 John 2 is the second chapter of the First Epistle of John in the New Testament. This chapter discusses themes such as obedience to God's commandments, love for one another, and discerning between truth and falsehood.

1st Paragraph: The chapter begins with the author addressing his readers as "my dear children" and expressing his desire that they do not sin. However, he acknowledges that if anyone does sin, they have an advocate with the Father—Jesus Christ, who is the atoning sacrifice for our sins (1 John 2:1-2). The author emphasizes that keeping God's commandments is a demonstration of our love for Him (1 John 2:3-5). He states that those who claim to know God but do not keep His commandments are liars, whereas those who obey His word truly have the love of God perfected in them (1 John 2:4-5).

2nd Paragraph: In verses 7-11, there's an emphasis on loving one another. The author states that he is writing a new commandment to his readers—a commandment that is both old and new because it has been fulfilled in Jesus Christ (1 John 2:7-8). He urges believers to walk in the light and not stumble by hating their brothers or sisters. Instead, they should love one another because whoever loves their brother or sister lives in the light (1 John 2:9-10). The author contrasts this with those who hate others; they are still living in darkness and do not know where they are going.

3rd Paragraph: From verse 12 onwards till end of chapter ,the author addresses different stages of spiritual maturity within the community—children,young men,and fathers(12 -14) .He encourages them by reminding them of their identity as forgiven ones,strong ones,and those who know Him(12 -14) .The author warns against the love of the world, stating that if anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in them (1 John 2:15). He urges believers to be discerning and not believe every spirit but test them to see if they are from God (1 John 2:18-19). He emphasizes that those who abide in Christ will have confidence and not be ashamed at His coming (1 John 2:28).

In summary, Chapter two of First Epistle by Apostle John emphasizes obedience to God's commandments as a demonstration of our love for Him. It calls for believers to love one another and warns against hating others. The chapter addresses different stages of spiritual maturity within the community and encourages discernment between truth and falsehood. Ultimately, it underscores the importance of abiding in Christ and having confidence in His coming.

1 John 2:1 My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous:

In 1 John 2:1, John reminds his readers not to sin but offers assurance that if they do, Jesus Christ is their advocate with the Father.

1. The Assurance of Jesus Christ: Our Advocate with the Father

2. Overcoming Sin by Relying on Jesus Christ

1. Romans 8:34 - “Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us.”

2. Hebrews 4:15-16 - “For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.”

1 John 2:2 And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world.

The passage explains that Jesus is a propitiation for the sins of the whole world.

1. Jesus' Sacrifice is For All - Exploring the Meaning of 1 John 2:2

2. The Gift of Redemption - A Reflection on the Extent of Jesus' Atonement

1. Romans 3:24-26 - Justification for All Through Faith in Jesus Christ

2. Hebrews 10:14 - The Perfect Sacrifice of Jesus for our Sins

1 John 2:3 And hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep his commandments.

We can know God if we keep His commandments.

1. Abide in God’s Love: We can experience the fullness of God’s love when we keep His commands.

2. Obedience in the Lord: Obeying God’s commands is the only way for us to know Him.

1. Romans 8:14-16 - For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.

2. Psalm 119:165 - Great peace have they which love thy law: and nothing shall offend them.

1 John 2:4 He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him.

The passage emphasizes that knowledge of God is demonstrated by obedience to His commandments.

1. Learning to Love God Through Obedience

2. The Power of Living Out Your Faith

1. John 14:15 - “If you love me, you will obey my commandments.”

2. James 1:22 - “Be doers of the word, and not hearers only.”

1 John 2:5 But whoso keepeth his word, in him verily is the love of God perfected: hereby know we that we are in him.

We can be sure that we are in God's love when we keep his word.

1. Keeping God's Word: The Sign of His Perfected Love

2. Living in the Surety of God's Love: Abiding in His Word

1. Proverbs 3:1-2, "My son, forget not my law; but let thine heart keep my commandments: For length of days, and long life, and peace, shall they add to thee."

2. John 14:15, "If ye love me, keep my commandments."

1 John 2:6 He that saith he abideth in him ought himself also so to walk, even as he walked.

Believers should live their lives in a manner consistent to how Jesus lived.

1. Walking as Jesus: Living a Life of Holiness

2. Abiding with Christ: A Model for Living

1. Matthew 11:29 - "Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls."

2. Romans 13:14 - "But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof."

1 John 2:7 Brethren, I write no new commandment unto you, but an old commandment which ye had from the beginning. The old commandment is the word which ye have heard from the beginning.

John is reminding the brethren of an old commandment they have heard since the beginning.

1. The importance of following the word of God from the beginning.

2. The power of God's word to sustain us throughout time.

1. Deuteronomy 6:4-9 - Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength.

2. Psalm 119:105 - Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path.

1 John 2:8 Again, a new commandment I write unto you, which thing is true in him and in you: because the darkness is past, and the true light now shineth.

In 1 John 2:8, the author is teaching a new commandment, which has been made true in both him and the readers, as the darkness is now gone and the true light is shining.

1. "The True Light is Here: A New Commandment to Follow"

2. "The Passing of the Darkness: A New Hope for Growth"

1. John 8:12 - "When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.”

2. Ephesians 5:8 - "For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light."

1 John 2:9 He that saith he is in the light, and hateth his brother, is in darkness even until now.

Those who claim to be in the light, but hate their brother, are still in darkness.

1. "The Light of Love: Overcoming Hate"

2. "The Power of Brotherhood: Rejecting Darkness"

1. Luke 6:31 - Do to others as you would have them do to you.

2. Romans 12:14-21 - Blessing those who persecute you.

1 John 2:10 He that loveth his brother abideth in the light, and there is none occasion of stumbling in him.

Loving one's brother keeps one in the light and prevents them from stumbling.

1. "The Light of Love: Staying in the Light Through Loving Others"

2. "Loving Our Brothers: The Path to Spiritual Purity"

1. Matthew 5:14-16 – “You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.”

2. Proverbs 10:9 – “Whoever walks in integrity walks securely, but whoever takes crooked paths will be found out.”

1 John 2:11 But he that hateth his brother is in darkness, and walketh in darkness, and knoweth not whither he goeth, because that darkness hath blinded his eyes.

Hatred of one's brother leads to darkness and blindness, making it difficult to find one's way.

1. "Seeing the Love of God in Our Brothers"

2. "The Dangers of Hatred"

1. Proverbs 10:12 - Hatred stirs up strife, but love covers all offenses.

2. Ephesians 4:31-32 - Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.

1 John 2:12 I write unto you, little children, because your sins are forgiven you for his name's sake.

Believers are forgiven of their sins through Jesus Christ.

1. The Forgiveness of Sins through the Name of Jesus

2. Experiencing Forgiveness: Believing in Jesus

1. Colossians 1:14 - He has forgiven us all our sins.

2. Psalm 103:12 - As far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our

transgressions from us.

1 John 2:13 I write unto you, fathers, because ye have known him that is from the beginning. I write unto you, young men, because ye have overcome the wicked one. I write unto you, little children, because ye have known the Father.

The author of 1 John is writing to three separate groups of people: fathers, young men and little children. He is encouraging them to have knowledge of Jesus and of God the Father.

1. Knowing Jesus and the Father: A Path to Overcoming Wickedness

2. Fathers, Young Men, and Little Children: Knowing the Father and Jesus

1. Matthew 11:25-30 - Jesus reveals the Father to those who come to Him.

2. John 10:14-18 - Jesus is the Good Shepherd who knows His sheep and the Father.

1 John 2:14 I have written unto you, fathers, because ye have known him that is from the beginning. I have written unto you, young men, because ye are strong, and the word of God abideth in you, and ye have overcome the wicked one.

John writes to two distinct groups of people, fathers who have known Jesus from the beginning, and young men who are strong in the faith and have overcome the wicked one.

1. The Strength of Young Men in the Faith

2. Growing in the Knowledge of Jesus

1. 1 John 2:14

2. Psalm 119:9-11

1 John 2:15 Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

We should not love the world or the things in it, as loving the world means that we are not loving God.

1. "What does it Mean to Love the World?": Examining the implications of loving the world and how it affects our relationship with God

2. "How to Love God and Not the World": Exploring how to grow closer to God while avoiding the temptations of the world

1. James 4:4 - "Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God."

2. Matthew 6:24 - "No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon."

1 John 2:16 For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.

The world is full of temptations that come from the desires of the flesh, eyes, and pride, which are not from God.

1. Pride Leads to Destruction

2. Overcoming Temptations of the World

1. Ephesians 4:22-24 – Put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires, and be renewed in the spirit of your minds, and put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.

2. James 1:14-15 – But each person is tempted when they are dragged away by their own evil desire and enticed. Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death.

1 John 2:17 And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.

The world and its lusts will pass away, but those who do God's will will remain for

eternity.

1. God's Will: A Pathway to Eternal Life

2. The Transience of Worldly Desires

1. Psalm 103:15-16 - As for man, his days are like grass; he flourishes like a flower of the field; for the wind passes over it, and it is gone, and its place knows it no more.

2. Matthew 6:19-21 - “Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

1 John 2:18 Little children, it is the last time: and as ye have heard that antichrist shall come, even now are there many antichrists; whereby we know that it is the last time.

The passage speaks of the presence of many antichrists, indicating that it is the last time.

1. The End Times are Near: Preparing for the Return of Jesus

2. The Battle Between Good and Evil: Recognizing and Avoiding Antichrists

1. Matthew 24:4-14 - Jesus' description of the signs of the end times

2. 2 Thessalonians 2:3-4 - Paul's warnings of false prophets and antichrists

1 John 2:19 They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would no doubt have continued with us: but they went out, that they might be made manifest that they were not all of us.

Some people were part of a group, but eventually left, showing that they were not truly part of the group.

1. We must be discerning when it comes to who we surround ourselves with, for some may not be who they appear to be.

2. The actions of people can reveal their true nature, and their intentions with the group.

1. Matthew 7:15-16 “Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep’s clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves. You will recognize them by their fruits.”

2. 2 Timothy 3:13 “But evil people and impostors will go on from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived.”

1 John 2:20 But ye have an unction from the Holy One, and ye know all things.

Believers have the anointing of the Holy Spirit and are given knowledge of all things.

1. God's Anointing: The Power of the Holy Spirit Within Us

2. Knowing All Things: The Power of the Holy Spirit at Work

1. John 14:26 - But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.

2. 2 Timothy 3:16-17 - All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

1 John 2:21 I have not written unto you because ye know not the truth, but because ye know it, and that no lie is of the truth.

This verse emphasizes the importance of being aware of the truth, and that lies are not of the truth.

1. God's Truth Matters - How we can use God's truth to guide our lives.

2. Lies and Deception - Why we must avoid lies and deception in our lives.

1. Colossians 3:9 - "Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old self with its practices."

2. Proverbs 12:22 - "Lying lips are an abomination to the Lord, but those who act faithfully are his delight."

1 John 2:22 Who is a liar but he that denieth that Jesus is the Christ? He is antichrist, that denieth the Father and the Son.

This passage from 1 John 2:22 speaks about denying Jesus as the Christ and how doing so makes one an antichrist.

1. A on the importance of accepting Jesus Christ as the Son of God.

2. A on what it means to deny Jesus and the consequences of doing such.

1. John 14:6 - “Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”

2. 1 John 1:3 - “That which we have seen and heard we proclaim also to you, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ.”

1 John 2:23 Whosoever denieth the Son, the same hath not the Father: he that acknowledgeth the Son hath the Father also.

The passage emphasizes that to have the Father, one must acknowledge the Son.

1. We must acknowledge Jesus as the Son of God if we want to have a relationship with God the Father.

2. We cannot deny Jesus and still expect to have a connection with God the Father.

1. John 14:6 - Jesus said to him, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

2. Acts 4:12 - And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.

1 John 2:24 Let that therefore abide in you, which ye have heard from the beginning. If that which ye have heard from the beginning shall remain in you, ye also shall continue in the Son, and in the Father.

We should continue to abide in the words of Jesus that we have heard from the beginning, and this will help us stay connected to the Son and the Father.

1. Abide in God's Word: The Path to a Closer Relationship with Jesus

2. Abide in the Truth of the Gospel: The Key to Staying Connected to God

1. John 15:4-5 - Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me.

2. Colossians 3:16 - Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.

1 John 2:25 And this is the promise that he hath promised us, even eternal life.

John expresses God's promise of eternal life.

1. God's Promise of Eternal Life - 1 John 2:25

2. The Hope of Salvation - 1 John 2:25

1. John 3:16 - For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

2. Romans 6:23 - For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

1 John 2:26 These things have I written unto you concerning them that seduce you.

John wrote to his readers to warn them of those who try to lead them astray.

1. The Danger of Deception: Identifying and Avoiding False Teachings

2. Staying Faithful to God's Word: Protecting Yourself from False Prophets

1. Ephesians 6:11-13 - Put on the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

2. Jeremiah 29:8-9 - Seek the peace and prosperity of the city to which I have carried you into exile. Pray to the Lord for it, because if it prospers, you too will prosper.

1 John 2:27 But the anointing which ye have received of him abideth in you, and ye need not that any man teach you: but as the same anointing teacheth you of all things, and is truth, and is no lie, and even as it hath taught you, ye shall abide in him.

The anointing that believers have received from Jesus remains with them and teaches them all things. They need not rely on any man to teach them, since the anointing is truthful and reliable.

1. God's Anointing: A Reliable Source of Truth

2. Abiding in Jesus Through the Anointing

1. Isaiah 10:27 - "And it shall come to pass in that day, that his burden shall be taken away from off thy shoulder, and his yoke from off thy neck, and the yoke shall be destroyed because of the anointing."

2. James 1:25 - "But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed."

1 John 2:28 And now, little children, abide in him; that, when he shall appear, we may have confidence, and not be ashamed before him at his coming.

We should remain in God's presence so that when Christ returns, we will have confidence instead of shame.

1. The importance of living in the light of Christ's return

2. Abiding in God to experience his grace and mercy when He returns

1. Isaiah 26:20 - Come, my people, enter your chambers, and shut your doors behind you; hide yourselves for a little while until the fury has passed by.

2. Romans 8:1 - There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

1 John 2:29 If ye know that he is righteous, ye know that every one that doeth righteousness is born of him.

Believers can know that God is righteous and that those who do righteousness are born of Him.

1. "What is Righteousness and How Can We Live It Out?"

2. "What Does it Mean to be Born of God?"

1. Romans 6:16-17 - "Do you not know that if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of obedience, which leads to righteousness? But thanks be to God, that you who were once slaves of sin have become obedient from the heart to the standard of teaching to which you were committed."

2. James 1:22-25 - "But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks intently at his natural face in a mirror. For he looks at himself and goes away and at once forgets what he was like. But the one who looks into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and perseveres, being no hearer who forgets but a doer who acts, he will be blessed in his doing."

1 John 3 is the third chapter of the First Epistle of John in the New Testament. This chapter focuses on themes such as God's love for us, living as children of God, and the importance of righteousness and love.

1st Paragraph: The chapter begins with the author expressing his amazement at the incredible love that God has bestowed upon us by calling us His children (1 John 3:1). He emphasizes that even though we may not fully understand what we will become, we know that when Christ appears, we will be like Him because we will see Him as He is (1 John 3:2). The author encourages believers to purify themselves just as Christ is pure (1 John 3:3). He highlights that sin is lawlessness and those who continue to sin are not truly

born of God (1 John 3:4-9).

2nd Paragraph: In verses 10-18, there's an emphasis on righteousness and love. The author distinguishes between children of God and children of the devil based on their actions. Those who practice righteousness and love their brothers and sisters are from God, while those who do not practice righteousness or hate others are not from God (1 John 3:10-15). The author calls believers to sacrificially lay down their lives for one another just as Jesus laid down His life for us (1 John 3:16). He emphasizes that genuine love is demonstrated through actions rather than mere words.

3rd Paragraph: From verse 19 onwards till end of chapter ,the author reassures believers about having confidence before God. He states that even if our hearts condemn us, God is greater than our hearts and knows everything (1 John 3:20). The author encourages believers to have faith in prayer and ask according to His will because those who keep His commandments receive whatever they ask for (1 John 3:21-22). He emphasizes the importance of keeping God's commandments and abiding in love, as those who love God will keep His commandments (1 John 3:23-24).

In summary, Chapter three of First Epistle by Apostle John highlights God's incredible love for us and our identity as children of God. It calls believers to pursue purity and righteousness, distinguishing between children of God and children of the devil based on their actions. The chapter emphasizes the sacrificial nature of love and encourages believers to lay down their lives for one another. It reassures believers about having confidence before God, urging them to keep His commandments and abide in His love.

1 John 3:1 Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not.

This passage speaks of the incredible love God has shown us by making us His children. 1. The Love of God: Experiencing the Father's Grace 2. The World's Rejection: Knowing Jesus in a Broken World. 1. Romans 8:14-17: For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God. 2. John 17:14-19: I have given them thy word; and the world hath hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world.

1 John 3:2 Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.

We are the sons of God and will be like Him when He appears.

1. We Are Children of the Most High God

2. Living a Life of Faith in Anticipation of Christ's Return

1. Romans 8:29 - For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.

2. Colossians 3:4 - When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory.

1 John 3:3 And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure.

Believers should purify themselves, just as Jesus is pure.

1: Jesus' example of purity should be our example.

2: As followers of Jesus, we must strive for purity.

1: Philippians 2:5 - "Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus."

2: Titus 2:11-12 - "For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world."

1 John 3:4 Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law.

The passage states that sin is the transgression of the law.

1. We should strive to live a life that honors God's laws.

2. We should not let sin dictate our lives, but rather seek to live according to God's laws.

1. Romans 6:2-4 - "We are released from the law so that we serve in the new way of the Spirit, and not in the old way of the written code. What shall we say, then? Is the law sinful? Certainly not! Nevertheless, I would not have known what sin was had it not been for the law. For I would not have known what coveting really was if the law had not said, ? ou must not covet.??

2. James 1:25 - "But the one who looks intently into the perfect law of liberty and perseveres in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer who works? his person will be blessed in what they do."

1 John 3:5 And ye know that he was manifested to take away our sins; and in him is no sin.

Jesus was revealed to take away our sins and He is free from sin.

1. Jesus came to earth to save us from our sins and give us a new life

2. There is no sin in Christ, so we should strive to be like Him

1. Hebrews 4:15 - For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin.

2. Romans 8:1-4 - There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death. For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do. By sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.

1 John 3:6 Whosoever abideth in him sinneth not: whosoever sinneth hath not seen him, neither known him.

Passage Those who abide in Christ do not sin, while those who sin have not seen or known Him.

1. Abiding in Christ: The Path to Righteousness

2. Knowing Jesus: The Road to Holiness

1. Romans 3:23-24 - For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus.

2. 1 John 1:8-9 - If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in

us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

1 John 3:7 Little children, let no man deceive you: he that doeth righteousness is righteous, even as he is righteous.

Believers should not be deceived, but rather strive to be righteous in the same way as God is righteous.

1. God calls us to be righteous, and He will help us in that endeavor.

2. God holds us to a standard of righteousness, and we should strive to meet that standard.

1. James 1:22-25 - Be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.

2. Philippians 4:8-9 - Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.

1 John 3:8 He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil.

The Son of God was manifested to destroy the works of the devil, who has sinned from the beginning.

1. The Power of the Son of God to Overcome Sin

2. The Nature of the Devil and His Influence on Our Lives

1. John 8:44 - "You belong to your father, the devil, and you want to carry out your father's desire. He was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies."

2. Ephesians 6:11-12 - "Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against

the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms."

1 John 3:9 Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God.

The passage states that believers cannot sin because they are born of God and His seed remains in them.

1. A Believer's Divine Nature: How God's Seed Gives Us the Strength to Resist Sin

2. A New Birth of Holiness: Becoming Children of God and Embracing Righteousness

1. 1 John 4:7 - Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God.

2. Romans 8:15 - For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father.

1 John 3:10 In this the children of God are manifest, and the children of the devil: whosoever doeth not righteousness is not of God, neither he that loveth not his brother.

This verse emphasizes that the way to truly be a child of God is to obey His commands and love one's neighbor.

1. "The Path of Righteousness: Loving God and Loving Others"

2. "The Two Identities: Children of God and Children of the Devil"

1. Matthew 22:36-40 - Love the Lord your God with all your heart and love your neighbor as yourself

2. James 2:8 - If you truly fulfill the royal law according to scripture, you shall love your neighbor as yourself

1 John 3:11 For this is the message that ye heard from the beginning, that we should love one another.

We should love one another, as this is the message we have heard from the beginning.

1. The Power of Love: How to Love One Another as God Commands

2. The Heart of Christianity: How Love is an Essential Element of Our Faith

1. Matthew 22:37-40 - Jesus said to him, ?□□□ou shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.?□his is the first and great commandment. And the second is like it: ?□ou shall love your neighbor as yourself.??

2. Romans 12:9-10 - Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil. Cling to what is good. Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving p to one another.

1 John 3:12 Not as Cain, who was of that wicked one, and slew his brother. And wherefore slew he him? Because his own works were evil, and his brother's righteous.

This passage speaks to the consequences of evil actions and how they can lead to tragedy.

1: We must strive to do good, for our own actions can lead to the harm of others.

2: We must strive to be righteous, for our own righteousness can protect us and those around us from evil.

1: Proverbs 10:9 - "He who walks in integrity walks securely, But he who perverts his ways will become known."

2: Galatians 6:7-8 - "Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap. For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life."

1 John 3:13 Marvel not, my brethren, if the world hate you.

Believers should not be surprised if they are hated by the world.

1. The world's hatred of believers is not a sign of failure but a sign of success.

2. We are called to live in this world without being of it.

1. Romans 12:2 - Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

2. John 15:18-19 - If the world hates you, know that it has hated me before it hated you. If you were of the world, the world would love you as its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you.

1 John 3:14 We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren. He that loveth not his brother abideth in death.

Believers have passed from spiritual death to spiritual life because they love their brothers and sisters. Those who do not love their brothers and sisters remain spiritually dead.

1. "A New Life in Christ: Loving One Another"

2. "Passing From Death Unto Life Through Love"

1. John 13:34-35 - "A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another."

2. Galatians 5:13-14 - "For, brethren, ye have been called unto liberty; only use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another. For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this; Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself."

1 John 3:15 Whosoever hateth his brother is a murderer: and ye know that no murderer hath eternal life abiding in him.

Hatred for another person is equivalent to murder, and murderers do not have eternal life.

1. "Love Your Enemies"

2. "The Consequences of Hatred"

1. Matthew 5:43-45 - "Ye have heard that it hath been said, Thou shalt love thy neighbour, and hate thine enemy. But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you.

2. Romans 12:17-21 - "Recompense to no man evil for evil. Provide things honest in the sight of all men. If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men. Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord. Therefore if thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him drink: for in so doing thou shalt heap coals of fire on his head. Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good.??

1 John 3:16 Hereby perceive we the love of God, because he laid down his life for us: and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren.

The passage conveys that God has shown His love for us by sacrificing His life and, in turn, we are expected to show love for our brothers and sisters by sacrificing our lives for them.

1. Love of God and Love of Others: Examining 1 John 3:16

2. The Cost of Love: Sacrificing Ourselves for the Benefit of Others

1. Matthew 22:37-40 - ?□ou shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets.??

2. Romans 5:8 - ?□ut God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.??

1 John 3:17 But whoso hath this world's good, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him?

Believers should show compassion to those in need, otherwise, the love of God will not be present in them.

1. Love in Action: Showing Compassion to Those in Need

2. The Heart of God: How Compassion Reflects His Love

1. 1 Corinthians 13:4-7 - Love is patient, kind, not envious, not boastful, not arrogant, not rude, not self-seeking, not easily angered, and keeps no record of wrongs.

2. Matthew 25:35-40 - Feeding the hungry, clothing the naked, visiting the sick, and visiting those in prison.

1 John 3:18 My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth.

We should not only express our love in words, but also in our actions and with sincerity.

1. Actions Speak Louder than Words ??A on 1 John 3:18

2. Love in Deed and in Truth ??A on 1 John 3:18

1. James 2:14-17 ???□hat good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him? If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food, and one of you says to them, ?□o in peace, be warmed and filled,?? without giving them the things needed for the body, what good is that? So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.??

2. Luke 6:46-49 ???□hy do you call me ?□ord, Lord,??and not do what I tell you? Everyone who comes to me and hears my words and does them, I will show you what he is like: he is like a man building a house, who dug deep and laid the foundation on the rock. And when a flood arose, the stream broke against that house and could not shake it, because it had been well built. But the one who hears and does not do them is like a man who built a house on the ground without a foundation. When the stream broke against it, immediately it fell, and the ruin of that house was great.??

1 John 3:19 And hereby we know that we are of the truth, and shall assure our hearts before him.

We can be assured that we are of the truth by knowing and trusting in God.

1. Trusting In God Leads To Assurance

2. The Truth Is Found In A Relationship With God

1. Jeremiah 17:7-8 "Blessed is the man who trusts in the Lord, whose trust is the Lord. He is like a tree planted by water, that sends out its roots by the stream, and does not fear when heat comes, for its leaves remain green, and is not anxious in the year of drought, for it does not cease to bear fruit."

2. Romans 5:5 "And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us."

1 John 3:20 For if our heart condemn us, God is greater than our heart, and knoweth all things.

Our hearts can condemn us, but God is greater than our hearts and knows all things.

1. "The Power of the Almighty" - God is more powerful than our inner doubts and worries.

2. "The All-Knowing God" - God knows our hearts and all that we do, so we can trust Him with our worries and fears.

1. Philippians 4:6-7 - Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

2. Psalm 73:25-26 - Whom have I in heaven but you? And there is nothing on earth that I desire besides you. My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.

1 John 3:21 Beloved, if our heart condemn us not, then have we confidence toward God.

We can have confidence in God if our own hearts do not condemn us.

1. The Power of a Clear Conscience: How Knowing We Are Right with God Gives Us Confidence

2. The Battle of the Heart: Overcoming Condemnation and Finding Confidence in God

1. Hebrews 10:22 - "let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience."

2. Romans 8:1 - "There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus."

1 John 3:22 And whatsoever we ask, we receive of him, because we keep his commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in his sight.

Believers who keep God's commandments and do what pleases Him will receive what they ask for from Him.

1. Faith in Action: Living Out Our Beliefs

2. The Power of Prayer: How to Pray Effectively

1. James 4:2-3 - You do not have because you do not ask.

2. Matthew 7:7-8 - Ask, seek, and knock.

1 John 3:23 And this is his commandment, That we should believe on the name of his Son Jesus Christ, and love one another, as he gave us commandment.

We are commanded to believe in Jesus Christ and to love one another as He has commanded us.

1. The Power of Loving One Another: How God's Commandment Can Transform Our Lives

2. Belief in Jesus: Our Obedience to God's Commandment

1. 1 John 4:7-8 - Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God. He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love.

2. John 14:15 - If ye love me, keep my commandments.

1 John 3:24 And he that keepeth his commandments dwelleth in him, and he in him. And hereby we know that he abideth in us, by the Spirit which he hath given us.

Passage Those who keep God's commandments will enjoy a special relationship with Him, and they will be able to recognize the indwelling of the Holy Spirit.

1: God's love is not just for the chosen few, but for all of us who choose to obey Him.

2: The closer we get to God, the more we will experience the presence of His Holy Spirit.

1: Romans 8:9-14 - God's Spirit works in our lives to make us more like Him.

2: James 1:22-25 - We must not just listen to God, but also put His word into practice.

1 John 4 is the fourth chapter of the First Epistle of John in the New Testament. This chapter focuses on themes such as testing the spirits, God's love for us, and the command to love one another.

1st Paragraph: The chapter begins with a warning to test the spirits, as not every spirit is from God. The author emphasizes that false prophets have gone out into the world and urges believers to discern whether a spirit confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh (1 John 4:1-3). He reminds them that they are from God and have overcome these false spirits because greater is He who is in them than he who is in the world (1 John 4:4). The author encourages believers to listen to God's truth and recognize that those who know God will listen to His teachings (1 John 4:5-6).

2nd Paragraph: In verses 7-12, there's an emphasis on God's love for us and our call to love one another. The author declares that love comes from God because He is love (1 John 4:7-8). He points out that God demonstrated His love by sending His Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins (1 John 4:9-10). Since we have experienced this incredible love, we are called to love one another. The author emphasizes that if we truly love one another, then God's love abides in us and is perfected in us (1 John 4:11-12).

3rd Paragraph: From verse 13 onwards till end of chapter ,the author reassures believers about their relationship with God through His Spirit. He states that we can know that we abide in Him and He abides in us because He has given us His Spirit (1 John 4:13). This indwelling Spirit testifies that Jesus is the Son of God, allowing us to have confidence in our relationship with Him (1 John 4:14-16). The author concludes by emphasizing that perfect love casts out fear, and those who fear have not been perfected in love. He reminds believers that we love because He first loved us (1 John 4:17-19).

In summary, Chapter four of First Epistle by Apostle John urges believers to test the spirits and discern the truth. It highlights God's love for us and our call to love one another as a response to His incredible love. The chapter reassures believers about their relationship with God through His Spirit, emphasizing the testimony of the Spirit and the confidence it brings. It concludes by highlighting that perfect love casts out fear and reminding believers of the foundational truth that we love because He first loved us.

1 John 4:1 Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world.

We should not blindly believe every spirit, but test them to see if they are of God, because many false prophets exist in the world.

1. Beware of False Prophets: Examining the Spirits that Speak to Us

2. The Power of Discernment: Identifying the True Spirits in Our Lives

1. Matthew 24:24, "For false messiahs and false prophets will appear and perform great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect."

2. Jeremiah 29:8, "For thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel: Do not let your prophets and your diviners who are among you deceive you, and do not listen to the dreams that they dream."

1 John 4:2 Hereby know ye the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God:

Knowing the Spirit of God is knowing that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh.

1. The Power of Jesus: Understanding the Divinity of Christ

2. The Promise of Salvation: Why We Believe in Jesus

1. Philippians 2:5-11 - Jesus humbling himself to become man and die on the cross

2. Isaiah 53:4-6 - Jesus bearing the sins of the world as a suffering servant

1 John 4:3 And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: and this is that spirit of antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even now already is it in the world.

It is important to recognize that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh, as any spirit which does not confess this is of the spirit of antichrist, which is already in the world.

1. The Power of Confessing Jesus Christ

2. Are You Against Antichrist?

1. 1 John 4:3

2. Matthew 1:18-25 (The birth of Jesus Christ)

1 John 4:4 Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world.

Believers are of God and have overcome the world, due to the greater power of God within them.

1. The Strength of God: Overcoming Anything That Comes Our Way

2. The Power of Our Faith: Relying on God's Strength to Overcome the World

1. John 16:33 - ?□ have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.??

2. Romans 8:37 - ?□o, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.??

1 John 4:5 They are of the world: therefore speak they of the world, and the world heareth them.

Believers should not be influenced by the world, but rather speak what is of God so that the world may hear.

1. The Power of Our Words: Speaking God's Truth in a World of Lies

2. The World's Messages vs. God's Messages: How to Listen and Live in the Truth

1. Psalm 119:11 - Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.

2. Proverbs 18:21 - Death and life are in the power of the tongue: and they that love it shall eat the fruit thereof.

1 John 4:6 We are of God: he that knoweth God heareth us; he that is not of God heareth not us. Hereby know we the spirit of truth, and the spirit of error.

This passage emphasizes that God's followers can recognize the truth by listening to the teachings of His followers.

1. Knowing God through His Word: Recognizing the Spirit of Truth

2. Growing in Faith: Hearing God through His Followers

1. Matthew 7:15-20 ???□eware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep?□ clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves.??

2. Psalm 73:24 ???□hou shalt guide me with thy counsel, and afterward receive me to glory.??

1 John 4:7 Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God.

Love is God's commandment: Everyone who loves is born of God and knows God.

1. Love One Another: A Biblical Mandate

2. God's Love Makes Us His Children

1. Romans 13:8-10 - Owe no one anything, except to love each other, for the one who

loves another has fulfilled the law.

2. 1 John 4:19 - We love because he first loved us.

1 John 4:8 He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love.

Passage Love is essential for knowing God, as God is love.

1. Love is the foundation of a relationship with God.

2. Understanding God starts with understanding love.

1. Matthew 22:37-40 - Jesus said, ?□ove the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.??

2. 1 Corinthians 13:13 - ?□nd now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.??

1 John 4:9 In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him.

The passage reveals the love of God towards us, which is manifested through the sending of His only Son to the world.

1. The Love of God: A Reflection on 1 John 4:9

2. Finding Hope and Faith Through the Love of God

1. Romans 5:8 - But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

2. John 3:16 - For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

1 John 4:10 Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

Passage: God's love for us is so great that He sent His Son to take away our sins.

1: God's Love is Unconditional

2: God's Mercy is Unfailing

1: Romans 5:8 - But God demonstrates His own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

2: Ephesians 2:4-5 - But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions?□t is by grace you have been saved.

1 John 4:11 Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another.

God loves us and we should love one another in return.

1. "God's Love and Ours: The Power of Mutual Respect"

2. "Love Thy Neighbor: Loving Others as God Loves Us"

1. Romans 13:8-10 - "Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another, for whoever loves others has fulfilled the law. The commandments, ?□ou shall not commit adultery,???□ou shall not murder,???□ou shall not steal,???□ou shall not covet,??and whatever other command there may be, are summed up in this one command: ?□ove your neighbor as yourself.??Love does no harm to a neighbor. Therefore love is the fulfillment of the law.??

2. Matthew 22:37-40 - ?□esus replied: ?□□□ove the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.??This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: ?□ove your neighbor as yourself.??All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.??

1 John 4:12 No man hath seen God at any time. If we love one another, God dwelleth in us, and his love is perfected in us.

God's love is perfected in us when we love one another.

1: God's perfect love is realized in us when we love our neighbors.

2: Our love for one another reflects the love God has for us.

1: Galatians 5:13-14 - ?□or you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another. For the whole law is fulfilled in one word: ?□ou shall love your neighbor as yourself.??

2: 1 John 3:11 - ?□or this is the message that you have heard from the beginning, that we should love one another.??

1 John 4:13 Hereby know we that we dwell in him, and he in us, because he hath given us of his Spirit.

We can understand that God is in us and we are in Him because He has given us His Spirit.

1. The Power of the Holy Spirit: How the Spirit of God Dwells in Us

2. Sharing God's Love: Experiencing God's Presence Through His Spirit

1. Romans 8:9 - "But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His."

2. Galatians 4:6 - "And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying out, "Abba, Father!"

1 John 4:14 And we have seen and do testify that the Father sent the Son to be the Saviour of the world.

John testifies that God sent His Son, Jesus, to be the Savior of the world.

1. The Salvation of the World: Understanding God's Gift of Jesus

2. Jesus: The Greatest Gift of Love

1. Isaiah 9:6 - For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

2. John 3:16 - For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

1 John 4:15 Whosoever shall confess that Jesus is the Son of God, God dwelleth in him, and he in God.

God's love for people is demonstrated through the presence of Jesus in them.

1. Understanding God's Unconditional Love for Us

2. How the Presence of Jesus in Us Transforms Our Lives

1. John 3:16 - "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."

2. Romans 8:38-39 - "For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord."

1 John 4:16 And we have known and believed the love that God hath to us. God is love; and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him.

We can understand and believe in the love that God has for us. God is love and when we live in love, we live in God and God lives in us.

1. God Is Love: Learning to Live in His Love

2. Abiding in Love: Experiencing the Presence of God

1. 1 Corinthians 13:4-8 - Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud.

2. Romans 5:5 - And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us.

1 John 4:17 Herein is our love made perfect, that we may have boldness in the day of judgment: because as he is, so are we in this world.

The love of God brings us confidence and assurance in the day of judgment. As we are like Jesus in this world, we can be sure of his love and grace.

1. Perfect Love Brings Boldness: Confidence in the Day of Judgment

2. As Jesus is, So are We: Our Assurance of God's Love and Grace

1. Romans 8:31-39 - The assurance of God's love in the midst of suffering

2. Hebrews 10:19-25 - Boldness to enter the heavenly places through Jesus' blood

1 John 4:18 There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love.

Perfect love casts out fear as fear has torment and prevents us from being made perfect in love.

1. "Fear Not: Embracing the Perfect Love of God"

2. "No Fear: Releasing the Power of Perfect Love"

1. Romans 8:15 - "For you have not received a spirit of slavery leading to fear again, but you have received a spirit of adoption as sons by which we cry out, ?□bba! Father!??

2. Matthew 10:28 - ?□o not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather, be afraid of the One who can destroy both soul and body in hell.??

1 John 4:19 We love him, because he first loved us.

God loves us, and we love Him in return because of His love.

1. God's Love for Us: A Reflection on 1 John 4:19

2. The Power of Love: The Love of God and Our Response

1. Romans 5:8 - But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

2. 1 John 3:1 - See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God!

1 John 4:20 If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar: for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen?

We must love our brothers and sisters in order to truly love God.

1. Love for God cannot be separated from love for our fellow humans.

2. We must put our love for God into action by loving our brothers and sisters.

1. Matthew 22:36-40 - ?□eacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law???Jesus replied: ?□□□ove the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.??This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: ?□ove your neighbor as yourself.??All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.??

2. James 2:8 - If you really keep the royal law found in Scripture, ?□ove your neighbor as yourself,??you are doing right.

1 John 4:21 And this commandment have we from him, That he who loveth God love his brother also.

We are commanded to love God and to love our brothers.

1. Love God through Loving Your Brother

2. The Power of Brotherly Love

1. Matthew 22:37-40: "And He said to him, ?ou shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.??This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like it: ?ou shall love your neighbor as yourself.??

2. Romans 12:10: "Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving p to one another."

1 John 5 is the fifth and final chapter of the First Epistle of John in the New Testament. This chapter focuses on themes such as faith in Jesus Christ, victory over the world, and assurance of eternal life.

1st Paragraph: The chapter begins with a statement about the relationship between faith and love. The author declares that everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and those who love God will also love His children (1 John 5:1). He emphasizes that loving God means keeping His commandments, and His commandments are not burdensome (1 John 5:2-3). The author asserts that our faith is what enables us to overcome the world, and he identifies Jesus as the Son of God who came through water and blood (1 John 5:4-6).

2nd Paragraph: In verses 7-12, there's an emphasis on three witnesses—the Spirit, water, and blood—testifying to Jesus' identity as the Son of God. The author states that these three witnesses agree as one (1 John 5:7-8). He affirms that if we believe in Jesus as the Son of God, we have this testimony within us (1 John 5:9-10). The author assures believers that those who have eternal life in Christ can have confidence in approaching Him with their requests because they are praying according to His will (1 John 5:13-15).

3rd Paragraph: From verse 16 onwards till end of chapter ,the author addresses sinning brothers or sisters within the community. He distinguishes between sins leading to death and sins not leading to death. He encourages believers to pray for those committing sins not leading to death so that they may be given life by God (1 John 5:16-17). However, he clarifies that there is a sin leading to death for which he does not recommend praying (1 John 5:16). The author concludes by affirming the certainty of eternal life for those born of God, reminding believers that they are kept safe by the One who is true and can be confident in their relationship with Him (1 John 5:18-21).

In summary, Chapter five of First Epistle by Apostle John emphasizes the relationship between faith, love, and obedience to God's commandments. It highlights the victory believers have over the world through their faith in Jesus Christ. The chapter presents three witnesses—the Spirit, water, and blood—testifying to Jesus' identity as the Son of God. It assures believers of eternal life in Christ and encourages them to approach God with confidence in prayer. The chapter also addresses sins within the community and concludes by affirming the certainty of eternal life for those born of God.

1 John 5:1 Whosoever believeth that Jesus is the Christ is born of God: and every one that loveth him that begat loveth him also that is begotten of him.

Believing in Jesus as the Christ is evidence of being born of God, and those who love God also love those born of Him.

1. Faith is the cornerstone of our relationship with God.

2. Love for God is expressed through our love for one another.

1. Romans 10:9 - That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.

2. Galatians 5:14 - For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this; Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.

1 John 5:2 By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God, and keep his commandments.

Loving God and keeping his commandments is how we show our love for other children of God.

1. The Power of Loving God and Keeping His Commandments

2. The Joy of Loving Others Through Obeying God

1. Romans 8:28 - And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.

2. Matthew 22:36-40 - “Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?” Jesus replied: “‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.”

1 John 5:3 For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous.

God's commandments are not too difficult to obey because He loves us and wants us to follow them.

1. "God's Love: A Call to Obedience"

2. "God's Commandments: An Expression of Love"

1. Psalm 119:32 - I will run in the way of thy commandments, when thou shalt enlarge my heart.

2. Deuteronomy 30:11-14 - For this commandment which I command thee this day, it is not hidden from thee, neither is it far off. It is not in heaven, that thou shouldest say, Who shall go up for us to heaven, and bring it unto us, that we may hear it, and do it? Neither is it beyond the sea, that thou shouldest say, Who shall go over the sea for us, and bring it unto us, that we may hear it, and do it? But the word is very nigh unto thee, in thy mouth, and in thy heart, that thou mayest do it.

1 John 5:4 For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith.

The victory over the world is attained through faith in God.

1: Our faith in God is our greatest weapon against the adversities of life.

2: Through faith in God, we can overcome any challenge that life throws at us.

1: Matthew 17:20 - He replied, “Because you have so little faith. I tell you the truth, if you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, ‘Move from here to there’ and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you.

2: Hebrews 11:1 - Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see.

1 John 5:5 Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God?

Believers in Jesus Christ are those who have overcome the world.

1. "Overcoming the World Through Faith in Jesus"

2. "The Power of Believing in Jesus as the Son of God"

1. Romans 12:2 - "Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind."

2. Galatians 6:14 - "But God forbid that I should boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world."

1 John 5:6 This is he that came by water and blood, even Jesus Christ; not by water only, but by water and blood. And it is the Spirit that beareth witness, because the Spirit is truth.

This passage emphasizes the importance of Jesus Christ's coming to earth by water and blood, and that it is the Spirit who testifies to the truth.

1. The Significance of Jesus Christ's Coming: Exploring the Symbolic Meaning of Water and Blood

2. The Power of the Spirit: Recognizing the Authority of the Truth

1. John 14:6 - Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

2. Romans 8:14 - For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God.

1 John 5:7 For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one.

The Holy Trinity consists of the Father, Word, and Holy Ghost and they are one.

1. Let us recognize and understand the unity of the Father, Word, and Holy Ghost.

2. Let us strive to live in the love, peace, and unity of the Holy Trinity.

1. Matthew 28:19-20 - Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.

2. John 14:16-17 - And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever; Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.

1 John 5:8 And there are three that bear witness in earth, the Spirit, and the water, and the blood: and these three agree in one.

The Spirit, water, and blood bear witness to the truth, and all three are in agreement.

1. The Power of Unity: Our witness to the truth is strengthened when we stand together.

2. The Witnesses of Salvation: The Spirit, water, and blood testify to our salvation.

1. Acts 2:38 - And Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.

2. Romans 6:3-4 - Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.

1 John 5:9 If we receive the witness of men, the witness of God is greater: for this is the witness of God which he hath testified of his Son.

The witness of God is greater than the witness of men, because God has testified of his Son.

1. How Can We Know the Witness of God?

2. The Difference Between the Witness of Men and God

1. John 3:16 - For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that

whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

2. Romans 10:9 - That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.

1 John 5:10 He that believeth on the Son of God hath the witness in himself: he that believeth not God hath made him a liar; because he believeth not the record that God gave of his Son.

Belief in Jesus as the Son of God brings the witness of God within oneself, while disbelief in Jesus makes God a liar because it does not accept the testimony that God gave about His Son.

1. The Power of Belief: How Faith in Jesus Brings God's Witness into Our Lives

2. The Gift of Testimony: How God Reveals His Love Through Jesus

1. Romans 10:9-10 - "If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved."

2. John 3:16 - "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life."

1 John 5:11 And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son.

God has given us the gift of eternal life through His Son.

1. The Divine Gift of Eternal Life

2. Jesus, Our Source of Eternal Life

1. 1 Corinthians 15:51-55 - Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed.

2. John 17:3 - And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent.

1 John 5:12 He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life.

Believers who have the Son of God have eternal life, while those who do not have the Son of God do not have life.

1. The importance of faith in Jesus Christ for eternal life

2. The importance of accepting the Son of God for salvation

1. John 3:16 - For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

2. Romans 10:9-10 - That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

1 John 5:13 These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.

John is writing to believers to assure them of their eternal life and their faith in Jesus Christ.

1. The assurance of our salvation through faith in Jesus Christ

2. The importance of our belief in the name of the Son of God

1. Romans 10:9-10 - "That if you confess with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved."

2. Titus 3:5-7 - "He saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life."

1 John 5:14 And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us:

As believers in God, we can have confidence that if we ask God for things according to His will, He will hear us.

1. Celebrating Our Confidence in God

2. Praying According to God's Will

1. James 4:3 - “You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, to spend it on your passions.”

2. Romans 8:32 - “He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things?”

1 John 5:15 And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him.

John encourages believers to pray in faith, knowing that God will hear and answer their requests.

1. Prayer: The Key to Receiving God's Blessing

2. Believe and Receive: Praying with Confidence

1. Matthew 21:22 - And whatever you ask in prayer, you will receive, if you have faith.

2. James 1:6-7 - But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea that is driven and tossed by the wind.

1 John 5:16 If any man see his brother sin a sin which is not unto death, he shall ask, and he shall give him life for them that sin not unto death. There is a sin unto death: I do not say that he shall pray for it.

John instructs us to pray for those who have sinned, but not for those whose sin is unto

death.

1. God's Grace and Forgiveness: Learning to Pray for Others

2. The Power of Prayer: How to Ask and Receive Forgiveness

1. James 5:13-16 - Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray. Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing psalms.

2. Matthew 6:14-15 - For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

1 John 5:17 All unrighteousness is sin: and there is a sin not unto death.

John emphasizes that all unrighteousness is sin, but there is a sin that doesn't lead to death.

1. "Living Righteously: The Path to Life"

2. "The Dangers of Sin: The Price of Unrighteousness"

1. Proverbs 14:12 - "There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way to death."

2. 1 John 1:9 - "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

1 John 5:18 We know that whosoever is born of God sinneth not; but he that is begotten of God keepeth himself, and that wicked one toucheth him not.

The one who is born of God does not sin and is protected from the wicked one.

1. Living a Life of Holiness: The Blessing of Being Born of God.

2. The Security of Being Born of God: Protection from the Wicked One.

1. Matthew 5:8 - Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

2. 1 Peter 1:14-15 - As obedient children, do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance, but as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct.

1 John 5:19 And we know that we are of God, and the whole world lieth in wickedness.

The world is in a state of wickedness, but the believers in God are of Him.

1. The Wickedness of the World and the Salvation of the Believers.

2. Standing Firm in a Wicked World.

1. Ephesians 6:10-18 - Putting on the Whole Armor of God to Stand against the Devil.

2. Romans 12:2 - Do Not Conform to the Patterns of this World.

1 John 5:20 And we know that the Son of God is come, and hath given us an understanding, that we may know him that is true, and we are in him that is true, even in his Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God, and eternal life.

The Son of God has come and given us understanding so that we may know the one true God, which is Jesus Christ, and have eternal life.

1. Jesus is the way to eternal life.

2. Seeking to know God is seeking to know Jesus.

1. John 14:6 - Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

2. Hebrews 11:6 - And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him.

1 John 5:21 Little children, keep yourselves from idols. Amen.

Passage Christians should not worship idols.

1. The Dangers of Idolatry and Why We Should Avoid It.

2. Turning Away from Idolatry and Toward a Relationship with God.

1. Deuteronomy 5:7-8 "You shall have no other gods before me. You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth."

2. Isaiah 44:9-10 "All who fashion idols are nothing, and the things they delight in do not profit. Their witnesses neither see nor know, that they may be put to shame. Who fashions a god or casts an image that is profitable for nothing?"

2 John 1 is a short letter written by the Apostle John. This chapter focuses on themes such as walking in truth, showing love through obedience, and avoiding deceivers.

1st Paragraph: The chapter begins with the author addressing the chosen lady and her children, expressing his love for them in the truth. He emphasizes that they are not alone in their faith because there are others who know the truth (2 John 1:1-2). The author urges them to walk in truth and love, following God's commandments (2 John 1:4-6). He reminds them that this commandment to love one another has been from the beginning and encourages them to continue living in obedience to it.

2nd Paragraph: In verses 7-11, there's a warning against deceivers. The author highlights the importance of abiding in Christ's teaching and not being led astray by those who do not confess Jesus Christ as coming in the flesh (2 John 1:7-9). He warns that anyone who goes beyond Christ's teaching does not have God (2 John 1:9). The author advises believers not to receive or greet those who bring false teachings into their homes or support their work, as doing so would participate in their wicked deeds (2 John 1:10-11).

3rd Paragraph: From verse 12 onwards till end of chapter ,the author concludes his letter by expressing his desire to visit them personally rather than writing everything down. He assures them that he has many things to say but prefers face-to-face communication for greater joy (2 John 1:12). The author sends greetings from others known for their faith and encourages believers to greet one another with love according to God's commandment (2 John 1:13).

In summary, Chapter one of Second Epistle by Apostle John emphasizes walking in truth and love while obeying God's commandments. It warns against deceivers who deny Jesus Christ's incarnation and urges believers to remain faithful to Christ's teaching. The

chapter encourages believers not to support or welcome those who bring false teachings, as it would participate in their wickedness. The author expresses his desire for personal visitation and concludes by sending greetings and encouraging the practice of greeting one another with love according to God's commandment.

2 John 1:1 The elder unto the elect lady and her children, whom I love in the truth; and not I only, but also all they that have known the truth;

John, an elder, sends his love to an elect lady and her children, and to all who know the truth.

1. The Power of Love in Truth

2. The Importance of Knowing the Truth

1. John 3:16 - For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

2. Ephesians 4:15 - But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ.

2 John 1:2 For the truth's sake, which dwelleth in us, and shall be with us for ever.

The truth dwells within us and will be with us forever.

1. Our hope of salvation lies in the truth that dwells within us.

2. We can have faith in the truth that will never leave us.

1. 2 John 1:2

2. Romans 8:38-39 - For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

2 John 1:3 Grace be with you, mercy, and peace, from God the Father, and from the Lord

Jesus Christ, the Son of the Father, in truth and love.

This verse expresses a blessing of grace, mercy, and peace from God and Jesus, which comes through truth and love.

1. "The Power of Love and Truth: How Grace, Mercy, and Peace Can Transform Our Lives"

2. "The Blessing of God and Jesus: Finding Peace and Comfort Through Their Presence"

1. Romans 8:38-39 - For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

2. John 14:27 - Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.

2 John 1:4 I rejoiced greatly that I found of thy children walking in truth, as we have received a commandment from the Father.

John is pleased to find many of his children walking in truth, according to the commandments of the Father.

1. Walking in Truth: Learning to Live According to the Father's Commandments

2. Joyful Obedience: Walking in Truth and Rejoicing in the Father's Ways

1. Psalm 119:1 "Blessed are those whose way is blameless, who walk in the law of the Lord!"

2. 1 John 2:3-4 "And by this we know that we have come to know him, if we keep his commandments. Whoever says ?□ know him??but does not keep his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him."

2 John 1:5 And now I beseech thee, lady, not as though I wrote a new commandment unto thee, but that which we had from the beginning, that we love one another.

This passage encourages us to love one another, which is a commandment that has been in place since the beginning.

1. Love One Another: The Commandment Since the Beginning

2. The Power of Love: How it Can Transform Our Lives

1. 1 John 4:7-8 - Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love.

2. Romans 13:8-10 - Owe no one anything, except to love each other, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. For the commandments, ?□ou shall not commit adultery, You shall not murder, You shall not steal, You shall not covet,??and any other commandment, are summed up in this word: ?□ou shall love your neighbor as yourself.?? Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.

2 John 1:6 And this is love, that we walk after his commandments. This is the commandment, That, as ye have heard from the beginning, ye should walk in it.

Love is demonstrated by following the Lord's commandments that were heard from the beginning.

1. Living in Love: Walking in Obedience to God's Commandments

2. A Life of Love: Walking in Step with God's Instructions

1. 1 John 5:3 - For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous.

2. Romans 6:17 - But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you.

2 John 1:7 For many deceivers are entered into the world, who confess not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh. This is a deceiver and an antichrist.

Many people have entered the world who deny the truth that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh and are deceivers and antichrists.

1. Standing up for Truth: The Need to Confess Jesus Christ is Come in the Flesh

2. False Prophets and Deceivers: How to Identify an Antichrist

1. 1 John 4:1-3 - Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world.

2. Philippians 2:5-8 - Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men.

2 John 1:8 Look to yourselves, that we lose not those things which we have wrought, but that we receive a full reward.

John exhorts his readers to ensure that they do not lose the rewards they have worked for.

1. Cultivating Our Rewards: The Importance of Self-Care and Diligence

2. Reaping What We Sow: The Fruit of Our Hard Work

1. Galatians 6:7-8: Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap. For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life.

2. Proverbs 11:24-25: One gives freely, yet grows all the richer; another withholds what he should give, and only suffers want. Whoever brings blessing will be enriched, and one who waters will himself be watered.

2 John 1:9 Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son.

Those who abide in the doctrine of Christ have both the Father and the Son, while those who transgress and do not abide in the doctrine of Christ do not have God.

1. Delighting in the Doctrine of Christ

2. Abiding in the Doctrine of Christ

1. Psalm 1:2 - "But his delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law he meditates day and night."

2. 2 Timothy 3:16 - "All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness."

2 John 1:10 If there come any unto you, and bring not this doctrine, receive him not into your house, neither bid him God speed:

Believers are called to not receive or wish well anyone who does not bring the true doctrine of Christ.

1. Following the True Doctrine of Christ: Why We Must Reject False Teaching

2. Wishing Well in the Lord: The Importance of Knowing the Truth

1. John 16:13 - "When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come."

2. Titus 1:9 - "He must hold firm to the trustworthy word as taught, so that he may be able to give instruction in sound doctrine and also to rebuke those who contradict it."

2 John 1:11 For he that biddeth him God speed is partaker of his evil deeds.

Believers should not encourage fellow believers who are engaging in evil deeds.

1. The Danger of Partaking in Evil Deeds

2. The Power of Discouraging Sin

1. Romans 6:12-14 - Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its evil desires. Do not offer any part of yourself to sin as an instrument of wickedness, but rather offer yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life; and offer every part of yourself to him as an instrument of righteousness.

14. 2 Corinthians 6:14-17 - Do not be yoked together with unbelievers. For what do righteousness and wickedness have in common? Or what fellowship can light have with darkness? What harmony is there between Christ and Belial? Or what does a believer have in common with an unbeliever? What agreement is there between the temple of God and idols? For we are the temple of the living God.

2 John 1:12 Having many things to write unto you, I would not write with paper and ink: but I trust to come unto you, and speak face to face, that our joy may be full.

John expresses his desire to come and speak to the community directly so that their joy may be complete.

1. The Joy of Real Fellowship

2. The Blessing of Face-to-Face Relationships

1. Philippians 2:2 - Complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind.

2. Romans 15:13 - May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.

2 John 1:13 The children of thy elect sister greet thee. Amen.

This passage is a greeting from John to his elect sister and her children.

1. Love and Gratitude: The Power of a Simple Greeting

2. Faithfulness and Connection: Cherishing Our Beloved Relationships

1. Romans 12:10 - ?□ove one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor.??

2. 1 Thessalonians 5:11 - ?□herefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing.??

3 John 1 is a short letter written by the Apostle John. This chapter focuses on themes such as hospitality, supporting fellow believers, and the contrast between good and evil

examples.

1st Paragraph: The chapter begins with the author addressing Gaius, expressing his joy in hearing that Gaius is walking in the truth and showing love to fellow believers (3 John 1:1-4). The author commends Gaius for his hospitality towards traveling brothers who are spreading the Gospel (3 John 1:5-6). He encourages Gaius to continue supporting these workers for the sake of Christ's name, as they have gone out for His sake and should be helped on their journey (3 John 1:7-8).

2nd Paragraph: In verses 9-10, there's a mention of Diotrephes—a negative example. The author criticizes Diotrephes for his prideful behavior and refusal to accept authority from apostolic leaders. He warns that when he comes, he will call attention to Diotrephes' actions (3 John 1:9-10). On the other hand, the author praises Demetrius as a good example who has received a good testimony from everyone and from truth itself (3 John 1:11-12).

3rd Paragraph: From verse 13 onwards till end of chapter ,the author concludes his letter by expressing his desire to see Gaius face-to-face. He sends greetings from friends known to both him and Gaius (3 John 1:13-14). The author expresses hope that peace may be with Gaius and sends greetings on behalf of friends individually (3 John 1:15).

In summary, Chapter one of Third Epistle by Apostle John commends Gaius for his hospitality towards traveling brothers who are spreading the Gospel. It encourages continued support for these workers in the name of Christ. The chapter also highlights the negative example of Diotrephes, who refuses to accept authority, and contrasts it with the positive example of Demetrius, who receives a good testimony. The author expresses his desire for personal visitation and concludes by sending greetings from mutual friends and expressing hope for peace.

3 John 1:1 The elder unto the wellbeloved Gaius, whom I love in the truth.

John, an elder, writes a letter of encouragement to Gaius, whom he loves in the truth.

1. The Value of Truth and Authentic Love

2. The Power of Encouragement and Uplifting Words

1. Romans 12:9-10 - Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil; cling to what is good. Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving p to one another.

2. 1 Thessalonians 5:11 - Therefore comfort each other and edify one another, just as you also are doing.

3 John 1:2 Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth.

John encourages Gaius to seek prosperity and health as he seeks spiritual growth.

1: Pursuing Prosperity in Life

2: Spiritual Growth and Health

1: Philippians 4:12-13 - I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want.

2: Matthew 6:33 - But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

3 John 1:3 For I rejoiced greatly, when the brethren came and testified of the truth that is in thee, even as thou walkest in the truth.

The author of 3 John was filled with joy when the brethren testified of the truth that was within the person they were referring to.

1. The Joy of Living in Truth - How to find true joy in living a life of truth.

2. The Power of Testimony - The importance of testimonies and how they can positively affect those around us.

1. Colossians 3:17 - And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him.

2. Romans 12:2 - And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

3 John 1:4 I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth.

John expresses a deep joy when he hears that his children are living according to the truth.

1. The Joy of Knowing Our Children are Walking in Truth

2. Raising Our Children for the Glory of God

1. Proverbs 22:6 - Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it.

2. Ephesians 6:4 - Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.

3 John 1:5 Beloved, thou doest faithfully whatsoever thou doest to the brethren, and to strangers;

John is commending Gaius for his faithful service to both believers and non-believers.

1. The Power of Faithful Service: How Our Actions Speak Louder Than Words

2. The Value of Kindness to Strangers: A Lesson from 3 John

1. Galatians 6:10: "Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers."

2. Hebrews 13:1-3: "Keep on loving one another as brothers and sisters. Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by so doing some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it. Continue to remember those in prison as if you were together with them in prison, and those who are mistreated as if you yourselves were suffering."

3 John 1:6 Which have borne witness of thy charity before the church: whom if thou bring forward on their journey after a godly sort, thou shalt do well:

John encourages the reader to help others in need in a godly manner.

1. God Calls Us To Love and Serve Others

2. Practicing Godly Charity In Our Lives

1. 1 John 3:17 - "But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him?"

2. James 1:27 - "Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unstained from the world."

3 John 1:7 Because that for his name's sake they went forth, taking nothing of the Gentiles.

Believers are encouraged to help others in need, without expecting anything in return.

1. "The Power of Selfless Giving"

2. "The Joy of Serving Others"

1. Matthew 6:1-4 “Take heed that you do not do your charitable deeds before men, to be seen by them. Otherwise you have no reward from your Father in heaven. Therefore, when you do a charitable deed, do not sound a trumpet before you as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may have glory from men. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward. But when you do a charitable deed, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing,”

2. Acts 20:35 “I have shown you in every way, by laboring like this, that you must support the weak. And remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He said, ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’”

3 John 1:8 We therefore ought to receive such, that we might be fellowhelpers to the truth.

We should welcome people who help promote the truth.

1. "Welcoming the Truth Promoters"

2. "Helping the Promoters of Truth"

1. Philippians 2:3-4 - "Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others."

2. Proverbs 11:25 - "Whoever brings blessing will be enriched, and one who waters will himself be watered."

3 John 1:9 I wrote unto the church: but Diotrephes, who loveth to have the preeminence among them, receiveth us not.

John warns the church of Diotrephes who loves to have the preeminence and refuses to accept John.

1. Do not be like Diotrephes, seek humility rather than preeminence.

2. The importance of accepting others and not dividing the church.

1. Philippians 2:3-4 "Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others."

2. Romans 15:7 "Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God."

3 John 1:10 Wherefore, if I come, I will remember his deeds which he doeth, prating against us with malicious words: and not content therewith, neither doth he himself receive the brethren, and forbiddeth them that would, and casteth them out of the church.

John is warning the readers about a man who speaks against them maliciously and does not accept fellow believers, even going so far as to expel them from the church.

1. Do not allow malicious words from your lips, but instead welcome fellow believers with open arms.

2. Speak with kindness and love in order to build up rather than tear down.

1. Ephesians 4:29 - Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear.

2. Romans 12:10 - Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor.

3 John 1:11 Beloved, follow not that which is evil, but that which is good. He that doeth good is of God: but he that doeth evil hath not seen God.

Follow what is good, not what is evil, for those who do good are of God, while those who do evil have not seen God.

1) The Power of Good: A on how following the path of good will bring us closer to God.

2) The Dangers of Evil: A on how evil can lead us away from God.

1) Romans 12:9-10: Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good.

2) James 4:17: So whoever knows the right thing to do and fails to do it, for him it is sin.

3 John 1:12 Demetrius hath good report of all men, and of the truth itself: yea, and we also bear record; and ye know that our record is true.

Demetrius was respected and admired for his good character. We can attest to his honorable deeds.

1: We can learn from Demetrius' example of having a good reputation.

2: Let us strive to make our character as honorable as Demetrius' and to be known for good works.

1: Proverbs 22:1 "A good name is to be chosen rather than great riches, and favor is better than silver or gold."

2: 1 Timothy 3:7 "Moreover he must have a good testimony among those who are outside, lest he fall into reproach and the snare of the devil."

3 John 1:13 I had many things to write, but I will not with ink and pen write unto thee:

The letter writer had much to say, but chose to speak instead of write.

1: Our words can speak louder than what we write.

2: God wants us to use our words to communicate with each other.

1: James 3:5-6 - Even so the tongue is a little member, and boasteth great things. Behold, how great a matter a little fire kindleth! And the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity: so is the tongue among our members, that it defileth the whole body, and setteth on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire of hell.

2: Colossians 4:6 - Let your speech be alway with grace, seasoned with salt, that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man.

3 John 1:14 But I trust I shall shortly see thee, and we shall speak face to face. Peace be to thee. Our friends salute thee. Greet the friends by name.

The author hopes to see the recipient of this letter soon and sends them his best wishes. He also sends his regards to the recipient's friends and asks them to be greeted by name.

1: We must never forget to appreciate the people in our lives and the importance of showing them love and respect.

2: We should always strive to maintain meaningful relationships with those around us, and this includes taking the effort to greet them by name.

1: Philippians 2:3-5 - Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus.

2: Luke 6:31 - Do to others as you would have them do to you.

Jude 1 is a short letter written by Jude, the brother of James and a servant of Jesus Christ. This chapter focuses on themes such as contending for the faith, warning against false teachers, and exhorting believers to remain steadfast.

1st Paragraph: The chapter begins with Jude addressing his letter to those who are called, beloved in God the Father, and kept for Jesus Christ (Jude 1:1). He expresses his initial intention to write about their common salvation but feels compelled to urge them to contend earnestly for the faith once delivered to the saints because certain individuals have crept in unnoticed—ungodly people who pervert God's grace into sensuality and deny Jesus Christ (Jude 1:3-4). Jude reminds his readers of past judgments upon those who turned away from God and warns that these false teachers will face similar consequences (Jude 1:5-7).

2nd Paragraph: In verses 8-16, there's an emphasis on describing the characteristics and actions of these false teachers. Jude compares them to Cain, Balaam, and Korah—historical figures known for their rebellion against God. He highlights their ungodly behavior, speaking evil of things they do not understand, indulging in sexual immorality, rejecting authority, and causing divisions among believers (Jude 1:8-16). The author further describes them as grumblers, fault-finders driven by their own desires rather than being led by the Spirit.

3rd Paragraph: From verse 17 onwards till end of chapter ,Jude exhorts his readers to remember the warnings given by the apostles regarding these mockers in the last time. He encourages believers to build themselves up in their most holy faith while praying in the Holy Spirit (Jude 1:17-20). The author advises them to show mercy towards those who doubt but also to have discernment and save others by snatching them from the fire (Jude 1:22-23). Jude concludes his letter by expressing praise to God, who is able to keep believers from stumbling and present them blameless before His presence with great joy (Jude 1:24-25).

In summary, Chapter one of the Epistle of Jude urges believers to contend for the faith and warns against false teachers who pervert God's grace. It describes the characteristics and actions of these deceivers, comparing them to historical figures known for their rebellion against God. The chapter exhorts believers to remember the warnings given by the apostles, build themselves up in faith, show mercy towards doubters, and exercise discernment. It concludes with praise to God for His ability to keep believers from stumbling and present them blameless before Him.

Jude 1:1 Jude, the servant of Jesus Christ, and brother of James, to them that are sanctified by God the Father, and preserved in Jesus Christ, and called:

Jude is writing to those who are set apart by God and kept safe through Jesus Christ, and who have been called.

1. The Privilege of Being Called by God

2. Living a Sanctified Life Through Jesus Christ

1. 1 Corinthians 1:2 - “To the church of God that is in Corinth, to those sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints together with all those who in every place call upon the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours.”

2. 1 Peter 1:15-16 - “But as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, since it is written, ‘You shall be holy, for I am holy.’”

Jude 1:2 Mercy unto you, and peace, and love, be multiplied.

Jude encourages believers to experience an abundance of mercy, peace, and love.

1. Abundant Mercy: Experiencing God's Unfailing Love

2. Abundant Peace: Becoming Anchored in the Storms of Life

1. Romans 5:20-21 - "But where sin increased, grace multiplied all the more, so that, just as sin reigned in death, so also grace will reign through righteousness leading to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."

2. Isaiah 26:3 - "You will keep in perfect peace those whose minds are steadfast, because they trust in you."

Jude 1:3 Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints.

Jude urges believers to fight for the faith that was given to the saints.

1. Standing Firmly on the Foundation of Faith

2. Why We Must Contend for the Faith

1. Hebrews 10:23-24 - Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works.

2. Ephesians 6:13-17 - Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm. Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness.

Jude 1:4 For there are certain men crept in unawares, who were before of old ordained to this condemnation, ungodly men, turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness, and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ.

Jude warns against certain ungodly and unrighteous people who have infiltrated the church and have turned God's grace into licentiousness and denied His only Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

1. Living a Godly Life According to Jude 1:4

2. The Dangers of Denying the Only Lord God and Our Lord Jesus Christ

1. Romans 6:1-2, What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound? God forbid. How shall we that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?

2. Hebrews 10:29, Of how much sorer punishment, suppose ye, shall he be thought worthy, who hath trodden under foot the Son of God, and hath counted the blood of the covenant, wherewith he was sanctified, an unholy thing?

Jude 1:5 I will therefore put you in remembrance, though ye once knew this, how that the Lord, having saved the people out of the land of Egypt, afterward destroyed them that believed not.

Jude is reminding the believers of God's saving power and his judgement on those who do not believe.

1. God's Faithfulness and Judgement

2. The Unbelieving and the Consequences of Unbelief

1. Romans 8:28 And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.

2. Psalm 37:28 For the LORD loveth judgment, and forsaketh not his saints; they are preserved for ever: but the seed of the wicked shall be cut off.

Jude 1:6 And the angels which kept not their first estate, but left their own habitation, he hath reserved in everlasting chains under darkness unto the judgment of the great day.

This passage speaks of the angels who did not remain in their original place, and have instead been chained up in darkness for the day of judgment.

1. The Danger of Disobedience: A Study of Jude 1:6

2. The Consequences of Rebellion: An Examination of Jude 1:6

1. Isaiah 14:12-15: How you have fallen from heaven, morning star, son of the dawn! You have been cast down to the earth, you who once laid low the nations!

2. 2 Peter 2:4-9: For if God did not spare angels when they sinned, but sent them to hell, putting them in chains of darkness to be held for judgment;

Jude 1:7 Even as Sodom and Gomorrha, and the cities about them in like manner, giving themselves over to fornication, and going after strange flesh, are set forth for an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire.

The wicked cities of Sodom and Gomorrah are set forth for an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire.

1. The dangers of following strange flesh and the consequences of sin.

2. God's justice and mercy through His vengeance of eternal fire.

1. Romans 1:18-32 - God's wrath against unrighteousness.

2. 2 Peter 2:6-9 - God's judgment of the wicked.

Jude 1:8 Likewise also these filthy dreamers defile the flesh, despise dominion, and speak evil of dignities.

These dreamers are defiling the flesh, despising authority, and speaking blasphemously against God's appointed authorities.

1: Obey God's appointed authorities and respect their authority.

2: Do not defile the flesh or speak blasphemously against God's appointed authorities.

1: Romans 13:1-2 Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God.

2: 1 Peter 2:13-15 Submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake: whether it be to the king, as supreme; Or unto governors, as unto them that are sent by him for the punishment of evildoers, and for the praise of them that do well. For so is the will of God, that with well doing ye may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men.

Jude 1:9 Yet Michael the archangel, when contending with the devil he disputed about the body of Moses, durst not bring against him a railing accusation, but said, The Lord rebuke thee.

The archangel Michael showed reverence to God when he was contending with the devil and refused to bring a railing accusation against him.

1. The importance of respecting God's authority in any situation.

2. The power of God to rebuke the devil.

1. Ephesians 6:12 - For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.

2. James 4:7 - Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

Jude 1:10 But these speak evil of those things which they know not: but what they know naturally, as brute beasts, in those things they corrupt themselves.

These people are speaking without knowledge and corrupting their own behavior.

1. The Danger of Speaking Without Knowledge

2. Corrupting Behavior: A Warning Against Ignorance

1. Proverbs 12:15 - The way of a fool is right in his own eyes: but he that hearkeneth unto counsel is wise.

2. James 1:19 - Wherefore, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath.

Jude 1:11 Woe unto them! for they have gone in the way of Cain, and ran greedily after the error of Balaam for reward, and perished in the gainsaying of Core.

The passage condemns those who follow the way of Cain, the error of Balaam and the gainsaying of Core.

1. God's Warning to Followers of Wrong Paths

2. The Danger of Greed and Profit Seeking

1. Proverbs 15:27 He that is greedy of gain troubleth his own house; but he that hateth gifts shall live.

2. 1 Corinthians 6:9-10 Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God.

Jude 1:12 These are spots in your feasts of charity, when they feast with you, feeding themselves without fear: clouds they are without water, carried about of winds; trees whose fruit withereth, without fruit, twice dead, plucked up by the roots;

1. Being wary of those who take advantage of our good nature

2. Striving to bear fruit for the Lord

1. Matthew 7:15-20 - Beware of false prophets who come to you in sheep's clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves

2. James 5:7-8 - Be patient therefore, brethren, unto the coming of the Lord. Behold, the husbandman waiteth for the precious fruit of the earth, and hath long patience for it, until he receive the early and latter rain.

Jude 1:13 Raging waves of the sea, foaming out their own shame; wandering stars, to whom is reserved the blackness of darkness for ever.

Raging waves and wandering stars are illustrations of those who are outside of God's grace and mercy, and will endure an eternity of darkness.

1: God's grace and mercy offer a path to salvation and eternal life instead of darkness.

2: We must strive to remain within God's grace and mercy by living according to His will.

1: Ephesians 2:4-5 - "But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved."

2: Titus 3:4-7 - "But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life."

Jude 1:14 And Enoch also, the seventh from Adam, prophesied of these, saying, Behold, the Lord cometh with ten thousands of his saints,

The prophecy of Enoch, the seventh generation from Adam, that the Lord will come with many of His saints.

1. The Hope of the Coming of the Lord: Understanding the Prophetic Word of Enoch

2. God's Faithful Presence: Walking with God through the Generations

1. Psalm 50:3-5 - Our God shall come, and shall not keep silence: a fire shall devour before him, and it shall be very tempestuous round about him. He shall call to the heavens from above, and to the earth, that he may judge his people. Gather my saints together unto me; those that have made a covenant with me by sacrifice.

2. Isaiah 60:1-5 - Arise, shine; for thy light is come, and the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee. For, behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, and gross darkness the people: but the Lord shall arise upon thee, and his glory shall be seen upon thee. And the Gentiles shall come to thy light, and kings to the brightness of thy rising. Lift up thine eyes round about, and see: all they gather themselves together, they come to thee: thy sons shall come from far, and thy daughters shall be nursed at thy side.

Jude 1:15 To execute judgment upon all, and to convince all that are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have ungodly committed, and of all their hard speeches which ungodly sinners have spoken against him.

Jude is reminding us to live a godly life and to judge and convict sinners of their ungodly deeds and words.

1. "Living a Godly Life: An Urgent Call of Jude"

2. "Convicting Sinners: The Exhortation of Jude"

1. Romans 12:1-2 - Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

2. Galatians 6:7-8 - Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows. Whoever sows to please their flesh, from the flesh will reap destruction; whoever sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life.

Jude 1:16 These are murmurers, complainers, walking after their own lusts; and their mouth speaketh great swelling words, having men's persons in admiration because of advantage.

Jude is warning believers to be wary of those who are hypocritical and speak flatteringly to obtain advantages.

1. Beware of the Hypocrisy of Flattery

2. Do Not Be Led Astray by False Promises

1. Psalm 12:2-3 - "They speak falsehood to one another; with flattering lips and with a double heart they speak. May the Lord cut off all flattering lips, the tongue that speaks great things."

2. Proverbs 26:28 - "A lying tongue hates those who are crushed by it, and a flattering mouth works ruin."

Jude 1:17 But, beloved, remember ye the words which were spoken before of the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ;

The apostles of Jesus Christ spoke words that should be remembered.

1: "The Words of the Apostles: Remembering the Words of Jesus's Disciples"

2: "The Value of Remembering: The Words of Jesus's Apostles"

1: Acts 20:35 - "In all things I have shown you that by working hard in this way we must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he himself said, ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’"

2: Luke 6:47-48 - "Everyone who comes to me and hears my words and does them, I will show you what he is like: he is like a man building a house, who dug deep and laid the foundation on the rock. And when a flood arose, the stream broke against that house and could not shake it, because it had been well built."

Jude 1:18 How that they told you there should be mockers in the last time, who should walk after their own ungodly lusts.

People will mock God's teachings in the end times due to their own sinful desires.

1: We must always keep our faith in God and His teachings, no matter how much we are tempted by our own sinful desires.

2: We must be ever vigilant in our faith, for the mockers of God's teachings will only grow in the end times.

1: Matthew 6:24 - "No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon."

2: James 4:4 - "Adulterers and adulteresses! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God."

Jude 1:19 These be they who separate themselves, sensual, having not the Spirit.

Jude warns against those who do not have the Spirit and separate themselves from the faith.

1. The Danger of Separating from the Spirit

2. The Importance of Abiding in the Spirit

1. Galatians 5:22-25 - The fruit of the Spirit

2. 2 Corinthians 3:17 - Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.

Jude 1:20 But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost,

Jude encourages believers to build up their faith through prayer in the Holy Spirit.

1. The Power of Prayer in the Holy Spirit

2. Strengthening Your Faith with the Help of the Holy Ghost

1. Romans 8:26-27 - Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.

2. Ephesians 6:18 - Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints.

Jude 1:21 Keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life.

Keep faithful in the love of God and anticipate the mercy of Jesus Christ for eternal life.

1. The Mercy of Jesus Christ for Eternal Life

2. Keeping Ourselves in the Love of God

1. John 3:16, "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."

2. Psalm 136:26, "Give thanks to the God of heaven, for his steadfast love endures forever."

Jude 1:22 And of some have compassion, making a difference:

Jude encourages Christians to show compassion and make a difference in the lives of others.

1. The Power of Compassion: How We Can Make a Difference in the Lives of Others

2. God's Love in Action: Living Out Compassion in Our Everyday Lives

1. Matthew 22:37-40: Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind

2. Galatians 6:1-2: Carry each other’s burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.

Jude 1:23 And others save with fear, pulling them out of the fire; hating even the garment spotted by the flesh.

Jude encourages believers to save others who may be in danger, even if they are stained by sin, out of fear and love.

1. "A Call to Love: Saving Others from the Fire"

2. "Don't Judge: Rescuing Those Stained by Sin"

1. Romans 5:8 - "But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us."

2. Luke 6:37 - "Do not judge, and you will not be judged. Do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven."

Jude 1:24 Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy,

God is able to keep us from falling and present us faultless before His glorious presence with joy.

1. Experiencing Joy In God's Presence

2. Abiding In God's Protection

1. Hebrews 2:18 - “For since he himself has suffered and been tempted, he is able to help those who are tempted.”

2. 1 John 5:4 - “For whatever is born of God overcomes the world; and this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith.”

Jude 1:25 To the only wise God our Saviour, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever. Amen.

This passage celebrates God as the only wise and powerful Saviour.

1: The Power of God as Our Saviour

2: The Only Wise God

1: Isaiah 40:28 - “Do you not know? Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He will not grow tired or weary, and his understanding no one can fathom.”

2: Psalm 147:5 - “Great is our Lord and mighty in power; his understanding has no limit.”

Revelation 1 is the first chapter of the book of Revelation, written by the Apostle John. This chapter sets the stage for the entire book and focuses on themes such as divine revelation, Christ's glory and authority, and messages to the seven churches.

1st Paragraph: The chapter begins with an introduction where John identifies himself as the author and mentions that he received this revelation from Jesus Christ (Revelation 1:1). He addresses his letter to the seven churches in Asia Minor (Revelation 1:4) and offers a greeting of grace and peace from God. John then proceeds to describe a vision he had on the Lord's Day, where he saw Jesus Christ in all His glory (Revelation 1:9-18). The description includes details such as Christ's appearance like a Son of Man, His eyes like flames of fire, His voice like rushing waters, and holding seven stars in His right hand.

2nd Paragraph: In verses 17-20, there is an emphasis on Christ's authority over death and His message to John. When John sees this awe-inspiring vision of Jesus, he falls at His feet as though dead. However, Jesus reassures him by saying that He is alive forevermore and holds the keys of death and Hades (Revelation 1:17-18). Then Jesus commissions John to write down what he has seen—the things that are currently happening—and what will take place in the future (Revelation 1:19). Jesus also reveals that each of the seven stars represents an angel or messenger for each church, while the seven lampstands symbolize those churches themselves (Revelation 1:20).

3rd Paragraph: From verse 12 onwards till end of chapter ,John receives specific messages for each of these seven churches. He writes down what he sees—both commendations for their strengths and rebukes for their shortcomings. These messages contain exhortations, warnings, and promises to the churches, providing guidance on how they should respond to the challenges they face (Revelation 1:20-3:22). The chapter concludes with a call to hear what the Spirit says to the churches and an assurance of blessings for those who overcome (Revelation 2:7, 11, 17, 26; 3:5, 12, 21).

In summary, Chapter one of Revelation serves as an introduction to the book. It begins with John's identification as the author and his vision of Jesus Christ in all His glory. The chapter emphasizes Christ's authority over death and Hades and His commissioning of John to write down what he has seen. It also introduces the seven churches in Asia Minor and provides messages specific to each church. The chapter concludes with a call to listen to what the Spirit says and promises blessings for those who overcome.

Revelation 1:1 The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave unto him, to shew unto his servants things which must shortly come to pass; and he sent and signified it by his angel unto his servant John:

The Revelation of Jesus Christ was given to him by God to show his servants events which will happen soon. It was communicated by an angel to John.

1. God is in Control: Reflecting on the Revelation of Jesus Christ

2. Listening to the Word of God: Reflecting on the Revelation of Jesus Christ

1. Ephesians 3:3-5 - How the revelation of Jesus Christ was made known to the apostles and prophets by the Spirit

2. Hebrews 1:1-3 - How Jesus was appointed heir of all things and through whom God made the universe.

Revelation 1:2 Who bare record of the word of God, and of the testimony of Jesus Christ, and of all things that he saw.

This passage speaks of the testimony of Jesus Christ and of the word of God that He saw.

1: Jesus is the ultimate source of truth and guidance.

2: The word of God is revealed through the witness of Jesus Christ.

1: John 14:6 - Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

2: Isaiah 55:11 - So shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

Revelation 1:3 Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein: for the time is at hand.

The book of Revelation calls for readers and hearers to follow its words.

1. Accepting the Word of God: How Revelation Teaches Us to Live

2. Living in the End Times: Understanding and Preparing for the Coming of the Lord

1. Matthew 24:44 - "Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour."

2. 2 Timothy 3:16-17 - "All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work."

Revelation 1:4 John to the seven churches which are in Asia: Grace be unto you, and peace, from him which is, and which was, and which is to come; and from the seven Spirits which are before his throne;

John greets the seven churches in Asia with grace and peace from God and the seven Spirits.

1. The importance of grace and peace in our lives

2. How the seven Spirits of God work in our lives

1. Ephesians 2:8-9 - For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God.

2. Isaiah 11:2-3 - And the Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.

Revelation 1:5 And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood,

The passage speaks of Jesus Christ, faithful witness, first begotten of the dead, and prince of kings of the earth, who loved us and washed us from our sins in his own blood.

1: “Jesus, Our Loving Savior” - Jesus died for us and washed away our sins with His own blood, demonstrating His deep love for us.

2: “The Faithful Witness” - Jesus is the faithful witness, and is the first begotten of the dead and the prince of kings of the earth. He is always faithful and trustworthy.

1: Hebrews 10:19-22, “Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the holy

places by the blood of Jesus, by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain, that is, through his flesh, and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.”

2: 1 John 1:7, “But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.”

Revelation 1:6 And hath made us kings and priests unto God and his Father; to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.

God has made us kings and priests to serve Him and His Father.

1. The Dignity of Serving God

2. Rejoice in Our Royal Priesthood

1. 1 Peter 2:5-9

2. Isaiah 61:6

Revelation 1:7 Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they also which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him. Even so, Amen.

The book of Revelation reveals that when Jesus returns, every eye will see Him and all people of the earth will mourn.

1. The Return of Jesus: The Hope of the World

2. Seeing Jesus: What This Means for Our Lives

1. Isaiah 40:10-11 - "Behold, the Lord GOD will come with a strong hand, and his arm shall rule for him: behold, his reward is with him, and his work before him. He shall feed his flock like a shepherd: he shall gather the lambs with his arm, and carry them in his bosom, and shall gently lead those that are with young."

2. Isaiah 25:9 - "And it shall be said in that day, Lo, this is our God; we have waited for

him, and he will save us: this is the LORD; we have waited for him, we will be glad and rejoice in his salvation."

Revelation 1:8 I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, saith the Lord, which is, and which was, and which is to come, the Almighty.

The Lord is the beginning and the end, the Alpha and Omega.

1: God is eternal, all-powerful, and unchanging.

2: Though the world around us is constantly in flux, God is the one unshakeable constant.

1: Malachi 3:6 “For I am the Lord, I do not change; Therefore you are not consumed, O sons of Jacob.”

2: Hebrews 13:8 “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.”

Revelation 1:9 I John, who also am your brother, and companion in tribulation, and in the kingdom and patience of Jesus Christ, was in the isle that is called Patmos, for the word of God, and for the testimony of Jesus Christ.

I John was exiled to Patmos, where he was able to write the book of Revelation for the word of God and the testimony of Jesus Christ.

1. The Power of Faithfulness in Tribulations

2. The Unchanging Nature of God's Love

1. James 1:2-4 - Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. And let endurance have its perfect result, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

2. 1 Peter 1:3-5 - Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to obtain an inheritance which is imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, who are protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

Revelation 1:10 I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, and heard behind me a great voice, as of a trumpet,

I was given a vision from God on the Lord's day.

1. The Lord's Day: Learning to Walk with God

2. The Voice of God: How to Hear His Call

1. Acts 2:1-4 - The sound of a rushing mighty wind and tongues of fire appeared when the Holy Spirit descended.

2. Ezekiel 1:4-14 - Ezekiel's vision of God surrounded by a whirlwind of fire.

Revelation 1:11 Saying, I am Alpha and Omega, the first and the last: and, What thou seest, write in a book, and send it unto the seven churches which are in Asia; unto Ephesus, and unto Smyrna, and unto Pergamos, and unto Thyatira, and unto Sardis, and unto Philadelphia, and unto Laodicea.

God instructs John to write down what he is shown and send it to the seven churches of Asia.

1. The importance of following God's commands.

2. The power of God's Word.

1. Deuteronomy 30:11-14 - For this commandment which I command thee this day, it is not hidden from thee, neither is it far off.

2. Isaiah 55:11 - So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it.

Revelation 1:12 And I turned to see the voice that spake with me. And being turned, I saw seven golden candlesticks;

John saw the voice of God and seven golden candlesticks.

1: We must always be open to the possibility of hearing the voice of God and trust that He will provide us with the spiritual guidance we need.

2: The seven golden candlesticks represent the seven churches of Revelation and serve as a reminder of the need for a strong spiritual foundation and support in our lives.

1: Matthew 7:7-8, "Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you: For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened."

2: Psalm 145:18, "The Lord is nigh unto all them that call upon him, to all that call upon him in truth."

Revelation 1:13 And in the midst of the seven candlesticks one like unto the Son of man, clothed with a garment down to the foot, and girt about the paps with a golden girdle.

John sees a figure like the Son of Man in the midst of seven candlesticks. He is clothed with a garment down to the foot and girded about the chest with a golden girdle.

1. Emulating Christ's Character: Lessons from Revelation 1:13

2. The Unfading Beauty of God's Holiness: A Study of Revelation 1:13

1. Matthew 5:16 - "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven."

2. 1 Peter 2:9 - "But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light."

Revelation 1:14 His head and his hairs were white like wool, as white as snow; and his eyes were as a flame of fire;

John's vision of Jesus in Revelation 1 reveals Christ as a divine figure with white hair and eyes like a flame of fire.

1: Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ is a divine figure with a transcendent presence.

2: Christ's divine nature is revealed in Revelation 1 with his white hair and fiery eyes.

1: Isaiah 1:18 - "Come now, let us reason together, says the Lord: though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow."

2: Daniel 7:9 - "As I looked, thrones were placed, and the Ancient of Days took his seat; his clothing was white as snow, and the hair of his head like pure wool."

Revelation 1:15 And his feet like unto fine brass, as if they burned in a furnace; and his voice as the sound of many waters.

John saw a vision of Jesus with feet like burning brass and a voice like the sound of many waters.

1. The Unshakable Strength of Jesus

2. The Majestic Voice of Jesus

1. Isaiah 43:2 - When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee: when thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned; neither shall the flame kindle upon thee.

2. Daniel 3:25 - He answered and said, Lo, I see four men loose, walking in the midst of the fire, and they have no hurt; and the form of the fourth is like the Son of God.

Revelation 1:16 And he had in his right hand seven stars: and out of his mouth went a sharp twoedged sword: and his countenance was as the sun shineth in his strength.

John sees a figure with seven stars in his right hand and a two-edged sword coming out of his mouth, and his face shines like the sun in full strength.

1. The Shining Light of Jesus: A Look at Revelation 1:16

2. The Strength of the Lord: How Revelation 1:16 Demonstrates His Power

1. Ephesians 6:10-18 - The Armor of God

2. Revelation 19:11-16 - The Return of Jesus in Power and Glory

Revelation 1:17 And when I saw him, I fell at his feet as dead. And he laid his right hand upon me, saying unto me, Fear not; I am the first and the last:

John saw a figure in his vision and fell at his feet in fear, but the figure comforted him by saying "Fear not; I am the first and the last".

1. God is always present and will provide comfort in times of fear.

2. We can trust in the Lord's power and sovereignty.

1. Psalm 46:1-2 - "God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea."

2. Isaiah 41:10 - "So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand."

Revelation 1:18 I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death.

Jesus Christ is alive and has the power of life and death.

1. The Power of Jesus Christ

2. Jesus Christ: The Key to Eternal Life

1. John 10:17-18, "For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life that I may take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This charge I have received from my Father."

2. Hebrews 2:14-15, "Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, he himself likewise partook of the same things, that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong slavery."

Revelation 1:19 Write the things which thou hast seen, and the things which are, and the things which shall be hereafter;

John is instructed to write down the things he has seen, the things that are present, and the things that are yet to come.

1. The Importance of Writing Things Down: How Recording Our Experiences Can Help Us Grow

2. The Hope of the Future: How Our Faith in What Is Yet to Come Can Help Us Persevere

1. Psalm 37:25 - “I have been young, and now am old; yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed begging bread.”

2. Luke 21:25-28 - “And there shall be signs in the sun, and in the moon, and in the stars; and upon the earth distress of nations, with perplexity; the sea and the waves roaring; Men's hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth: for the powers of heaven shall be shaken. And then shall they see the Son of man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh.”

Revelation 1:20 The mystery of the seven stars which thou sawest in my right hand, and the seven golden candlesticks. The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches: and the seven candlesticks which thou sawest are the seven churches.

The seven stars and the seven golden candlesticks represent the seven churches.

1. God’s protection and guidance over the Church

2. The mission of the Church in the world

1. Ephesians 3:10-11 - To the intent that now unto the principalities and powers in heavenly places might be known by the church the manifold wisdom of God

2. Acts 2:42 - And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.

Revelation 2 is the second chapter of the book of Revelation, continuing the messages to the seven churches. This chapter focuses on specific messages addressed to four of those churches: Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamum, and Thyatira.

1st Paragraph: The chapter begins with a message to the church in Ephesus. Jesus commends their works, labor, and perseverance but rebukes them for forsaking their first love (Revelation 2:1-4). He urges them to remember their initial love for Him and repent from their current state or else face the removal of their lampstand (Revelation 2:5).

2nd Paragraph: The next message is directed towards the church in Smyrna. Jesus acknowledges their tribulation and poverty but assures them that they are rich spiritually (Revelation 2:8-9). He encourages them not to fear persecution or imprisonment because they will receive a crown of life if they remain faithful even unto death (Revelation 2:10).

3rd Paragraph: The following messages are for Pergamum and Thyatira. To Pergamum, Jesus addresses concerns about false teachings within the church, specifically mentioning those who hold onto the teachings of Balaam and engage in sexual immorality (Revelation 2:14-15). He warns that unless they repent, He will come and fight against them with His word (Revelation 2:16). Regarding Thyatira, Jesus commends their works of love but rebukes them for tolerating a false prophetess named Jezebel who leads His servants into sexual immorality and idol worship (Revelation 2:19-20). He warns that unless they repent from these practices, there will be severe consequences (Revelation 2:21-23).

In summary, Chapter two of Revelation contains specific messages to four of the seven churches. Jesus commends the church in Ephesus for their works but urges them to return to their first love. He encourages the church in Smyrna, who are facing persecution, to remain faithful and promises them a crown of life. Jesus addresses concerns about false teachings and immoral practices within the churches in Pergamum and Thyatira, warning of consequences unless they repent. These messages highlight both commendations and rebukes, emphasizing the importance of faithfulness and righteousness within the church.

Revelation 2:1 Unto the angel of the church of Ephesus write; These things saith he that holdeth the seven stars in his right hand, who walketh in the midst of the seven golden candlesticks;

Christ walks among the seven golden candles and holds the seven stars in His right hand.

1. The Light of Christ: Walking in His Presence

2. Following the Light of Christ: Holding onto His Promises

Cross-

1. Matthew 5:14-16 - "You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven."

2. Philippians 4:19 - "And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus."

Revelation 2:2 I know thy works, and thy labour, and thy patience, and how thou canst not bear them which are evil: and thou hast tried them which say they are apostles, and are not, and hast found them liars:

The passage speaks about God's knowledge of people's works, labor, and patience, and their ability to discern right from wrong.

1. The importance of trusting in the Lord for discernment and guidance.

2. The power of patience and hard work in our spiritual walk with God.

1. Proverbs 3:5-6 Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.

2. James 1:2-4 Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

Revelation 2:3 And hast borne, and hast patience, and for my name's sake hast laboured, and hast not fainted.

The passage emphasizes the importance of bearing, patience, and laboring for the sake of God's name without becoming faint.

1. The Strength of Patience and Perseverance in Following God

2. The Power of Faithfulness in Serving God

1. 2 Corinthians 4:7-9 - "But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us. We are troubled on every side, yet not distressed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; Persecuted, but not forsaken; cast down, but not destroyed."

2. Galatians 6:9 - "And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not."

Revelation 2:4 Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love.

God has something against the church at Ephesus because they have left their first love.

1. Rekindling Our Passion for God

2. Returning to Our First Love

1. Hosea 6:4 - "O Ephraim, what shall I do unto thee? O Judah, what shall I do unto thee? for your goodness is as a morning cloud, and as the early dew it goeth away."

2. Jeremiah 31:3 - "The LORD hath appeared of old unto me, saying, Yea, I have loved thee with an everlasting love: therefore with lovingkindness have I drawn thee."

Revelation 2:5 Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent.

God warns believers to remember where they have come from and to repent or He will remove them from their place.

1. Repent or Perish - Refocusing on the Need for Repentance

2. The Necessity of Repentance - Not Neglecting the Basics of Faith

1. Luke 13:3 - "I tell you, no; but unless you repent you will all likewise perish."

2. Ezekiel 18:30-32 - "Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, every one according to his ways,??says the Lord GOD. ?□epent, and turn from all your transgressions, so that iniquity will not be your ruin. Cast away from you all the transgressions which you have committed, and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit. For why should you die, O house of Israel? For I have no pleasure in the death of one who dies,??Says the Lord GOD. ?□herefore turn and live!??

Revelation 2:6 But this thou hast, that thou hatest the deeds of the Nicolaitanes, which I also hate.

God commends the church at Ephesus for hating the deeds of the Nicolaitanes, which He also hates.

1. The Dangers of Following False Teachings

2. God's Love for His Church

1. Matthew 7:15-20 (context: Beware of false prophets)

2. 1 John 4:7-10 (context: God's love for us and for His children)

Revelation 2:7 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the midst of the paradise of God.

Through Revelation 2:7, God encourages the churches to listen to what the Spirit is saying, and those who overcome will be given access to the tree of life in His paradise.

1. The Power of Overcoming: Reaching Heaven Through Faith

2. Listen to the Spirit: Discernment in a Faithful Life

1. Romans 8:37 - "Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us."

2. John 15:5 - "I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing."

Revelation 2:8 And unto the angel of the church in Smyrna write; These things saith the first and the last, which was dead, and is alive;

This verse from the book of Revelation emphasizes that God is the beginning and the end, and that He has conquered death.

1. God's Unfathomable Power: Exploring the Depth of God's Sovereignty

2. The Ultimate Victory: Celebrating the Triumph of Life Over Death

1. 1 Corinthians 15:54-57 - Wherein he hath abounded toward us in all wisdom and prudence;

2. Psalm 136:1-3 - O give thanks unto the Lord; for he is good: for his mercy endureth for ever.

Revelation 2:9 I know thy works, and tribulation, and poverty, (but thou art rich) and I know the blasphemy of them which say they are Jews, and are not, but are the synagogue of Satan.

God knows the works of those who are suffering tribulation and poverty, even though they may be rich in faith. He also knows the blasphemy of those who claim to be Jews, but are actually part of the synagogue of Satan.

1. God Knows Our Hardships: Revelation 2:9

2. The Danger of False Allegiance: Revelation 2:9

1. Matthew 6:19-21 - Store up treasures in heaven, not on earth.

2. John 8:31-32 - Know the truth and remain in it.

Revelation 2:10 Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast some of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days: be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life.

Christians should not be afraid of suffering, as God will reward them with eternal life if they remain faithful, even unto death.

1. Persevere in Faith Despite Suffering

2. The Reward of Eternal Life for Faithful Disciples

1. James 1:12 - Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love him.

2. Romans 8:17 - and if children, then heirs? eirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.

Revelation 2:11 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; He that overcometh shall not be hurt of the second death.

The Spirit speaks to the churches, telling them that those who overcome will not be harmed by the second death.

1. Overcoming the Second Death Through Faith in Jesus

2. The Power of Overcoming: Becoming an Overcomer

1. John 3:16 - For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

2. Romans 8:37-39 - Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us. For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Revelation 2:12 And to the angel of the church in Pergamos write; These things saith he which hath the sharp sword with two edges;

Jesus speaks to the angel of the church in Pergamos, proclaiming that He wields a sharp, two-edged sword.

1. The Power of Jesus Christ: Understanding His Authority

2. The Sword of the Lord: Its Significance in Scripture

1. Hebrews 4:12 - "For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart."

2. Ephesians 6:17 - "And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God."

Revelation 2:13 I know thy works, and where thou dwellest, even where Satan's seat is: and thou holdest fast my name, and hast not denied my faith, even in those days wherein Antipas was my faithful martyr, who was slain among you, where Satan dwelleth.

Jesus acknowledges the works of the church at Pergamos, who have not denied their faith even in a difficult time, when their faithful martyr Antipas was slain.

1. Standing Firm in Our Faith

2. Overcoming Opposition with Faith

1. Ephesians 6:10-18, Be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power.

2. 1 Peter 5:8-9, Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.

Revelation 2:14 But I have a few things against thee, because thou hast there them that hold the doctrine of Balaam, who taught Balac to cast a stumblingblock before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed unto idols, and to commit fornication.

The Lord has a few complaints against the Church of Pergamos because it is allowing those who follow the teachings of Balaam to lead people to eat food sacrificed to idols and to commit immorality.

1. God's Standards: Keeping Ourselves Holy

2. The Danger of False Teaching

1. 1 Corinthians 10:20-21 - "No, I imply that what pagans sacrifice they offer to demons and not to God. I do not want you to be participants with demons. You cannot drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of demons. You cannot partake of the table of the Lord and the table of demons."

2. 1 Timothy 4:1-3 - "Now the Spirit expressly says that in later times some will depart from the faith by devoting themselves to deceitful spirits and teachings of demons, through the insincerity of liars whose consciences are seared, who forbid marriage and require abstinence from foods that God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and know the truth."

Revelation 2:15 So hast thou also them that hold the doctrine of the Nicolaitanes, which thing I hate.

God hates the doctrine of the Nicolaitanes.

1. God's Hate: What It Means for Us

2. The Dangers of Following False Doctrine

1. Proverbs 8:13 - "The fear of the Lord is to hate evil; pride and arrogance and the evil way and the perverse mouth I hate."

2. Matthew 7:15-20 - "Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep?□ clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves. You will recognize them by their fruits."

Revelation 2:16 Repent; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will fight against them with the sword of my mouth.

Repent or face the consequences of God's judgment.

1: Repent and Return to God.

2: The Sword of God's Mouth.

1: Ezekiel 18:30-32 - Repent and turn from your wicked ways and live.

2: Hebrews 4:12-13 - The power of the word of God is sharper than any two-edged sword.

Revelation 2:17 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the hidden manna, and will give him a white stone, and in the stone a new name written, which no man knoweth saving he that receiveth it.

The Spirit speaks to the churches, encouraging them to overcome and promising a reward of hidden manna and a white stone with a new name written on it.

1. "How to Overcome: Finding Strength in the Promise of Revelation 2:17"

2. "The Power of a New Name: A Reflection on Revelation 2:17"

1. John 6:31-35 - Jesus??promise of manna from Heaven

2. Isaiah 62:2 - The promise of a new name given by God

Revelation 2:18 And unto the angel of the church in Thyatira write; These things saith the Son of God, who hath his eyes like unto a flame of fire, and his feet are like fine brass;

The Son of God speaks to the church in Thyatira with eyes like a flame of fire and feet like fine brass.

1. Living a life of purpose and passion

2. Being strong in your faith

1. Romans 12:2 - And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

2. Psalm 119:105 - Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.

Revelation 2:19 I know thy works, and charity, and service, and faith, and thy patience, and thy works; and the last to be more than the first.

God recognizes the faith, charity, service, patience, and works of Christians and

encourages them to continue to grow in their faith.

1. The Power of Works: How Doing Good Can Help Strengthen Your Faith

2. Growing in Faith: How to Persevere in the Face of Adversity

1. James 2:14-17 - "What does it profit, my brethren, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can faith save him? If a brother or sister is naked and destitute of daily food, and one of you says to them, ?epart in peace, be warmed and filled,??but you do not give them the things which are needed for the body, what does it profit? Thus also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead."

2. Romans 10:17 - "So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God."

Revelation 2:20 Notwithstanding I have a few things against thee, because thou sufferest that woman Jezebel, which calleth herself a prophetess, to teach and to seduce my servants to commit fornication, and to eat things sacrificed unto idols.

John the Apostle warns the church in Thyatira about Jezebel, a false prophetess who is leading the church astray by teaching them to commit fornication and to eat things sacrificed to idols.

1: "The Danger of False Teaching"

2: "The Power of Faithful Discipleship"

1: Matthew 7:15-20 - "Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep? clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves. You will recognize them by their fruits. Are grapes gathered from thornbushes, or figs from thistles? So, every healthy tree bears good fruit, but the diseased tree bears bad fruit. A healthy tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a diseased tree bear good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. Thus you will recognize them by their fruits."

2: 1 John 4:1-3 - "Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world. By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you heard was coming and now is in the world already."

Revelation 2:21 And I gave her space to repent of her fornication; and she repented not.

The passage reveals that God gave someone a chance to repent of their sins, but they did not.

1: We must take advantage of the opportunities God gives us to repent.

2: Repentance is a serious matter and should not be taken lightly.

1: Proverbs 28:13 - "He who conceals his sins does not prosper, but whoever confesses and renounces them finds mercy."

2: Luke 13:3 - "I tell you, no! But unless you repent, you too will all perish."

Revelation 2:22 Behold, I will cast her into a bed, and them that commit adultery with her into great tribulation, except they repent of their deeds.

God will punish those who commit adultery, unless they repent.

1. The Consequences of Adultery: Repent before it is too Late

2. God's Love and Forgiveness: A Chance to Start Again

1. Proverbs 6:32-33 ?□ut a man who commits adultery has no sense; whoever does so destroys himself. Blows and disgrace are his lot, and his shame will never be wiped away.??

2. John 8:1-11 ?□esus went to the Mount of Olives. Early in the morning he came again to the temple. All the people came to him, and he sat down and taught them. The scribes and Pharisees brought a woman who had been caught in adultery, and they made her stand in the middle. ?□eacher,??they said to him, ?□his woman was caught in the act of adultery. In the law Moses commanded us to stone such women. Now what do you say??? They said this to test him, so that they could have some charge to bring against him. Jesus bent down and wrote with his finger on the ground. When they kept on questioning him, he straightened up and said to them, ?□et any one of you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her.??Again he stooped down and wrote on the ground. At this, those who heard began to go away one at a time, the older ones first, until only Jesus was left, with the woman still standing there. Jesus straightened up and asked her, ?□oman, where are they? Has no one condemned you????□o one, sir,??she said. ?□hen neither do I condemn you,??Jesus declared. ?□o now and leave your life of sin.?□□?

Revelation 2:23 And I will kill her children with death; and all the churches shall know that I am he which searcheth the reins and hearts: and I will give unto every one of you according to your works.

God will judge each person according to their works and all churches will know that God searches the hearts and minds of His people.

1: God's Judgment is Just - Revelation 2:23

2: Our Works Determine Our Reward - Revelation 2:23

1: Jeremiah 17:10 - I the Lord search the heart, I try the reins, even to give every man according to his ways, and according to the fruit of his doings.

2: Psalm 62:12 - Also unto thee, O Lord, belongeth mercy: for thou renderest to every man according to his work.

Revelation 2:24 But unto you I say, and unto the rest in Thyatira, as many as have not this doctrine, and which have not known the depths of Satan, as they speak; I will put upon you none other burden.

In Revelation 2: 24, the Lord speaks to those in Thyatira who do not have the same doctrine and are not familiar with the depths of Satan. He promises not to impose any additional burden on them.

1. God's Gracious Protection: How the Lord Cares for His Own

2. God's Love and Mercy: The Lord's Promise of No Burden

1. Psalm 55:22 ???□ast thy burden upon the Lord, and he shall sustain thee: he shall never suffer the righteous to be moved.??

2. Hebrews 12:1-3 ???□herefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God. For consider him that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds.??

Revelation 2:25 But that which ye have already hold fast till I come.

Believers are called to cling to the faith they already have until Christ returns.

1. Living for Christ in the Present Moment

2. Persevering in the Faith Until Jesus' Return

1. Hebrews 10:35-36 ???herefore do not throw away your confidence, which has a great reward. For you have need of endurance, so that when you have done the will of God you may receive what is promised.??

2. Romans 12:12 ???e joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer.??

Revelation 2:26 And he that overcometh, and keepeth my works unto the end, to him will I give power over the nations:

Those who faithfully remain true to God's works until the end will be rewarded with power over the nations.

1. Overcoming Adversity: Reaping the Rewards of Faithfulness

2. Daring to Persevere: Gaining Strength Through Endurance

1. Romans 8:37 - No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.

2. Isaiah 40:31 - But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.

Revelation 2:27 And he shall rule them with a rod of iron; as the vessels of a potter shall they be broken to shivers: even as I received of my Father.

Jesus will rule people with an iron rod, breaking them as if they are pots, just as he received from the Father.

1. "The Rule of Jesus: Breaking and Shaping Us"

2. "The Father's Will: Submitting to Jesus' Rule"

1. Psalm 2:9 - You shall break them with a rod of iron and dash them in pieces like a potter?□ vessel.

2. Ephesians 5:22-24 - Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church, his body, and is himself its Savior. Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit in everything to their husbands.

Revelation 2:28 And I will give him the morning star.

God promises those who overcome the temptation of the world to be given the morning star.

1. The Promise of the Morning Star: A Study of Revelation 2:28

2. Overcoming Temptation and Gaining God's Blessing

1. Isaiah 14:12-14, describing the fall of Satan

2. Philippians 2:9-11, describing Jesus as the morning star.

Revelation 2:29 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.

In Revelation 2:29, believers are encouraged to listen to what the Spirit is saying to churches.

1. The Power of Listening to the Spirit

2. The Value of Heeding the Word of God

1. James 1:19-20 - ?□ now this, my beloved brothers: let every person be quick to hear,

slow to speak, slow to anger; for the anger of man does not produce the righteousness of God.??

2. Isaiah 55:3 - ?□ncline your ear, and come to me; hear, that your soul may live.??

Revelation 3 is the third chapter of the book of Revelation, continuing the messages to the seven churches. This chapter focuses on specific messages addressed to three of those churches: Sardis, Philadelphia, and Laodicea.

1st Paragraph: The chapter begins with a message to the church in Sardis. Jesus acknowledges their reputation for being alive but warns them that they are spiritually dead (Revelation 3:1). He urges them to strengthen what remains and repent from their complacency, or else He will come upon them like a thief (Revelation 3:2-3).

2nd Paragraph: The next message is directed towards the church in Philadelphia. Jesus commends their faithfulness despite their limited strength and assures them that He has opened a door for them that no one can shut (Revelation 3:7-8). He promises that because they have kept His word and not denied His name, He will keep them from the hour of trial that will come upon the whole world (Revelation 3:10).

3rd Paragraph: The final message is for Laodicea. Jesus rebukes this church for being lukewarm—neither hot nor cold—and warns that He will spit them out of His mouth if they do not repent (Revelation 3:15-16). Despite their self-perceived wealth and sufficiency, Jesus exposes their spiritual poverty and counsels them to seek true riches from Him (Revelation 3:17-18). He invites those who hear His voice to open the door so that He may enter and dine with them (Revelation 3:20).

In summary, Chapter three of Revelation contains specific messages to three of the seven churches. Jesus addresses spiritual deadness in Sardis and urges repentance. To Philadelphia, He commends faithfulness and promises protection from coming trials. In Laodicea, Jesus rebukes lukewarmness and calls for repentance, offering the opportunity for true spiritual riches. These messages emphasize the need for genuine faith, repentance from complacency, and a fervent pursuit of righteousness in order to receive God's approval and blessings.

Revelation 3:1 And unto the angel of the church in Sardis write; These things saith he that hath the seven Spirits of God, and the seven stars; I know thy works, that thou hast a name that thou livest, and art dead.

The angel of the church in Sardis is addressed, and it is revealed that the one addressing him has the seven Spirits of God and the seven stars. The works of the church in Sardis are revealed, showing that they have a name that implies they are alive, but in actuality

they are dead.

1. The Danger of Dead Faith: Examining Revelation 3:1

2. Living Life to the Fullest: Reflections on Revelation 3:1

1. Jeremiah 29:13 - "And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart."

2. John 10:10 - "The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly."

Revelation 3:2 Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die: for I have not found thy works perfect before God.

Christians should be watchful and strive to perfect their works in the eyes of God.

1. Strengthening Our Faith: How to Perfect Our Works in God's Eyes

2. The Call to Remain Watchful: Why We Should Strengthen Our Faith

1. James 4:17 - "Therefore, to one who knows the right thing to do and does not do it, to him it is sin."

2. 1 John 3:18 - "Little children, let us not love with word or with tongue, but in deed and truth."

Revelation 3:3 Remember therefore how thou hast received and heard, and hold fast, and repent. If therefore thou shalt not watch, I will come on thee as a thief, and thou shalt not know what hour I will come upon thee.

The passage from Revelation 3:3 reminds Christians to remember the teachings they have heard, to hold onto them, and to repent. They are also warned that if they do not watch, Jesus will come like a thief and they will not know the hour of His coming.

1. The Power of Repentance: How to Live a Life of Repentance

2. Jesus is Coming: The Reality of His Return

1. Luke 13:3 - “Unless you repent, you will all likewise perish.”

2. 1 Thessalonians 5:2-3 - “For you yourselves are fully aware that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. While people are saying, ‘There is peace and security,’ then sudden destruction will come upon them as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and they will not escape.”

Revelation 3:4 Thou hast a few names even in Sardis which have not defiled their garments; and they shall walk with me in white: for they are worthy.

The few names in Sardis have remained faithful and will be rewarded with eternal life.

1: Remain Faithful and Receive Eternal Life

2: Persevere Through Difficult Times

1: Romans 8:28 “And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.”

2: Colossians 3:23 “And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men.”

Revelation 3:5 He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life, but I will confess his name before my Father, and before his angels.

Believers who overcome their trials and remain faithful will be rewarded with white garments and will be acknowledged by God and His angels.

1. The Reward of Faithfulness - Exploring God's promise of clothing believers in white garments if they remain true despite the odds.

2. Victorious Overcomers - Examining how the faithful can stand firm in the face of adversity and receive the blessings of God.

1. Matthew 24:13 - “But the one who stands firm to the end will be saved.”

2. 2 Corinthians 5:10 - “For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each of us may receive what is due us for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad.”

Revelation 3:6 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.

In Revelation 3:6, Jesus encourages those who have an ear to listen and hear what the Spirit is telling the churches.

1. The Importance of Listening to the Spirit's Voice

2. Cultivating Spiritual Discernment in the Church

1. Acts 17:11 - Now the Bereans were of more noble character than the Thessalonians, for they received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true.

2. James 1:19 - My dear brothers and sisters, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry.

Revelation 3:7 And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write; These things saith he that is holy, he that is true, he that hath the key of David, he that openeth, and no man shutteth; and shutteth, and no man openeth;

Jesus is the one with the power to open and close doors, and he speaks to the church in Philadelphia.

1. "The Key to Open Doors"

2. "God's Sovereignty in Our Lives"

1. Isaiah 22:22 - "And the key of the house of David will I lay upon his shoulder; so he shall open, and none shall shut; and he shall shut, and none shall open."

2. 2 Corinthians 5:17-20 - "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God

was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God."

Revelation 3:8 I know thy works: behold, I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it: for thou hast a little strength, and hast kept my word, and hast not denied my name.

This passage emphasizes the open door that God has set before us and the strength that we have to keep His word and not deny His name.

1. Relying on God's Strength to Overcome Challenges

2. The Open Door of Opportunity Awaiting Us

1. Philippians 4:13 - "I can do all things through him who strengthens me."

2. Isaiah 43:19 - "Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?"

Revelation 3:9 Behold, I will make them of the synagogue of Satan, which say they are Jews, and are not, but do lie; behold, I will make them to come and worship before thy feet, and to know that I have loved thee.

God will bring judgement on those who falsely claim to be Jews but are not, and make them recognize His love for those who are faithful.

1. God is the Judge of the Faithful

2. Recognizing God's Love Through Faith

1. Romans 2:28-29 - For no one is a Jew who is merely one outwardly, nor is circumcision outward and physical. But a Jew is one inwardly, and circumcision is a matter of the heart, by the Spirit, not by the letter. His praise is not from man but from God.

2. James 2:14-17 - What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him? If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food, and one of you says to them, “Go in peace, be warmed and filled,”

without giving them the things needed for the body, what good is that? So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.

Revelation 3:10 Because thou hast kept the word of my patience, I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth.

God will keep those who keep His word from the hour of temptation to come upon the world.

1. Keeping God's Word: Staying Strong Through Temptation

2. Persevere in Faith: God's Promise of Protection During Troubling Times

1. James 1:12-15 - Blessed is the one who perseveres under trial because, having stood the test, that person will receive the crown of life that the Lord has promised to those who love him.

2. 1 Corinthians 10:13 - No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.

Revelation 3:11 Behold, I come quickly: hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown.

Jesus warns us to be faithful in following him so that no one can take away our crown.

1. The Crown of Faithfulness: How to Remain Steadfast in Following Jesus

2. Don't Lose Sight of Your Crown: Staying Focused on Jesus

1. 1 Corinthians 9:25-27 - Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will not last, but we do it to get a crown that will last forever.

2. Hebrews 3:12-14 - See to it, brothers and sisters, that none of you has a sinful, unbelieving heart that turns away from the living God. But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called “Today,” so that none of you may be hardened by sin’s deceitfulness. We have come to share in Christ, if indeed we hold our original conviction

firmly to the very end.

Revelation 3:12 Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple of my God, and he shall go no more out: and I will write upon him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, which is new Jerusalem, which cometh down out of heaven from my God: and I will write upon him my new name.

Those who overcome will become a pillar in God's temple and will never leave; their name will be written with the name of God and the city of God, which is the New Jerusalem that comes from God, and God's new name will also be written on them.

1. The Promises of God: Becoming a Pillar in His Temple

2. Overcoming and Rewarded: God Writing His Name on Us

1. Isaiah 28:16 - Therefore thus says the Lord GOD, “Behold, I am the one laying in Zion a stone, a tested stone, A costly cornerstone for the foundation, firmly placed. He who believes in it will not be disturbed.

2. John 14:2-3 - In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.

Revelation 3:13 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.

Jesus speaks to the churches, encouraging them to listen to the Spirit and obey His commands.

1. "Living in Obedience: Obeying the Spirit's Call"

2. "Hearing What the Spirit Says: Understanding God's Will"

1. Romans 8:14 - "For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God."

2. James 1:22-25 - "But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks intently at his natural face in a mirror. For he looks at himself and goes away and at once forgets what he was like. But the one who looks into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and perseveres, being no hearer who forgets but a doer who acts, he will be blessed in his

doing."

Revelation 3:14 And unto the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write; These things saith the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation of God;

The Lord, the faithful and true witness and the beginning of creation speaks to the angel of the Laodicean church.

1. "The Faithfulness of the Lord"

2. "The Beginnings of Creation"

1. Romans 3:3-4 - "For what if some did not believe? Shall their unbelief make the faithfulness of God without effect? Certainly not! Indeed, let God be true but every man a liar."

2. Colossians 1:15-17 - "He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him. And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist."

Revelation 3:15 I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot.

The Lord knows the works of the people, but wants them to be fully committed in their beliefs.

1: The Lord Wants Us to be Fully Committed

2: Hot or Cold- The Lord Wants Us to Choose

1: James 4:17 - "Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin."

2: Matthew 6:21 - "For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also."

Revelation 3:16 So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue

thee out of my mouth.

God will reject those who are lukewarm in their faith.

1. The Danger of Lukewarm Faith

2. The Importance of Zeal in Our Faith

1. James 4:4-10

2. Matthew 25:1-13

Revelation 3:17 Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked:

This passage reveals God's warning to those who are wealthy and think they have need of nothing.

1: No matter how much wealth one has, it cannot save them from the judgement of God.

2: Riches can be a form of spiritual poverty if we put our trust in them instead of the Lord.

1: 1 Timothy 6:17-19 - “Instruct those who are rich in this present world not to be conceited or to fix their hope on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly supplies us with all things to enjoy. Instruct them to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share, storing up for themselves the treasure of a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is life indeed.”

2: James 5:1-6 - “Come now, you rich, weep and howl for the miseries that are coming upon you. Your riches have rotted and your garments are moth-eaten. Your gold and silver have corroded, and their corrosion will be evidence against you and will eat your flesh like fire. You have laid up treasure in the last days. Behold, the wages of the laborers who mowed your fields, which you kept back by fraud, are crying out against you, and the cries of the harvesters have reached the ears of the Lord of hosts. You have lived on the earth in luxury and in self-indulgence. You have fattened your hearts in a day of slaughter. You have condemned and murdered the righteous person. He does not resist you.”

Revelation 3:18 I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see.

The passage encourages readers to purchase from God gold that has been tested by fire, white clothing to cover their nakedness, and eye salve to be able to see.

1. The Spiritual Riches of God: How to Find Abundance in the Middle of a Crisis

2. The Power of Faith: How to Receive the Clothes of Salvation in Times of Need

1. 2 Corinthians 5:17 - Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.

2. Isaiah 61:10 - I will greatly rejoice in the Lord; my soul shall exult in my God, for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation; he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself like a priest with a beautiful headdress, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

Revelation 3:19 As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent.

God loves us and disciplines us to bring us closer to Him.

1. The Love and Discipline of God

2. Zealous Repentance

1. Hebrews 12:4-11 - The Discipline of God

2. Luke 15:11-32 - The Love of God Seen in Repentance

Revelation 3:20 Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.

This passage speaks of Jesus knocking on the door of a person's heart, and if they open

the door, Jesus will enter and have fellowship with them.

1. An Invitation to Intimacy with Jesus

2. Opening the Door to a Relationship with Jesus

1. John 15:4-5 - “Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.”

2. Ephesians 3:17-19 - “So that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.”

Revelation 3:21 To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne.

Jesus promises to share His throne with those who overcome, as He has already overcome and is seated with the Father in His throne.

1. "The Promise of a Throne: Overcoming with Jesus"

2. "Living Victorious: Seated with Christ in His Throne"

1. Philippians 2:5-11 - Jesus humbled Himself and became obedient unto death, even death on a cross.

2. Hebrews 12:1-2 - Let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith.

Revelation 3:22 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.

This verse from Revelation encourages believers to listen to what the Spirit is saying to the churches.

1. "Be a Listening Church: Hearing What the Spirit is Saying"

2. "Living in Obedience: Responding to What the Spirit is Saying"

1. John 10:27, “My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me.”

2. Romans 12:2, “Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.”

Revelation 4 is the fourth chapter of the book of Revelation and marks a significant shift in the narrative. This chapter focuses on John's vision of the heavenly throne room and the worship that takes place there.

1st Paragraph: The chapter begins with John describing a door standing open in heaven, and he hears a voice inviting him to come up and see what must take place after these things (Revelation 4:1). Immediately, John is caught up in the Spirit and finds himself in the presence of God's throne. He sees a magnificent scene with God seated on His throne, surrounded by twenty-four elders dressed in white robes, representing authority and purity (Revelation 4:2-5). From the throne come flashes of lightning, rumblings, and peals of thunder—a powerful display symbolizing God's majesty.

2nd Paragraph: In verses 6-8, John describes four living creatures before God's throne. These creatures are covered with eyes all around—symbolizing their omniscience—and they have different faces like a lion, an ox, a man, and an eagle (Revelation 4:6-7). They continually worship God day and night proclaiming His holiness by saying "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty" (Revelation 4:8). Their worship leads to an atmosphere where twenty-four elders fall down before Him who sits on the throne casting their crowns before Him as an act of surrender and adoration (Revelation 4:9-11).

3rd Paragraph: The focus of this chapter is primarily on depicting the awe-inspiring glory and worship that occurs in heaven's throne room. It provides readers with a glimpse into heavenly realities beyond earthly comprehension. The imagery used—such as lightning, thunderous sounds, living creatures with multiple eyes—serves to convey both grandeur and reverence associated with the presence of God. The continuous worship of the living creatures and the twenty-four elders highlights the eternal nature of worship and emphasizes God's holiness, sovereignty, and worthiness to receive honor and glory.

In summary, Chapter four of Revelation portrays John's vision of the heavenly throne room. He witnesses a scene where God is seated on His throne, surrounded by twenty-four elders and four living creatures. The chapter emphasizes the magnificence and holiness of God through vivid imagery and continuous worship offered by these celestial beings. It serves as a powerful reminder that God is exalted above all creation and worthy of eternal adoration.

Revelation 4:1 After this I looked, and, behold, a door was opened in heaven: and the first voice which I heard was as it were of a trumpet talking with me; which said, Come up hither, and I will shew thee things which must be hereafter.

John is invited to heaven by a voice resembling a trumpet and is shown things that are to come.

1. Don't be afraid to close the doors of the past and open the doors of the future.

2. We can always find hope for the future in God's promises.

1. Isaiah 43:19 - “Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.

2. Hebrews 11:1 - Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.

Revelation 4:2 And immediately I was in the spirit: and, behold, a throne was set in heaven, and one sat on the throne.

John is taken into the spirit and sees a throne in Heaven with someone sitting on it.

1. How to Trust in God's Greatness and Power

2. The Majesty of Heaven

1. Isaiah 6:1-2 - In the year that King Uzziah died I saw the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up: and his train filled the temple.

2. Psalm 103:19 - The Lord has established his throne in the heavens, and his kingdom rules over all.

Revelation 4:3 And he that sat was to look upon like a jasper and a sardine stone: and there was a rainbow round about the throne, in sight like unto an emerald.

The one seated on the throne was described as having the appearance of a jasper and

sardine stone and a rainbow in the form of an emerald encircling the throne.

1. God's Majesty is Beyond Human Comprehension

2. The Symbolism of the Colorful Rainbow in the Bible

1. Ezekiel 1:28 - "As the appearance of the bow that is in the cloud in the day of rain, so was the appearance of the brightness round about. This was the appearance of the likeness of the glory of the LORD."

2. Revelation 21:11 - "Having the glory of God: and her light was like unto a stone most precious, even like a jasper stone, clear as crystal."

Revelation 4:4 And round about the throne were four and twenty seats: and upon the seats I saw four and twenty elders sitting, clothed in white raiment; and they had on their heads crowns of gold.

24 elders are seen seated around the throne of God, wearing white robes and golden crowns.

1. "The Majesty of Heaven: Understanding the Nature of the Throne of God"

2. "Our Role as Servants of God: The Significance of the 24 Elders"

1. Isaiah 6:1-3

2. 1 Peter 5:1-4

Revelation 4:5 And out of the throne proceeded lightnings and thunderings and voices: and there were seven lamps of fire burning before the throne, which are the seven Spirits of God.

The throne of God in Heaven is surrounded by seven lamps of fire which symbolize the seven Spirits of God, accompanied by thunderings, lightnings, and voices.

1. The Power of the Seven Spirits of God

2. The Majesty of God's Throne in Heaven

1. Isaiah 11:2-3 - The spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord.

2. Ephesians 4:4-6 - There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

Revelation 4:6 And before the throne there was a sea of glass like unto crystal: and in the midst of the throne, and round about the throne, were four beasts full of eyes before and behind.

The throne of God is surrounded by a sea of glass and four beasts with eyes before and behind.

1. The Majesty of God's Throne

2. The Watchfulness of God's Servants

1. Ezekiel 1:4-14 - The vision of the creatures before the throne of God.

2. Exodus 24:17 - Moses and the elders behold the glory of the Lord.

Revelation 4:7 And the first beast was like a lion, and the second beast like a calf, and the third beast had a face as a man, and the fourth beast was like a flying eagle.

A description is given of four beasts, each one resembling a lion, a calf, a man, and an eagle respectively.

1. God's Majestic Creatures: Exploring the Beauty of Creation

2. The Power of Transformation: Becoming Who God Intended Us to Be

1. Psalm 104:24 - How many are your works, O Lord! In wisdom you made them all; the earth is full of your creatures.

2. Isaiah 40:31 - But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.

Revelation 4:8 And the four beasts had each of them six wings about him; and they were full of eyes within: and they rest not day and night, saying, Holy, holy, holy, LORD God Almighty, which was, and is, and is to come.

God's holiness is infinite and timeless.

1. The Unending Praise of the Heavenly Hosts

2. Contemplating the Majesty of God

1. Isaiah 6:3 - And one cried unto another, and said, Holy, holy, holy, is the LORD of hosts: the whole earth is full of his glory.

2. 1 Peter 1:15-16 - But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation; Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy.

Revelation 4:9 And when those beasts give glory and honour and thanks to him that sat on the throne, who liveth for ever and ever,

The heavenly creatures give glory and honor to God, who lives forever.

1. God is Forever: A Reflection on Revelation 4:9

2. Worship God Forever: A Look at Revelation 4:9

1. Psalm 90:2 - "Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever thou hadst formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, thou art God."

2. Romans 11:36 - "For of him, and through him, and to him, are all things: to whom be glory for ever. Amen."

Revelation 4:10 The four and twenty elders fall down before him that sat on the throne, and worship him that liveth for ever and ever, and cast their crowns before the throne,

saying,

The twenty-four elders show reverence to God by worshiping Him and laying down their crowns.

1. "The Meaning of Worship in our Lives"

2. "Submitting to God's Power and Authority"

1. Psalm 95:6 - “Come, let us bow down in worship, let us kneel before the Lord our Maker.”

2. Philippians 2:10-11 - “At the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”

Revelation 4:11 Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.

God is worthy of glory, honor, and power for He has created all things for His pleasure.

1: God, the Creator of the Universe, is Worthy of Honor and Praise

2: All Things were Created for God's Pleasure and Glory

1: Colossians 1:16 For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him:

2: Isaiah 43:7 Even every one that is called by my name: for I have created him for my glory, I have formed him; yea, I have made him.

Revelation 5 is the fifth chapter of the book of Revelation and continues John's vision in the heavenly throne room. This chapter focuses on the scroll with seven seals and the Lamb who is worthy to open it.

1st Paragraph: The chapter begins with John seeing a scroll in God's right hand, sealed with seven seals (Revelation 5:1). An angel proclaims with a loud voice, asking who is

worthy to open the scroll and break its seals. No one in heaven or on earth is found worthy to do so, which causes John to weep (Revelation 5:2-4). However, one of the elders tells him not to weep because the Lion of Judah, the Root of David, has triumphed and can open the scroll (Revelation 5:5).

2nd Paragraph: In verses 6-7, John sees a Lamb standing as though it had been slain at God's throne. The Lamb has seven horns symbolizing power and seven eyes representing omniscience—attributes that enable Him to carry out God's will (Revelation 5:6). The Lamb takes the scroll from God's right hand amidst great worship and adoration from all creatures in heaven and on earth (Revelation 5:8-14). They sing a new song praising both God and the Lamb for their redemptive work through His blood.

3rd Paragraph: This chapter reveals that only Jesus Christ—the Lion of Judah—has triumphed over sin and death. He alone is found worthy to open the scroll containing future events that will unfold according to God's plan. The imagery of Jesus as a slain Lamb emphasizes His sacrificial death on behalf of humanity—a central theme throughout Revelation. The worship offered by all creatures highlights Jesus' unique role as both fully divine (worthy of worship) and fully human (the One who was slain). The chapter conveys the anticipation and joy surrounding Jesus' redemptive work and the fulfillment of God's purposes.

In summary, Chapter five of Revelation presents John's vision of the scroll with seven seals in God's right hand. It reveals that only Jesus Christ, depicted as the triumphant Lion of Judah and the sacrificial Lamb, is worthy to open the scroll. The chapter emphasizes Jesus' redemptive work through His sacrificial death and highlights the worship and adoration given to Him by all creatures in heaven and on earth. It conveys a sense of anticipation for future events to unfold according to God's plan, ultimately leading to His ultimate victory over evil.

Revelation 5:1 And I saw in the right hand of him that sat on the throne a book written within and on the backside, sealed with seven seals.

John saw a book in the right hand of him sitting on the throne, which was sealed with seven seals.

1. The Sealed Book: Unlocking the Mystery of God's Will

2. The Power of the Throne: Releasing the Sealed Book

1. Daniel 7:9-14 - Daniel's vision of the Ancient of Days and the books

2. Hebrews 10:19-20 - Entering God's presence with confidence and boldness

Revelation 5:2 And I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, Who is worthy to open the book, and to loose the seals thereof?

A strong angel questions who is worthy to open a book and break its seals.

1. God's Unending Search for Those Who are Worthy

2. What Does it Take to be Worthy?

1. Hebrews 4:15-16 - For we do not have a High Priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in all things as we are, yet without sin. Therefore let us draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

2. 2 Timothy 2:20-21 - But in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and of silver, but also of wood and of earth; and some to honor, and some to dishonor. If a man therefore purge himself from these, he shall be a vessel unto honor, sanctified, and meet for the master's use, and prepared unto every good work.

Revelation 5:3 And no man in heaven, nor in earth, neither under the earth, was able to open the book, neither to look thereon.

No one was able to open the book or even look at it.

1. God's Plans are Beyond our Comprehension

2. The Power of God's Word

1. Isaiah 55:8-9 - “For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways,” declares the Lord. “As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways and My thoughts than your thoughts.

2. Psalm 19:7-11 - The law of the Lord is perfect, refreshing the soul. The statutes of the Lord are trustworthy, making wise the simple. The precepts of the Lord are right, giving joy to the heart. The commands of the Lord are radiant, giving light to the eyes. The fear of the Lord is pure, enduring forever. The decrees of the Lord are firm, and all of them are righteous.

Revelation 5:4 And I wept much, because no man was found worthy to open and to read the book, neither to look thereon.

The search for someone worthy to read the book from Revelation 5 was unsuccessful.

1. "The Uniqueness of God's Worthiness"

2. "The Value of Seeking Worthiness"

1. Isaiah 6:3 - "And one cried unto another, and said, Holy, holy, holy, is the LORD of hosts: the whole earth is full of his glory."

2. Psalm 145:3 - "Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised; and his greatness is unsearchable."

Revelation 5:5 And one of the elders saith unto me, Weep not: behold, the Lion of the tribe of Juda, the Root of David, hath prevailed to open the book, and to loose the seven seals thereof.

An elder comforts John not to weep, for the Lion of the Tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has won the right to open the book and release the seven seals.

1. Jesus is the Only One Who Can Open the Book of Destiny

2. The Authority of Jesus: The Lion of the Tribe of Judah

1. Isaiah 11:1-3 - “A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. The Spirit of the Lord shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord.”

2. Isaiah 53:7-8 - “He was oppressed and afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth; he was led like a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before its shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth. By oppression and judgment he was taken away. Yet who of his generation protested? For he was cut off from the land of the living; for the transgression of my people he was punished.”

Revelation 5:6 And I beheld, and, lo, in the midst of the throne and of the four beasts, and in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb as it had been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent forth into all the earth.

In the midst of the throne and four beasts and elders, a Lamb as if it had been slain stood, with seven horns and seven eyes representing the seven Spirits of God sent out into the world.

1. The Power of Jesus Christ: The Lamb that Stands Before the Throne

2. The Seven Spirits of God: The Symbolic Representation of God's Will

1. John 1:29 - "The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, 'Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!'"

2. Zechariah 4:10 - "Do not despise these small beginnings, for the Lord rejoices to see the work begin," says the Lord Almighty.

Revelation 5:7 And he came and took the book out of the right hand of him that sat upon the throne.

In Revelation 5:7, Jesus takes the book out of the right hand of the one sitting on the throne.

1. The Power of Jesus: How Jesus Uses His Authority to Take What Is His

2. The Throne of God: What It Means for Jesus to Take the Book from the One Sitting on It

1. Matthew 28:18-20 - And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

2. John 17:1-11 - Jesus spoke these words, lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said: “Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son that the Son may glorify you, since you have given him authority over all flesh, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. And this is eternal life, that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. I glorified you on earth, having accomplished the work that you gave me to do. And now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had with you before the

world existed.”

Revelation 5:8 And when he had taken the book, the four beasts and four and twenty elders fell down before the Lamb, having every one of them harps, and golden vials full of odours, which are the prayers of saints.

The Lamb is presented with a book, and four beasts and twenty-four elders fall down in worship, each with a harp and a vessel full of the prayers of the saints.

1. The Power of Prayer: How Our Prayers Reach Heaven

2. Worshiping the Lamb: A Call to Fall Down Before the Lamb

1. Psalm 141:2 - “Let my prayer be set forth before you as incense; and the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.”

2. Hebrews 4:16 - “Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.”

Revelation 5:9 And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation;

The redeemed of God from every nation sing a new song, praising Jesus for having been slain and having redeemed them out of every language, people, and nation.

1. The Power of Redemption: How Jesus Redeemed Us Out of Every Nation

2. The Worthy Lamb: Worthy to Take the Book and Open the Seals

1. Ephesians 1:7 - In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace

2. John 3:16 - For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

Revelation 5:10 And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth.

God has made us kings and priests and given us authority to reign on earth.

1. The Power of God's Authority - Revelation 5:10

2. Claiming Your Authority as God's King - Revelation 5:10

1. Exodus 19:6 - And ye shall be unto me a kingdom of priests, and an holy nation.

2. Luke 10:19 - Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you.

Revelation 5:11 And I beheld, and I heard the voice of many angels round about the throne and the beasts and the elders: and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands;

John saw and heard a vast number of angels surrounding the throne, the beasts, and the elders.

1. "The Beauty of Heaven Revealed: God's Abundant Host of Angels"

2. "God's Wonders: The Majesty of Heaven"

1. Romans 8:38-39 - "For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord."

2. Psalm 148:2 - "Praise him, all his angels; praise him, all his hosts!"

Revelation 5:12 Saying with a loud voice, Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing.

The Lamb is worthy of power, riches, wisdom, strength, honor, glory, and blessing.

1. The Worthiness of Jesus: Receive the Riches of His Love

2. The Lamb of God: The Power of His Great Sacrifice

1. Romans 8:32 - He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, will he not also give us all things?

2. Ephesians 1:3-6 - Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love he predestined us for adoption as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved.

Revelation 5:13 And every creature which is in heaven, and on the earth, and under the earth, and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, heard I saying, Blessing, and honour, and glory, and power, be unto him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb for ever and ever.

All creatures of Heaven, Earth, and the Sea give praise and honor to God and the Lamb for eternity.

1. The Glory of Giving Praise to God

2. The Eternal Blessings of Worshiping Together

1. Psalm 148:1-5 - Praise the Lord from the Heavens

2. Revelation 4:8-11 - Praise to the One on the Throne and the Four Living Creatures

Revelation 5:14 And the four beasts said, Amen. And the four and twenty elders fell down and worshipped him that liveth for ever and ever.

This passage from Revelation 5:14 reveals that the four beasts and the twenty-four elders fell down and worshipped God who lives forever.

1. "The Worship of the Almighty: How Our Praise Reflects His Eternal Nature"

2. "The Power of Unity: How Working Together in Worship Enhances Our Praise"

1. Psalm 103:17 - “But from everlasting to everlasting the Lord’s love is with those who fear him, and his righteousness with their children’s children.”

2. Hebrews 13:8 - “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.”

Revelation 6 is the sixth chapter of the book of Revelation and continues John's vision of the opening of the seals on the scroll. This chapter focuses on the opening of the first six seals, revealing events that signify God's judgment and the beginning of end-time events.

1st Paragraph: The chapter begins with Jesus opening the first seal, which unleashes a rider on a white horse. This rider represents conquest or victory, possibly symbolizing false peace or deceptive forces at work in the world (Revelation 6:1-2). The second seal reveals a rider on a red horse, representing conflict and bloodshed (Revelation 6:3-4). The third seal introduces a black horse with a rider holding scales, signifying scarcity and economic hardship (Revelation 6:5-6). The fourth seal reveals a pale horse ridden by Death himself, accompanied by Hades. They bring death and destruction to one-fourth of the earth through various means such as sword, famine, pestilence, and wild beasts (Revelation 6:7-8).

2nd Paragraph: Following these events, Jesus opens the fifth seal which reveals souls under an altar who have been martyred for their faith. They cry out to God for justice and are given white robes as they await further vindication (Revelation 6:9-11). When Jesus opens the sixth seal, there is a great earthquake accompanied by cosmic disturbances such as darkened sun, blood-red moon, falling stars—all signs pointing to cataclysmic events (Revelation 6:12-14). People from all walks of life seek shelter in fear while acknowledging that these events signal God's judgment upon them (Revelation 6:15-17).

3rd Paragraph: Chapter six sets in motion a series of events associated with God's judgment upon humanity during end times. The opening of the seals reveals a progression of events, including false peace, conflict, economic hardships, death and destruction, persecution of believers, and cosmic disturbances. These events serve as warnings and indicators that the end is drawing near. The chapter highlights both the severity of God's judgment upon an unrepentant world and the faithful endurance of those who have suffered for their faith.

In summary, Chapter six of Revelation unveils the opening of the first six seals on the scroll held by Jesus. Each seal represents different aspects of God's judgment upon humanity during end times—false peace, conflict, economic hardship, death and destruction, persecution of believers, and cosmic disturbances. These events serve as warnings and precursors to more significant events to come. The chapter emphasizes both divine judgment upon a rebellious world and the perseverance of faithful believers amidst trials.

Revelation 6:1 And I saw when the Lamb opened one of the seals, and I heard, as it were the noise of thunder, one of the four beasts saying, Come and see.

John sees a Lamb open one of the seals and hears a noise like thunder, followed by one of the four beasts inviting him to come and see.

1: We can trust God to reveal His truth to us at the right time.

2: We can be confident in God's power and goodness, even when we don't understand what's happening.

1: Isaiah 55:8-9 “For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways,” declares the Lord. “As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.”

2: Jeremiah 33:3 “Call to me and I will answer you and tell you great and unsearchable things you do not know.”

Revelation 6:2 And I saw, and behold a white horse: and he that sat on him had a bow; and a crown was given unto him: and he went forth conquering, and to conquer.

The rider of the white horse had a bow and a crown and went forth conquering.

1: The Power of the Crowned Conqueror

2: Conquering with the Bow

1: Psalm 45:4-5 “And in thy majesty ride prosperously because of truth and meekness and righteousness; and thy right hand shall teach thee terrible things. Thine arrows are sharp in the heart of the king’s enemies; whereby the people fall under thee.”

2: Isaiah 41:2 “Who raised up the righteous man from the east, called him to his foot, gave the nations before him, and made him rule over kings? he gave them as the dust to his sword, and as driven stubble to his bow.”

Revelation 6:3 And when he had opened the second seal, I heard the second beast say, Come and see.

The second seal of Revelation is opened and a second beast calls for people to come and see.

1: God calls us to open our hearts to Him and to be brave in the face of adversity.

2: We are called to be witnesses of what God has done in our lives and to share His story with others.

1: Isaiah 43:1-3 - "Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have summoned you by name; you are mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and when you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned; the flames will not set you ablaze."

2: Romans 8:31-39 - "What, then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things? Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies. Who then is the one who condemns? No one. Christ Jesus who died—more than that, who was raised to life—is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us."

Revelation 6:4 And there went out another horse that was red: and power was given to him that sat thereon to take peace from the earth, and that they should kill one another: and there was given unto him a great sword.

The fourth horseman of the Apocalypse brought with him a great sword that was used to take peace from the earth and to cause people to kill one another.

1. The Danger of Conflict: Understanding the Impact of War and Conflict on our Lives

2. The Sword of Justice: How We Can Bring Peace and Righteousness to the World

1. James 4:1 - What causes quarrels and what causes fights among you? Is it not this, that your passions are at war within you?

2. Romans 12:18 - If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all.

Revelation 6:5 And when he had opened the third seal, I heard the third beast say, Come and see. And I beheld, and lo a black horse; and he that sat on him had a pair of balances in his hand.

John heard a third beast command him to open the third seal, and when he did he saw a black horse with a rider carrying a pair of balances.

1. Living in Balance: How to find a healthy balance in life.

2. The Great Seal: The importance of the sealing of the book of Revelation.

1. Colossians 3:15-17 - "And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord. And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him."

2. Proverbs 16:11 - "A just balance and scales are the Lord's; all the weights of the bag are His work."

Revelation 6:6 And I heard a voice in the midst of the four beasts say, A measure of wheat for a penny, and three measures of barley for a penny; and see thou hurt not the oil and the wine.

The voice in the midst of the four beasts warned not to hurt the oil and the wine.

1. The Power of the Word of God

2. The Significance of Oil and Wine in the Bible

1. Genesis 27:28 (And may God give you of the dew of heaven, and of the fatness of the earth, and plenty of grain and wine.)

2. Psalm 104:15 (And wine that maketh glad the heart of man, and oil to make his face to shine, and bread which strengtheneth man’s heart.)

Revelation 6:7 And when he had opened the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the fourth beast say, Come and see.

The fourth seal of the book of Revelation is opened and a fourth beast speaks, inviting the reader to witness what is to be seen.

1. The Power of Revelation: Exploring the Signs and Wonders of the Fourth Seal

2. The Call to Witness: Heeding the Invitation of the Fourth Beast

1. Isaiah 25:9-10 - And it shall be said in that day, Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, and he will save us: this is the Lord; we have waited for him, we will be glad and rejoice in his salvation.

10 For in this mountain shall the hand of the Lord rest, and Moab shall be trodden down under him, even as straw is trodden down for the dunghill.

2. Hebrews 11:1 - Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

Revelation 6:8 And I looked, and behold a pale horse: and his name that sat on him was Death, and Hell followed with him. And power was given unto them over the fourth part of the earth, to kill with sword, and with hunger, and with death, and with the beasts of the earth.

Death, Hell, and the beasts of the earth were given power to kill a fourth part of the earth.

1. The Need for Faith in an Unfathomable World

2. Standing Firm in the Face of Fear

1. Matthew 10:28 (And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.)

2. Isaiah 41:10 (Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness.)

Revelation 6:9 And when he had opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of them that were slain for the word of God, and for the testimony which they held:

The Fifth Seal reveals the souls of those who were killed for their faith in God.

1. The Power of Faith: Standing Firm in the Face of Persecution

2. The Testimony of the Martyrs: How We Can Live Boldly for Christ

1. Acts 7:54-60 - Stephen's Martyrdom

2. Hebrews 11:35-38 - The Faith of the Martyrs of Old

Revelation 6:10 And they cried with a loud voice, saying, How long, O Lord, holy and true, dost thou not judge and avenge our blood on them that dwell on the earth?

People crying out to God asking for His justice and vengeance on those who have wronged them.

1. "The Cry of the Righteous: Seeking Justice and Vengeance in God's Timing"

2. "God's Righteous Judgment: Trusting in His Timing for Justice"

1. Isaiah 30:18 - "Therefore the LORD waits to be gracious to you, and therefore he exalts himself to show mercy to you. For the LORD is a God of justice; blessed are all those who wait for him."

2. Psalm 37:34 - "Wait for the LORD and keep his way, and he will exalt you to inherit the land; you will look on when the wicked are cut off."

Revelation 6:11 And white robes were given unto every one of them; and it was said unto them, that they should rest yet for a little season, until their fellowservants also and their brethren, that should be killed as they were, should be fulfilled.

The souls of those martyred for their faith were given white robes and told to rest until their brothers and sisters who would suffer the same fate were also martyred.

1. The Perseverance of the Saints: How Faithful Martyrs Encourage the Church to Remain Steadfast in the Faith

2. Unending Faithfulness: An Examination of the Saints' Unshakable Devotion Even in the

Face of Death

1. Hebrews 11:35-38 - "Women received back their dead, raised to life again. Others were tortured and refused to be released, so that they might gain a better resurrection. Some faced jeers and flogging, and even chains and imprisonment. They were put to death by stoning; they were sawed in two; they were killed by the sword. They went about in sheepskins and goatskins, destitute, persecuted and mistreated— the world was not worthy of them. They wandered in deserts and mountains, and in caves and holes in the ground."

2. Acts 5:41-42 - "The apostles left the Sanhedrin, rejoicing because they had been counted worthy of suffering disgrace for the Name. Day after day, in the temple courts and from house to house, they never stopped teaching and proclaiming the good news that Jesus is the Messiah."

Revelation 6:12 And I beheld when he had opened the sixth seal, and, lo, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became as blood;

The sixth seal of Revelation is opened, and a great earthquake occurs, turning the sun and moon to black and red respectively.

1. The Day of the Lord: The Signs of His Coming

2. The Power of God: Experiencing His Glory

1. Matthew 24:7-8 - "For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places. All these are the beginning of sorrows."

2. Isaiah 13:10 - "For the stars of heaven and the constellations thereof shall not give their light: the sun shall be darkened in his going forth, and the moon shall not cause her light to shine."

Revelation 6:13 And the stars of heaven fell unto the earth, even as a fig tree casteth her untimely figs, when she is shaken of a mighty wind.

The stars of heaven fall to the earth like a fig tree shedding its fruit when shaken by a strong wind.

1. "God's Great Power and His Sovereignty"

2. "The Unstoppable Force of the Wind"

1. Psalm 147:4 - He determines the number of the stars and calls them each by name.

2. Matthew 7:24-27 - Everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock.

Revelation 6:14 And the heaven departed as a scroll when it is rolled together; and every mountain and island were moved out of their places.

The heaven departed as a sign of the coming judgment.

1: The Coming Judgment - Revelation 6:14

2: The Signs of Judgment - Revelation 6:14

1: Isaiah 34:4 - “All the host of heaven shall rot away, and the skies roll up like a scroll. All their host shall fall, as leaves from the vine, like leaves falling from the fig tree.”

2: Hebrews 12:26-27 - “At that time his voice shook the earth, but now he has promised, “Yet once more I will shake not only the earth but also the heavens.” This phrase, “Yet once more,” indicates the removal of things that are shaken—that is, things that have been made—in order that the things that cannot be shaken may remain.”

Revelation 6:15 And the kings of the earth, and the great men, and the rich men, and the chief captains, and the mighty men, and every bondman, and every free man, hid themselves in the dens and in the rocks of the mountains;

People of all classes and statuses, including kings, great men, rich men, captains, and both slaves and free men, hid in caves and mountains in fear of the events described in Revelation 6.

1. "The Day of the Lord: A Time of Fear and Awe"

2. "The Wealth of Nations: Inequality in Times of Crisis"

1. Luke 12:15 - "And he said unto them, Take heed, and beware of covetousness: for a man’s life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth."

2. Isaiah 2:19-22 - "And they shall go into the holes of the rocks, and into the caves of the earth, for fear of the Lord, and for the glory of his majesty, when he ariseth to shake terribly the earth. In that day a man shall cast his idols of silver, and his idols of gold, which they made each one for himself to worship, to the moles and to the bats; To go into the clefts of the rocks, and into the tops of the ragged rocks, for fear of the Lord, and for the glory of his majesty, when he ariseth to shake terribly the earth."

Revelation 6:16 And said to the mountains and rocks, Fall on us, and hide us from the face of him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb:

The people of the earth cower in fear of the wrath of the Lamb.

1: We must turn to God in repentance and trust in Him for salvation from His wrath.

2: We should not fear the Lamb, but rather acknowledge His power and love.

1: John 3:16 - For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.

2: Romans 10:9 - If you declare with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

Revelation 6:17 For the great day of his wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?

God's wrath is coming and no one will be able to remain standing.

1. "The Day of the Lord: What Does it Mean?"

2. "A Time of Reckoning: What Will You Do When God Comes?"

1. Isaiah 2:12-17 - The day of the Lord is a time of reckoning and judgement.

2. Joel 3:14-16 - The nations will face judgement and God will rescue his people.

Revelation 7 is the seventh chapter of the book of Revelation and provides a pause in the sequence of seal judgments. This chapter focuses on two groups: the sealing of 144,000 from the twelve tribes of Israel and a great multitude from every nation.

1st Paragraph: The chapter begins with John seeing four angels standing at the corners of the earth, holding back the winds to prevent any harm until God's servants are sealed (Revelation 7:1-3). Another angel ascends from the east, carrying the seal of the living God. He instructs these four angels to seal 144,000 servants from every tribe of Israel on their foreheads (Revelation 7:4-8). These sealed individuals represent a protected and chosen group who will serve God during end times.

2nd Paragraph: After witnessing this sealing process, John sees a vast multitude that no one can count standing before God's throne. They are clothed in white robes and hold palm branches, signifying victory and triumph (Revelation 7:9-10). This great multitude consists of people from every nation, tribe, people, and language who have come out of great tribulation. They have washed their robes in Jesus' blood and worship Him day and night (Revelation 7:13-15).

3rd Paragraph: The chapter concludes with an explanation that these individuals who come out of great tribulation will be sheltered by God Himself. They will hunger no more nor thirst anymore as He will guide them to springs of living water. God will wipe away every tear from their eyes (Revelation 7:16-17). This depiction portrays a future state where believers experience ultimate comfort and restoration in God's presence.

In summary, Chapter seven of Revelation presents two distinct groups—the sealed 144,000 servants from Israel and a vast multitude from all nations—who play significant roles during end times. The sealing of the 144,000 signifies their chosen status and protection as they serve God. The great multitude represents believers from all backgrounds who have emerged victorious from tribulation, having washed their robes in Jesus' blood. They enjoy eternal worship and comfort in God's presence, where He provides for their needs and wipes away every tear. This chapter emphasizes God's faithfulness to His people and the inclusivity of His salvation plan encompassing individuals from every nation and background.

Revelation 7:1 And after these things I saw four angels standing on the four corners of the earth, holding the four winds of the earth, that the wind should not blow on the earth, nor on the sea, nor on any tree.

Four angels are standing on the four corners of the earth and holding back the winds of the earth so that nothing on the earth, sea, or trees will be harmed.

1. The Power of the Angels: Reflecting on the Strength of God's Messengers

2. The Protection of God: God Preserves and Cares for His People

1. Psalm 91:4 - He will cover you with his feathers, and under his wings you will find refuge; his faithfulness will be your shield and rampart.

2. Isaiah 43:2 - When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and when you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned; the flames will not set you ablaze.

Revelation 7:2 And I saw another angel ascending from the east, having the seal of the living God: and he cried with a loud voice to the four angels, to whom it was given to hurt the earth and the sea,

An angel is seen ascending from the east with the seal of God, commanding four other angels to harm the earth and the sea.

1. The Power of God's Presence

2. The Sovereignty of God's Will

1. Isaiah 11:3-5, "And he shall judge among the nations, and shall rebuke many people: and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks: nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more. O house of Jacob, come ye, and let us walk in the light of the LORD. For thou hast broken the yoke of his burden, and the staff of his shoulder, the rod of his oppressor, as in the day of Midian.

2. Matthew 5:5, "Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth.

Revelation 7:3 Saying, Hurt not the earth, neither the sea, nor the trees, till we have sealed the servants of our God in their foreheads.

The servants of God must be sealed before any harm comes to the earth, sea, or trees.

1. The Power of God's Protection

2. The Preciousness of God's People

1. Psalm 91:4 - He will cover you with his feathers, and under his wings you will find refuge; his faithfulness will be your shield and rampart.

2. Ephesians 1:13-14 - And you also were included in Christ when you heard the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation. When you believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit.

Revelation 7:4 And I heard the number of them which were sealed: and there were sealed an hundred and forty and four thousand of all the tribes of the children of Israel.

The number of those who were sealed from the twelve tribes of Israel is 144,000.

1. The Importance of Following God's Will

2. The Blessings of Being Chosen by God

1. Matthew 22:14 - “For many are called, but few are chosen.”

2. Jeremiah 31:33 - “But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts. And I will be their God, and they shall be my people.”

Revelation 7:5 Of the tribe of Juda were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Reuben were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Gad were sealed twelve thousand.

Twelve thousand people were sealed from each of the tribes of Juda, Reuben and Gad.

1. God's faithfulness to His chosen people, even in times of trial.

2. The necessity of continuing to serve and follow God, even when faced with difficulties.

1. Romans 11:1-2 - "I ask then: Did God reject his people? By no means! I am an Israelite myself, a descendant of Abraham, from the tribe of Benjamin. God did not reject his people, whom he foreknew."

2. Psalm 105:7-11 - "He is the Lord our God; his judgments are in all the earth. He

remembers his covenant forever, the word he commanded, for a thousand generations, the covenant he made with Abraham, the oath he swore to Isaac. He confirmed it to Jacob as a decree, to Israel as an everlasting covenant: “To you I will give the land of Canaan as the portion you will inherit.”"

Revelation 7:6 Of the tribe of Aser were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Nephthalim were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Manasses were sealed twelve thousand.

The book of Revelation states that 12,000 from the tribes of Aser, Nephthalim, and Manasses were sealed.

1. God's Protection: A Study of Revelation 7:6

2. The Significance of the Twelve Tribes in Revelation

1. Romans 8:38-39 - For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

2. Genesis 49:26 - The blessings of your father are mighty beyond the blessings of my ancestors, up to the bounties of the everlasting hills. May they be on the head of Joseph, and on the brow of him who was set apart from his brothers.

Revelation 7:7 Of the tribe of Simeon were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Levi were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Issachar were sealed twelve thousand.

The twelve tribes of Israel were sealed in Revelation 7:7, with twelve thousand from each tribe.

1. "The Unification of God's People"

2. "The Blessing of God's Chosen"

1. "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life" John 3:16

2. "And he said to them, 'Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation'" Mark 16:15

Revelation 7:8 Of the tribe of Zabulon were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Joseph were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Benjamin were sealed twelve thousand.

The tribes of Israel were sealed in the book of Revelation.

1. God's Faithfulness to His Promises: An Examination of Revelation 7:8

2. The Significance of the Twelve Tribes of Israel in the End Times

1. Genesis 49:22-26 - The blessings of the twelve tribes of Israel

2. Romans 11:26-27 - The Deliverer of Israel and the restoration of all things

Revelation 7:9 After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands;

A multitude of people from all nations, tribes, and languages stand before the throne and the Lamb, clothed in white robes and holding palms.

1. The Uncountable Multitude: The Promise of God's Inclusive Kingdom

2. The White Robe and Palms: Signs of Our Salvation

1. Isaiah 25:6–9

2. Philippians 2:5–11

Revelation 7:10 And cried with a loud voice, saying, Salvation to our God which sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb.

The people praised God and the Lamb for their salvation.

1. Never forget to give thanks and praise to God and the Lamb.

2. Give thanks for the salvation that comes through God and the Lamb.

1. Psalm 107:1-2 - “Oh give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever! Let the redeemed of the Lord say so, whom he has redeemed from trouble.”

2. Ephesians 5:20 - “Giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

Revelation 7:11 And all the angels stood round about the throne, and about the elders and the four beasts, and fell before the throne on their faces, and worshipped God,

The angels, elders and four beasts stood in the presence of God and bowed before him in worship.

1. Take time to pause and worship God.

2. The importance of worshipping God in reverence.

1. Psalm 95:6-7 - "Come, let us bow down in worship, let us kneel before the Lord our Maker; for he is our God and we are the people of his pasture, the flock under his care."

2. Philippians 2:10-11 - "that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father."

Revelation 7:12 Saying, Amen: Blessing, and glory, and wisdom, and thanksgiving, and honour, and power, and might, be unto our God for ever and ever. Amen.

The people of God join together to give praise and thanks to Him for all His power and might.

1: Giving Thanks to God: Acknowledging the Power of the Lord

2: Celebrating God's Strength and Might: How We Can Show Our Gratitude

1: Psalm 136:1-3 - “Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever. Give thanks to the God of gods, for his steadfast love endures forever. Give thanks to the Lord of lords, for his steadfast love endures forever.”

2: Colossians 3:15-17 - “And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.”

Revelation 7:13 And one of the elders answered, saying unto me, What are these which are arrayed in white robes? and whence came they?

An elder asked where the people clothed in white robes came from.

1. The Power of God's Provision

2. The Splendor of God's People

1. Isaiah 61:10 - I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my soul shall be joyful in my God; for he hath clothed me with the garments of salvation, he hath covered me with the robe of righteousness.

2. Luke 15:22 - But the father said to his servants, Bring forth the best robe, and put it on him; and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet.

Revelation 7:14 And I said unto him, Sir, thou knowest. And he said to me, These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

These are those who have experienced tribulation but have been redeemed by the blood of Jesus.

1. The Power of the Blood of Jesus: How It Redeems Us from Tribulation

2. The Greatness of God's Grace: Experiencing Tribulation but Being Redeemed by His Blood

1. Isaiah 1:18 - "Come now, let us reason together, says the LORD: though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall become like wool."

2. Romans 5:8 - "But God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us."

Revelation 7:15 Therefore are they before the throne of God, and serve him day and night in his temple: and he that sitteth on the throne shall dwell among them.

The saints of God are in the presence of the Lord and are worshipping Him day and night in His temple. God dwells among them.

1. The Joy of Worship: Experiencing God's Presence in His House

2. An Eternal Reward: Serving the Lord Day and Night in His Temple

1. Isaiah 6:1-7 - The prophet Isaiah's vision of the Lord's throne in the temple.

2. Psalm 23:6 - The Lord is our shepherd and we dwell in His house forever.

Revelation 7:16 They shall hunger no more, neither thirst any more; neither shall the sun light on them, nor any heat.

The redeemed of the Lord will never experience hunger, thirst, nor heat again.

1: God's Promise of Abundant Life

2: Living in the Comfort of God's Redemption

1: John 6:35 "I am the bread of life; he who comes to Me will not hunger, and he who believes in Me will never thirst."

2: Isaiah 49:10 "They will not hunger or thirst, nor will the desert heat or the sun strike them down; for He who has compassion on them will lead them and guide them beside springs of water."

Revelation 7:17 For the Lamb which is in the midst of the throne shall feed them, and shall lead them unto living fountains of waters: and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes.

This passage highlights God's promise to provide His people with eternal sustenance and comfort.

1: The Comfort of the Lamb - Trusting in God's Protection

2: Welcoming the Living Water - Experiencing the Refreshment of the Lord

1: Isaiah 25:8 - He will swallow up death in victory; and the Lord GOD will wipe away tears from off all faces.

2: Psalm 23:2 - He makes me lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside still waters.

Revelation 8 is the eighth chapter of the book of Revelation and continues John's vision of end-time events. This chapter focuses on the opening of the seventh seal, which leads to the sounding of seven trumpets that bring forth various judgments upon the earth.

1st Paragraph: The chapter begins with silence in heaven for about half an hour after Jesus opens the seventh seal (Revelation 8:1). Seven angels are then given seven trumpets, and another angel offers incense along with prayers of all saints before God's altar (Revelation 8:2-4). The angel takes the censer, fills it with fire from the altar, and throws it to earth, resulting in thunder, lightning, and an earthquake (Revelation 8:5).

2nd Paragraph: As each angel sounds their trumpet judgment, a series of catastrophic events unfold. The first trumpet brings hail and fire mixed with blood that destroys vegetation on earth (Revelation 8:6-7). With the second trumpet, a great mountain burning with fire is cast into the sea, causing a third part of sea creatures to die and ships to be destroyed (Revelation 8:8-9). The third trumpet sees a great star called Wormwood falling from heaven and poisoning a third part of rivers and springs (Revelation 8:10-11).

3rd Paragraph: Continuing with further trumpet judgments, as described in verses 12-13; after sounding their trumpets. The fourth trumpet darkens one-third of sun, moon, and stars causing diminished light during day and night (Revelation 8:12). Then an eagle flies through mid-heaven proclaiming three woes that will come upon those who dwell on earth because of remaining three trumpet blasts yet to sound (Revelation 8:13).

In summary, Chapter eight of Revelation depicts significant events following the opening of the seventh seal. The seven angels are given seven trumpets, and with each trumpet

blast, a new judgment is unleashed upon the earth. These judgments include destruction of vegetation, devastation in the seas, contamination of water sources, and celestial disturbances. The chapter emphasizes the severity of God's judgments as they bring about widespread devastation and serve as warnings to those dwelling on earth. The eagle's proclamation foreshadows further woes yet to come in subsequent chapters.

Revelation 8:1 And when he had opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven about the space of half an hour.

The seventh seal was opened, and a half hour of silence followed in heaven.

1. How to Appreciate Silence in Our Lives

2. The Power of the Seventh Seal

1. Psalm 46:10 - Be still, and know that I am God.

2. Ecclesiastes 3:1-8 - There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens.

Revelation 8:2 And I saw the seven angels which stood before God; and to them were given seven trumpets.

Seven angels are given seven trumpets before God.

1. The Power of Seven: Understanding the Significance of the Number 7 in the Bible

2. The Great Day of God: The Significance of the Seven Trumpets in Revelation 8

1. Genesis 7:4 - For in seven days it will rain upon the earth.

2. Numbers 14:34 - After the number of the days in which ye searched the land, even forty days, each day for a year, shall ye bear your iniquities, even forty years.

Revelation 8:3 And another angel came and stood at the altar, having a golden censer; and there was given unto him much incense, that he should offer it with the prayers of all

saints upon the golden altar which was before the throne.

An angel came and stood at the altar with a golden censer, and was given much incense to offer with the prayers of all saints before the throne.

1. The Power of Prayer - How Praying to God Can Lead to Miracles

2. The Importance of Faith - How Having Faith Can Lead to Blessing

1. James 5:16 - "Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective."

2. Romans 10:17 - "So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ."

Revelation 8:4 And the smoke of the incense, which came with the prayers of the saints, ascended up before God out of the angel's hand.

The prayers of the saints ascend before God.

1: We must offer our prayers to God in confidence, knowing that He hears us.

2: As we pray, let us remember that our prayers are a sweet aroma to God.

1: Philippians 4:6-7 ?□o not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.??

2: Psalm 66:17-19 ?□ cried to him with my mouth, and high praise was on my tongue. If I had cherished iniquity in my heart, the Lord would not have listened. But truly God has listened; he has attended to the voice of my prayer.??

Revelation 8:5 And the angel took the censer, and filled it with fire of the altar, and cast it into the earth: and there were voices, and thunderings, and lightnings, and an earthquake.

An angel filled a censer with fire from the altar and cast it into the earth, which resulted in loud voices, thunderings, lightnings, and an earthquake.

1. "The Power of The Lord: How God's Fire can Create a Tremendous Impact"

2. "The Blessing of God's Fire: How the Fire of the Lord Brings Strength and Protection"

1. Exodus 19:16-19 - The LORD descended on Mount Sinai with fire and smoke, and the people trembled in fear.

2. Psalm 29:3-9 - The voice of the LORD is powerful; the voice of the LORD is full of majesty. The LORD sits enthroned over the flood; the LORD is enthroned as King forever.

Revelation 8:6 And the seven angels which had the seven trumpets prepared themselves to sound.

The seven angels with seven trumpets prepared themselves to sound.

1. Embracing God's Call: Learning to Hear the Trumpets of Heaven

2. The Significance of the Seven Trumpets in Revelation

1. Isaiah 27:13, ?nd it shall come to pass in that day, that the great trumpet shall be blown, and they shall come which were ready to perish in the land of Assyria, and the outcasts in the land of Egypt, and shall worship the Lord in the holy mount at Jerusalem.??

2. Revelation 11:15-19, ?nd the seventh angel sounded; and there were great voices in heaven, saying, The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever. And the four and twenty elders, which sat before God on their seats, fell upon their faces, and worshipped God, Saying, We give thee thanks, O Lord God Almighty, which art, and wast, and art to come; because thou hast taken to thee thy great power, and hast reigned. And the nations were angry, and thy wrath is come, and the time of the dead, that they should be judged, and that thou shouldest give reward unto thy servants the prophets, and to the saints, and them that fear thy name, small and great; and shouldest destroy them which destroy the earth. And the temple of God was opened in heaven, and there was seen in his temple the ark of his testament: and there were lightnings, and voices, and thunderings, and an earthquake, and great hail.??

Revelation 8:7 The first angel sounded, and there followed hail and fire mingled with blood, and they were cast upon the earth: and the third part of trees was burnt up, and all green grass was burnt up.

The first angel sounded, causing the earth to be hit with hail, fire, and blood, resulting in a third of trees and all green grass being burned up.

1. The Consequences of Sin and Rebellion against God

2. The Power of God in Judgment

1. Isaiah 9:19 - Through the wrath of the LORD of hosts is the land darkened, and the people shall be as the fuel of the fire: no man shall spare his brother.

2. Romans 12:19 - Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord.

Revelation 8:8 And the second angel sounded, and as it were a great mountain burning with fire was cast into the sea: and the third part of the sea became blood;

The second angel sounded, and a burning mountain was thrown into the sea, turning a third of the sea into blood.

1. The Power of God: How the Lord Uses Signs to Show His Might

2. The Sovereignty of God: How God's Judgement Brings About Change

1. Exodus 14:21-22 - And Moses stretched out his hand over the sea; and the LORD caused the sea to go back by a strong east wind all that night, and made the sea dry land, and the waters were divided.

2. Ezekiel 38:20 - So that the fishes of the sea, and the fowls of the heaven, and the beasts of the field, and all creeping things that creep upon the earth, and all the men that are upon the face of the earth, shall shake at my presence, and the mountains shall be thrown down, and the steep places shall fall, and every wall shall fall to the ground.

Revelation 8:9 And the third part of the creatures which were in the sea, and had life, died; and the third part of the ships were destroyed.

A third of the creatures in the sea and a third of the ships died.

1. God's Mercy: Even in Times of Destruction

2. The Importance of Stewardship: Caring for God's Creation

1. Ezekiel 33:11 - ?□ay to them, ?□s I live!??declares the Lord God, ?□ take no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but rather that the wicked turn from his way and live.?□□?

2. Psalm 8:6-8 - ?□ou have made him a little lower than the heavenly beings and crowned him with glory and honor. You have given him dominion over the works of your hands; you have put all things under his feet, all sheep and oxen, and also the beasts of the field.??

Revelation 8:10 And the third angel sounded, and there fell a great star from heaven, burning as it were a lamp, and it fell upon the third part of the rivers, and upon the fountains of waters;

An angel sounded a third trumpet, which caused a great star to fall to the Earth, burning like a lamp and affecting a third of the rivers and fountains of water.

1. The Power of God: How the Lord Can Change Our Lives in an Instant

2. The Importance of Water: A Reflection on Revelation 8:10

1. Jeremiah 2:13 - "For My people have committed two evils; they have forsaken Me, the fountain of living waters, and hewed them out cisterns, broken cisterns, that can hold no water."

2. Ezekiel 47:1-5 - "Afterward he brought me again unto the door of the house; and, behold, waters issued out from under the threshold of the house eastward: for the forefront of the house stood toward the east, and the waters came down from under from the right side of the house, at the south side of the altar . . ."

Revelation 8:11 And the name of the star is called Wormwood: and the third part of the waters became wormwood; and many men died of the waters, because they were made bitter.

The third part of the waters were made bitter and caused many men to die.

1: God's judgement is severe and can be felt even in the water we drink.

2: The importance of repentance before it is too late.

1: Deuteronomy 30:19 I call heaven and earth to record this day against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing: therefore choose life, that both thou and thy seed may live.

2: Jeremiah 2:13 For my people have committed two evils; they have forsaken me the fountain of living waters, and hewed them out cisterns, broken cisterns, that can hold no water.

Revelation 8:12 And the fourth angel sounded, and the third part of the sun was smitten, and the third part of the moon, and the third part of the stars; so as the third part of them was darkened, and the day shone not for a third part of it, and the night likewise.

The fourth angel sounded and caused a third of the sun, moon, and stars to be smitten and darkened.

1. The Power and Judgment of God - Revelation 8:12

2. The Impact of God's Judgement - Revelation 8:12

1. Isaiah 13:10 - For the stars of heaven and the constellations thereof shall not give their light: the sun shall be darkened in his going forth, and the moon shall not cause her light to shine.

2. Matthew 24:29 - Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven.

Revelation 8:13 And I beheld, and heard an angel flying through the midst of heaven, saying with a loud voice, Woe, woe, woe, to the inhabiters of the earth by reason of the other voices of the trumpet of the three angels, which are yet to sound!

A loud voice of warning is given to the inhabitants of the earth.

1: Heed the Warning of the Angel!

2: Listen and Obey the Voice of Heaven!

1: Acts 10:15 - And the voice spake unto him again the second time, What God hath cleansed, that call not thou common.

2: James 1:19-20 - Wherefore, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath: For the wrath of man worketh not the righteousness of God.

Revelation 9 is the ninth chapter of the book of Revelation and continues John's vision of end-time events. This chapter focuses on the sounding of the fifth and sixth trumpets, which bring forth terrifying demonic forces and intense warfare.

1st Paragraph: The chapter begins with the fifth angel sounding his trumpet, resulting in a star falling from heaven to earth. This star is given the key to the bottomless pit and opens it, releasing smoke that darkens the sun and air (Revelation 9:1-2). From this smoke emerge locust-like creatures with power like scorpions, instructed not to harm those who have been sealed by God but to torment those without His seal for five months (Revelation 9:3-6). These creatures have a king over them named Abaddon or Apollyon, meaning "destroyer" (Revelation 9:11).

2nd Paragraph: The sixth angel sounds his trumpet, unleashing four angels bound at the great river Euphrates. These angels command an army of two hundred million horsemen equipped for battle (Revelation 9:13-16). The horses have heads like lions, fire, smoke, and brimstone coming out of their mouths. They kill a third part of mankind through fire, smoke, and brimstone (Revelation 9:17-19). Despite witnessing such destruction, humanity does not repent from their idolatry or wickedness.

3rd Paragraph: Throughout this chapter's depiction of demonic locusts and destructive horsemen, it emphasizes divine judgment upon those who reject God. The torment inflicted by these creatures represents spiritual anguish experienced by those who are not sealed by God—symbolizing their separation from His protection. The massive army symbolizes relentless warfare resulting in significant casualties. Despite these warnings and calamities befalling humanity as part of God's judgment, there is no repentance or turning to God, underscoring the hardness of human hearts.

In summary, Chapter nine of Revelation portrays the sounding of the fifth and sixth trumpets, which unleash terrifying forces upon the earth. The demonic locust-like creatures torment those without God's seal, while an immense army of destructive horsemen brings widespread death and destruction. These events serve as warnings and judgments upon those who reject God, highlighting their spiritual anguish and the consequences of their unrepentant hearts. The chapter emphasizes the severity of divine judgment and the need for humanity to turn to God in repentance.

Revelation 9:1 And the fifth angel sounded, and I saw a star fall from heaven unto the

earth: and to him was given the key of the bottomless pit.

The fifth angel sounded, and a star fell from heaven to the earth. This star was given the key of the bottomless pit.

1. The Power of the Fifth Angel: Exploring the Significance of Revelation 9:1

2. Unlocking Deeper Meaning: Finding Hope in the Bottomless Pit

1. Isaiah 14:12-15 - How you have fallen from heaven, morning star, son of the dawn! You have been cast down to the earth, you who once laid low the nations!

2. Luke 8:31 - They begged Jesus repeatedly not to order them to go into the Abyss.

Revelation 9:2 And he opened the bottomless pit; and there arose a smoke out of the pit, as the smoke of a great furnace; and the sun and the air were darkened by reason of the smoke of the pit.

The bottomless pit was opened, emitting a smoke as from a great furnace that darkened the sun and air.

1. God often uses difficult situations to bring about His will.

2. The power of God can be seen even in the darkness.

1. Isaiah 60:2 - For behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the people; but the Lord will arise over you, and His glory will be seen upon you.

2. Genesis 1:2 - The earth was without form, and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.

Revelation 9:3 And there came out of the smoke locusts upon the earth: and unto them was given power, as the scorpions of the earth have power.

Locusts were sent from the smoke to the earth, with power similar to that of scorpions.

1. How the power of God is displayed through even the smallest creatures

2. The importance of learning from the creatures of nature

1. Job 39:20-22 - "Will the hawk take flight by thy wisdom, and spread her wings toward the south? Will the eagle mount up at thy command, and make her nest on high? She dwelleth and abideth on the rock, upon the crag of the rock, and the strong place."

2. Psalm 104:24-25 - "O LORD, how manifold are thy works! in wisdom hast thou made them all: the earth is full of thy riches. So is this great and wide sea, wherein are things creeping innumerable, both small and great beasts."

Revelation 9:4 And it was commanded them that they should not hurt the grass of the earth, neither any green thing, neither any tree; but only those men which have not the seal of God in their foreheads.

God commanded not to hurt any living thing on earth, except those who do not have the seal of God in their foreheads.

1. The Power of God's Seal: Why We Should Protect and Uphold the Seal of the Lord

2. The Protection of Earthly Things and the Mercy of God

1. Ephesians 1:13-14 - In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise.

2. Psalm 33:18-19 - Behold, the eye of the LORD is on those who fear Him, on those who hope in His mercy, to deliver their soul from death, and to keep them alive in famine.

Revelation 9:5 And to them it was given that they should not kill them, but that they should be tormented five months: and their torment was as the torment of a scorpion, when he striketh a man.

People are being tormented for five months, as if stung by a scorpion.

1. The Sting of Torment: How to Endure Suffering for the Sake of God

2. The Strength of Perseverance: Finding Hope in Pain

1. Romans 8:18-39 - For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us.

2. 1 Peter 4:12-19 - Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you.

Revelation 9:6 And in those days shall men seek death, and shall not find it; and shall desire to die, and death shall flee from them.

People will seek death but will not find it; they will long to die but death will avoid them.

1. The Unreachability of Death: A Study of Revelation 9:6

2. The Search for Peace: Learn to Find it in Life, Not Death

1. Job 3:21-22: “Why is light given to him who is in misery, and life to the bitter in soul, who long for death, but it does not come; and dig for it more than for hidden treasures”

2. Romans 8:38-39: “For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

Revelation 9:7 And the shapes of the locusts were like unto horses prepared unto battle; and on their heads were as it were crowns like gold, and their faces were as the faces of men.

In Revelation 9:7, John describes locusts that are shaped like horses prepared for battle, wearing crowns of gold and with faces resembling those of men.

1. The Call to War: How We Prepare for Battle

2. The Masks We Wear: How Our Exterior Can Differ from Our Interior

1. Romans 12:2 - Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.

2. Ephesians 6:10-17 - Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil’s schemes.

Revelation 9:8 And they had hair as the hair of women, and their teeth were as the teeth of lions.

The passage describes a group of people with hair like women and teeth like lions.

1. How God's power can be seen in the unique features of mankind.

2. The strength and gentleness of faith.

1. Isaiah 11:6 - The wolf shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the young goat, and the calf and the lion and the fattened calf together; and a little child shall lead them.

2. Psalm 34:10 - The young lions suffer want and hunger; but those who seek the Lord lack no good thing.

Revelation 9:9 And they had breastplates, as it were breastplates of iron; and the sound of their wings was as the sound of chariots of many horses running to battle.

The angels in Revelation 9:9 are described as wearing breastplates of iron and making the sound of many horses and chariots running to battle.

1. The Power of the Angels: How God's Heavenly Host Supports Us in Battle

2. Standing Firm: Following the Example of the Heavenly Host in Difficult Times

1. Ephesians 6:13-17 - Put on the full armor of God to stand against the schemes of the devil.

2. Romans 8:35-39 - Nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus.

Revelation 9:10 And they had tails like unto scorpions, and there were stings in their tails: and their power was to hurt men five months.

The power of the scorpion-like creatures in Revelation 9:10 was to hurt people for five months.

1. The Power of God's Judgement: Lessons from Revelation 9:10

2. How to Prepare for God's Judgement: Reflections from Revelation 9:10

1. Psalm 103:8-14 - The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love.

2. Isaiah 30:18 - And therefore will the Lord wait, that he may be gracious unto you, and therefore will he be exalted, that he may have mercy upon you: for the Lord is a God of judgment: blessed are all they that wait for him.

Revelation 9:11 And they had a king over them, which is the angel of the bottomless pit, whose name in the Hebrew tongue is Abaddon, but in the Greek tongue hath his name Apollyon.

The angel of the bottomless pit is known as Abaddon in the Hebrew language and Apollyon in the Greek language.

1. “Our King: Abaddon and Apollyon,”

2. “Knowing Your King: Abaddon and Apollyon.”

1. Isaiah 28:15-18

2. James 1:2-4

Revelation 9:12 One woe is past; and, behold, there come two woes more hereafter.

The final book of the Bible, Revelation, states that one woe has passed and two more are yet to come.

1: God's love endures even through the hardships and trials of life.

2: We must stay strong in our faith and trust God's plan for us, no matter how difficult it may be.

1: Romans 8:28, “And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.”

2: Psalm 18:2, “The Lord is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer, my God, my rock, in whom I take refuge, my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.”

Revelation 9:13 And the sixth angel sounded, and I heard a voice from the four horns of the golden altar which is before God,

The sixth angel sounds and a voice is heard from the four horns of the golden altar before God.

1. The Voice of God Calling Us to Repentance

2. The Power of the Sixth Angel's Sound

1. Isaiah 1:18-20 - "Come now, and let us reason together, saith the Lord: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool. If ye be willing and obedient, ye shall eat the good of the land: But if ye refuse and rebel, ye shall be devoured with the sword: for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it."

2. Ezekiel 33:11 - "Say unto them, As I live, saith the Lord GOD, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked; but that the wicked turn from his way and live: turn ye, turn ye from your evil ways; for why will ye die, O house of Israel?"

Revelation 9:14 Saying to the sixth angel which had the trumpet, Loose the four angels which are bound in the great river Euphrates.

The sixth angel was instructed to free four angels who were bound in the great river Euphrates.

1. The Power of Faith: Understanding the Strength of Trusting in God

2. The Power of Unity: Appreciating the Impact of Working Together

1. Acts 16:25-26 - And at midnight Paul and Silas prayed, and sang praises unto God: and the prisoners heard them. And suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken: and immediately all the doors were opened, and every one's bands were loosed.

2. Matthew 18:20 - For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.

Revelation 9:15 And the four angels were loosed, which were prepared for an hour, and a day, and a month, and a year, for to slay the third part of men.

Four angels are prepared to kill a third of mankind.

1. The Power of God: How God Used Angels to Punish Mankind

2. The Purpose of Suffering: Understanding God's Plan for Humanity

1. Ezekiel 14:21 - "For thus saith the Lord God; How much more when I send my four sore judgments upon Jerusalem, the sword, and the famine, and the noisome beast, and the pestilence, to cut off from it man and beast?

2. Romans 11:33-36 - "O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! how unsearchable are his judgments, and his ways past finding out! For who hath known the mind of the Lord? or who hath been his counsellor? Or who hath first given to him, and it shall be recompensed unto him again? For of him, and through him, and to him, are all things: to whom be glory for ever. Amen."

Revelation 9:16 And the number of the army of the horsemen were two hundred thousand thousand: and I heard the number of them.

The army of the horsemen numbered two hundred million.

1. The power of God's army is vast and limitless.

2. We should never underestimate the strength of God's army.

1. Ephesians 6:10-13 - Be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might.

2. Isaiah 59:19 - When the enemy shall come in like a flood, the Spirit of the Lord shall lift up a standard against him.

Revelation 9:17 And thus I saw the horses in the vision, and them that sat on them, having breastplates of fire, and of jacinth, and brimstone: and the heads of the horses were as the heads of lions; and out of their mouths issued fire and smoke and brimstone.

In the vision, horses and their riders were seen with breastplates of fire, jacinth, and brimstone, and the heads of the horses were like lions' heads, with fire, smoke, and brimstone coming out of their mouths.

1. The Strength of God's Army

2. The Power of God's Word

1. Ephesians 6:10-20 - The Armor of God

2. Psalm 103:19-20 - The Lord's Majesty and Power

Revelation 9:18 By these three was the third part of men killed, by the fire, and by the smoke, and by the brimstone, which issued out of their mouths.

The third part of mankind was killed by a combination of fire, smoke, and brimstone.

1. The Power of God's Judgment

2. Understanding God's Wrath

1. Psalm 11:6 - He will rain down burning coals and sulfur on the wicked, a scorching wind will be their lot.

2. Romans 2:5 - But because of your stubbornness and your unrepentant heart, you are storing up wrath against yourself for the day of God’s wrath, when his righteous judgment will be revealed.

Revelation 9:19 For their power is in their mouth, and in their tails: for their tails were like unto serpents, and had heads, and with them they do hurt.

The power of the creatures described in Revelation 9:19 lies in their mouths and tails, which are like serpents with heads, and they are able to cause harm.

1. "What Does it Mean to Have Power?"

2. "The Power of Our Words"

1. Proverbs 18:21 - "Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and those who love it will eat its fruit."

2. James 3:5-6 - "So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great things. How great a forest is set ablaze by such a small fire! And the tongue is a fire, a world of unrighteousness."

Revelation 9:20 And the rest of the men which were not killed by these plagues yet repented not of the works of their hands, that they should not worship devils, and idols of gold, and silver, and brass, and stone, and of wood: which neither can see, nor hear, nor walk:

The people who survived the plagues refused to repent and continued worshipping false idols.

1. Discovering The Power Of True Repentance

2. Why We Should Reject False Idols

1. Isaiah 44:9-20 - Describes the foolishness of worshipping false idols

2. John 4:23-24 - Explains the importance of worshipping God in spirit and in truth

Revelation 9:21 Neither repented they of their murders, nor of their sorceries, nor of their fornication, nor of their thefts.

This verse speaks of the unrepentant sins of people, including murder, sorcery, immorality, and theft.

1. The Danger of Unrepentant Sin - A message about the consequences of continuing in sin without repentance.

2. The Power of Repentance - A message about the importance of turning away from sin and towards God.

1. Proverbs 28:13 - He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy.

2. 1 John 1:9 - If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Revelation 10 is the tenth chapter of the book of Revelation and continues John's vision of end-time events. This chapter focuses on a mighty angel and a small scroll, highlighting both judgment and divine commissioning.

1st Paragraph: The chapter begins with John seeing another mighty angel descending from heaven, clothed with a cloud and a rainbow over his head. His face shines like the sun, and his legs are like pillars of fire (Revelation 10:1-2). In his hand, he holds a little scroll that is open. The angel places his right foot on the sea and his left foot on the land, symbolizing authority over all creation (Revelation 10:2-3). He then utters seven thunders but instructs John not to write down what they said (Revelation 10:4).

2nd Paragraph: Continuing in verse 5, the angel raises his right hand to heaven and swears an oath by Him who lives forever that there will be no more delay in God's plan for judgment (Revelation 10:5-6). The angel declares that when the seventh trumpet sounds, God's mystery will be fulfilled as He proclaimed it to His servants—the prophets (Revelation 10:7). John is then instructed to take the little scroll from the angel's hand and eat it. It tastes sweet in his mouth but turns bitter in his stomach (Revelation 10:8-11).

3rd Paragraph: This chapter highlights both divine authority and commissioning. The appearance of the mighty angel signifies heavenly power over all creation. His possession of an open scroll represents God's revealed purposes or prophecies. However, certain aspects remain undisclosed through the unrecorded seven thunders' words. The oath taken by the angel emphasizes that time will no longer be delayed; God's ultimate plan will reach its fulfillment through the sounding of the seventh trumpet. John's experience of eating the scroll symbolizes his assimilation and proclamation of God's message, which initially brings sweetness but later turns bitter, signifying the challenging and sobering nature of its content.

In summary, Chapter ten of Revelation introduces a mighty angel holding a small open

scroll. The angel's appearance signifies divine authority and power over creation. His oath emphasizes that God's plan for judgment will no longer be delayed, and His mystery will be fulfilled according to prophetic revelations. John's participation in consuming the scroll symbolizes his commissioning to proclaim God's message, which brings both initial sweetness and subsequent bitterness. This chapter underscores divine authority, the fulfillment of God's purposes, and the responsibility entrusted to John as a messenger of God's word.

Revelation 10:1 And I saw another mighty angel come down from heaven, clothed with a cloud: and a rainbow was upon his head, and his face was as it were the sun, and his feet as pillars of fire:

The passage describes an angel coming down from heaven with a rainbow on its head, a face like the sun, and feet like pillars of fire.

1. God's Splendor and Majesty: The Role of Angels in Heaven

2. The Promise of Rainbows: How God Seals His Covenant with Us

1. Ezekiel 1:26-28

2. Isaiah 6:1-3

Revelation 10:2 And he had in his hand a little book open: and he set his right foot upon the sea, and his left foot on the earth,

A figure with a little book in his hand has one foot on the sea and the other on the earth.

1. The Power of the Word of God: How it Unites Heaven and Earth

2. The Importance of Proclaiming God's Word to the Nations

1. Isaiah 11:9 They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain: for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea.

2. Matthew 28:19-20 Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things

whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.

Revelation 10:3 And cried with a loud voice, as when a lion roareth: and when he had cried, seven thunders uttered their voices.

The angel cried out with the loud voice of a lion, and seven thunders responded in response.

1: The Strength of Our God - Revelation 10:3 shows that our God is powerful and mighty, with a voice that is louder than a lion's roar.

2: Following the Roar of God - Revelation 10:3 calls us to listen to God's voice and to heed the call of His thunderous roar.

1: Isaiah 40:10-11 - "Behold, the Lord GOD comes with might, and his arm rules for him; behold, his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. He will tend his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms; he will carry them in his bosom, and gently lead those that are with young."

2: Psalm 29:3-4 - "The voice of the LORD is over the waters; the God of glory thunders, the LORD, over many waters. The voice of the LORD is powerful; the voice of the LORD is full of majesty."

Revelation 10:4 And when the seven thunders had uttered their voices, I was about to write: and I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Seal up those things which the seven thunders uttered, and write them not.

John heard seven thunders speaking, but was instructed not to write down what they said.

1. The Power of God's Voice: Listening to God in Unusual Ways

2. The Mystery of the Seven Thunders: Understanding God's Will in Difficult Times

1. Isaiah 40:8 - “The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever.”

2. Matthew 7:24-27 - “Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will

be like a wise man who built his house on the rock. And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on the rock."

Revelation 10:5 And the angel which I saw stand upon the sea and upon the earth lifted up his hand to heaven,

The angel of God lifted up his hand to heaven.

1: God is always there to guide and protect us. No matter where we are, God is always present.

2: Even in difficult times, we can be comforted knowing that God is with us every step of the way.

1: Psalm 121:1-2 "I lift up my eyes to the mountains— where does my help come from? My help comes from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth."

2: Isaiah 41:10 "So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand."

Revelation 10:6 And sware by him that liveth for ever and ever, who created heaven, and the things that therein are, and the earth, and the things that therein are, and the sea, and the things which are therein, that there should be time no longer:

Time will eventually come to an end, and all must be ready for that day.

1: Prepare Now for the End of Time

2: Don't Delay: Have a Ready Heart for the End of Time

1: Matthew 24:36-44 - No one knows when the end of time will come, so be ready.

2: Ecclesiastes 3:1-8 - There is a time for everything, and now is the time to be ready for the end.

Revelation 10:7 But in the days of the voice of the seventh angel, when he shall begin to sound, the mystery of God should be finished, as he hath declared to his servants the

prophets.

The seventh angel will sound announcing the completion of God's mystery revealed to his prophets.

1. The Truth of God Revealed through the Seventh Angel

2. The Mystery of God Finally Unveiled

1. Ephesians 3:4-5 - "When you read this, you can perceive my insight into the mystery of Christ, which was not made known to the sons of men in other generations as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit."

2. Isaiah 48:3-6 - "I declared the former things long ago; they went forth from my mouth, and I announced them; suddenly I acted, and they came to pass. Because I know that you are obstinate, and your neck is an iron sinew and your forehead brass, I declared them to you from of old, before they came to pass I announced them to you, lest you should say, ‘My idol did them, my carved image and my metal image commanded them.’ You have heard; now see all this; and will you not declare it? From this time forth I announce to you new things, hidden things that you have not known."

Revelation 10:8 And the voice which I heard from heaven spake unto me again, and said, Go and take the little book which is open in the hand of the angel which standeth upon the sea and upon the earth.

The voice from Heaven spoke to the narrator to take the open book from the angel.

1. God's Word: Taking the Open Book to Unlock Our True Potential

2. How We Can Hear God's Voice to Achieve His Will

1. Psalm 119:105 - Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path.

2. John 16:13 - When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth.

Revelation 10:9 And I went unto the angel, and said unto him, Give me the little book. And he said unto me, Take it, and eat it up; and it shall make thy belly bitter, but it shall be in thy mouth sweet as honey.

The angel instructed John to take a little book and eat it, which would be bitter in his belly, but sweet in his mouth.

1. The Sweet and Bitter Joy of Following God's Will

2. The Rewards of Obedience: Taste the Sweetness of the Lord

1. Jeremiah 15:16 - Your words were found, and I ate them, and your words became to me a joy and the delight of my heart, for I am called by your name, O Lord, God of hosts.

2. Psalm 19:10 - More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold; sweeter also than honey and drippings of the honeycomb.

Revelation 10:10 And I took the little book out of the angel's hand, and ate it up; and it was in my mouth sweet as honey: and as soon as I had eaten it, my belly was bitter.

The narrator describes a vision of an angel giving them a small book which they eat, finding it sweet at first but then bitter in their stomach.

1. The sweetness of the Word of God can lead to a bitter experience if we do not heed it.

2. We must internalize the Word of God so it becomes part of our lives.

1. Psalm 19:10 - “More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold; sweeter also than honey and drippings of the honeycomb.”

2. Romans 6:23 - “For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

Revelation 10:11 And he said unto me, Thou must prophesy again before many peoples, and nations, and tongues, and kings.

The passage speaks of the need to prophesy before many people.

1. A Call to Proclaim God's Word: The importance of proclaiming God's Word and its relevance to all people regardless of social or cultural background.

2. The Power of Prophesying: Exploring the power of proclaiming the Word of God and how it can transform lives and bring hope.

1. Isaiah 55:10-11 - For as the rain cometh down, and the snow from heaven, and returneth not thither, but watereth the earth, and maketh it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower, and bread to the eater: So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it.

2. Matthew 28:18-20 - And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen.

Revelation 11 is the eleventh chapter of the book of Revelation and continues John's vision of end-time events. This chapter focuses on the measuring of the temple, the two witnesses, and the sounding of the seventh trumpet.

1st Paragraph: The chapter begins with John being given a measuring rod and instructed to measure the temple of God, along with its altar and those who worship there (Revelation 11:1-2). However, he is told not to measure the outer court because it has been given to the Gentiles who will trample upon it for forty-two months (Revelation 11:2). This measurement signifies God's protection and preservation of His faithful servants while allowing for a period of Gentile dominance.

2nd Paragraph: The chapter introduces two witnesses who are granted authority to prophesy for 1,260 days. They are described as two olive trees and two lampstands standing before God (Revelation 11:3-4). These witnesses have power to shut heaven so that no rain falls during their testimony, turn water into blood, strike the earth with plagues as often as they desire, and overcome their enemies through divine protection (Revelation 11:5-6).

3rd Paragraph: As their testimony nears its end, a beast rises from an abyss and kills these witnesses. Their bodies lie in public view in Jerusalem for three-and-a-half days while people celebrate their demise. But after this period, they are resurrected by God's power amidst great fear among those witnessing this event (Revelation 11:7-13). The sounding of the seventh trumpet follows their resurrection announcement. Loud voices in heaven declare that Christ has become King over all kingdoms forever. This triggers praise from twenty-four elders seated before God's throne (Revelation 11:15-18).

In summary, Chapter eleven of Revelation presents several significant events. The measuring of the temple signifies God's protection of His faithful servants while allowing for Gentile dominance. The introduction of the two witnesses highlights their prophetic

authority and miraculous powers during a designated period. Their eventual martyrdom and resurrection display God's power over life and death, causing great fear among observers. Finally, the sounding of the seventh trumpet signals Christ's eternal kingship and triggers praise from heavenly beings. This chapter emphasizes divine sovereignty, the role of witnesses in proclaiming God's truth, and the ultimate triumph of Christ over all earthly powers.

Revelation 11:1 And there was given me a reed like unto a rod: and the angel stood, saying, Rise, and measure the temple of God, and the altar, and them that worship therein.

An angel instructs John to measure the temple, altar, and worshippers in the temple.

1. God's Mercy: The Measure of Our Lives

2. The Importance of Worship: What Does it Mean to Worship in the Temple?

1. Psalm 139:1-4 - "O Lord, you have searched me and known me! You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from afar. You search out my path and my lying down and are acquainted with all my ways. Even before a word is on my tongue, behold, O Lord, you know it altogether."

2. Ezekiel 40:1-3 - "In the twenty-fifth year of our exile, at the beginning of the year, on the tenth day of the month, in the fourteenth year after the city was struck down, on that very day, the hand of the Lord was upon me, and he brought me to the city. In visions of God he brought me to the land of Israel, and set me down on a very high mountain, on which was a structure like a city to the south."

Revelation 11:2 But the court which is without the temple leave out, and measure it not; for it is given unto the Gentiles: and the holy city shall they tread under foot forty and two months.

God commands to not measure the court outside of the temple, for it is given to the Gentiles and they will trample the holy city for 42 months.

1. The importance of trusting God in difficult times

2. The consequences of rejecting God's authority

1. Isaiah 28:16-17 - Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD, Behold, I lay in Zion for a foundation a stone, a tried stone, a precious corner stone, a sure foundation: he that believeth shall not make haste. Judgment also will I lay to the line, and righteousness to the plummet.

2. 2 Corinthians 4:16-18 - Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.

Revelation 11:3 And I will give power unto my two witnesses, and they shall prophesy a thousand two hundred and threescore days, clothed in sackcloth.

God will empower two witnesses to preach for 1,260 days while wearing sackcloth.

1. The Power and Dedication of God's Witnesses

2. The Call to Courageous Obedience

1. Isaiah 61:1-3 - The Spirit of the Lord God is upon Me, Because the Lord has anointed Me To preach good tidings to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, To proclaim liberty to the captives, And the opening of the prison to those who are bound;

2. Acts 20:22-24 - And see, now I go bound in the spirit to Jerusalem, not knowing the things that will happen to me there, except that the Holy Spirit testifies in every city, saying that chains and tribulations await me. But none of these things move me; nor do I count my life dear to myself, so that I may finish my race with joy, and the ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God.

Revelation 11:4 These are the two olive trees, and the two candlesticks standing before the God of the earth.

This passage describes two figures that represent God's presence and power in the world.

1. The Power of God's Presence in Our Lives

2. The Strength of Two: Standing Together in Faith

1. Zechariah 4:3-6 - The two olive trees provide a visual representation of God's power and grace.

2. Matthew 5:14-16 - We are the light of the world, and we should stand together in faith.

Revelation 11:5 And if any man will hurt them, fire proceedeth out of their mouth, and devoureth their enemies: and if any man will hurt them, he must in this manner be killed.

A warning is given that those who seek to harm God's people will be destroyed by fire that proceeds from their mouths.

1. The Power of God's People

2. The Protection of God's People

1. Psalm 35:1-2 - "Plead my cause, O LORD, with those who strive with me; Fight against those who fight against me. Take hold of shield and buckler, And stand up for my help."

2. 2 Corinthians 10:4 - "For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds."

Revelation 11:6 These have power to shut heaven, that it rain not in the days of their prophecy: and have power over waters to turn them to blood, and to smite the earth with all plagues, as often as they will.

Two witnesses have the power to control the weather and inflict plagues on the earth.

1. The Power of Faith: How to Access God's Miraculous Abilities

2. Trusting in God's Promise: Relying on His Protection in Troubled Times

1. 2 Kings 7:1-2 - Elisha's Miracle of the Spoiled Flour

2. Exodus 7:17-18 - The Plague of Blood on the Nile

Revelation 11:7 And when they shall have finished their testimony, the beast that ascendeth out of the bottomless pit shall make war against them, and shall overcome them, and kill them.

Two witnesses prophesy in Jerusalem and are eventually overcome by a beast from the bottomless pit.

1. How to Endure Despite Adversity - A Mediation on Revelation 11:7

2. The Strength and Perseverance of Faith: A on Revelation 11:7

1. Matthew 10:22 - ?nd you will be hated by all for My name? sake. But he who endures to the end will be saved.??

2. Hebrews 11:1 - ?ow faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.??

Revelation 11:8 And their dead bodies shall lie in the street of the great city, which spiritually is called Sodom and Egypt, where also our Lord was crucified.

The dead bodies of two witnesses will lie in the spiritual city of Sodom and Egypt, where Jesus was crucified.

1. The Meaning and Significance of Jesus' Crucifixion

2. The Spiritual Nature of Cities

1. Luke 23:33-34 - When they had come to the place called Calvary, there they crucified Him, and the criminals, one on the right hand and the other on the left.

2. Ezekiel 16:49-50 - Behold, this was the iniquity of your sister Sodom: She and her daughter had pride, fullness of food, and abundance of idleness; neither did she strengthen the hand of the poor and needy. And they were haughty and committed abomination before Me; therefore I took them away as I saw fit.

Revelation 11:9 And they of the people and kindreds and tongues and nations shall see their dead bodies three days and an half, and shall not suffer their dead bodies to be put in graves.

Two witnesses of God will be killed and their dead bodies left unburied for three and a half days.

1. God's chosen will be persecuted but will remain faithful despite hardship.

2. Our response to suffering should be to remain faithful and trust in God.

1. Isaiah 43:2-3 - When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you.

2. Matthew 5:10-12 - Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven.

Revelation 11:10 And they that dwell upon the earth shall rejoice over them, and make merry, and shall send gifts one to another; because these two prophets tormented them that dwelt on the earth.

Two prophets have tormented the people on earth, causing them to rejoice and send gifts to each other.

1. The Power of Joy - How to Find Joy in Times of Torment

2. The Power of Gift Giving - Why We Give Gifts to Each Other

1. James 1:2-3 - Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance.

2. Acts 20:35 - In everything I did, I showed you that by this kind of hard work we must help the weak, remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said: ?□t is more blessed to give than to receive.??

Revelation 11:11 And after three days and an half the Spirit of life from God entered into them, and they stood upon their feet; and great fear fell upon them which saw them.

After three and a half days, the Spirit of life from God entered into two witnesses, and they stood up, causing great fear in those who saw them.

1. The Power of the Holy Spirit to Revive

2. Fear of the Lord: A Necessary Part of Our Faith

1. Ezekiel 37:1-14 (The vision of the Valley of Dry Bones)

2. Psalm 111:10 (The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom)

Revelation 11:12 And they heard a great voice from heaven saying unto them, Come up hither. And they ascended up to heaven in a cloud; and their enemies beheld them.

Two witnesses ascend to heaven in a cloud as their enemies watch.

1. "The Power of God: The Witnesses' Ascension"

2. "The Witness of Heaven: God's Great Voice"

1. Ezekiel 37:1-14 - The vision of the dry bones

2. Acts 1:9-11 - Jesus' ascension to heaven

Revelation 11:13 And the same hour was there a great earthquake, and the tenth part of the city fell, and in the earthquake were slain of men seven thousand: and the remnant were affrighted, and gave glory to the God of heaven.

There was a great earthquake in which a tenth of the city fell and seven thousand people were killed. The survivors were terrified and praised God.

1. The Power of God Over Nature

2. The Sovereignty of God in Times of Trouble

1. Job 37:5-6 - "God? voice thunders in marvelous ways; he does great things beyond our understanding. He says to the snow, 'Fall on the earth,' and to the rain shower, 'Be a mighty downpour.'"

2. Psalm 29:3-5 - "The voice of the Lord is over the waters; the God of glory thunders, the Lord thunders over the mighty waters. The voice of the Lord is powerful; the voice of the Lord is full of majesty. The voice of the Lord breaks the cedars; the Lord breaks the cedars of Lebanon."

Revelation 11:14 The second woe is past; and, behold, the third woe cometh quickly.

The third woe is coming soon.

1: Be Ready: The Third Woe is Coming

2: Don't Delay: The Third Woe is Near

1: 1 Corinthians 16:13 - Be watchful, stand firm in the faith, act like men, be strong.

2: Matthew 24:44 - Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.

Revelation 11:15 And the seventh angel sounded; and there were great voices in heaven, saying, The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever.

The seventh angel sounded and Heaven proclaimed that God's kingdom will reign forever.

1. Rejoice in the Good News of God's Eternal Kingdom

2. Understanding the Significance of the Seventh Angel

1. Psalm 146:10 - "The Lord will reign forever, your God, O Zion, for all generations. Praise the Lord!"

2. Daniel 2:44 - "And in the days of those kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom that shall never be destroyed, nor shall the kingdom be left to another people. It shall

break in pieces all these kingdoms and bring them to an end, and it shall stand forever."

Revelation 11:16 And the four and twenty elders, which sat before God on their seats, fell upon their faces, and worshipped God,

The twenty-four elders in Heaven fell on their faces and worshipped God.

1. Worshipping God with All of Our Heart, Soul, and Strength

2. Seeking God's Presence in Every Moment of Our Lives

1. Deuteronomy 6:5 - Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength.

2. Psalm 27:4 - One thing I ask from the Lord, this only do I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life.

Revelation 11:17 Saying, We give thee thanks, O LORD God Almighty, which art, and wast, and art to come; because thou hast taken to thee thy great power, and hast reigned.

God is worthy of our thanks and praise for His great power and sovereignty.

1. Recognizing and Appreciating God's Sovereignty

2. Gratitude for God's Great Power

1. Psalm 33:4-5 - For the word of the Lord is right and true; he is faithful in all he does. The Lord loves righteousness and justice; the earth is full of his unfailing love.

2. Psalm 145:1-3 - I will exalt you, my God the King; I will praise your name for ever and ever. Every day I will praise you and extol your name for ever and ever. Great is the Lord and most worthy of praise; his greatness no one can fathom.

Revelation 11:18 And the nations were angry, and thy wrath is come, and the time of the dead, that they should be judged, and that thou shouldest give reward unto thy servants the prophets, and to the saints, and them that fear thy name, small and great; and shouldest destroy them which destroy the earth.

The nations are angered and God's wrath has come, and it is the time for the dead to be judged and God will reward his faithful servants, the prophets, saints, and those who fear His name, both small and great; and He will destroy those who harm the earth.

1. Living a Fearful Life of Faith

2. The Judgment Day is Coming

1. Romans 14:12 - So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God.

2. Psalm 145:19 - He will fulfill the desire of them that fear him: he also will hear their cry, and will save them.

Revelation 11:19 And the temple of God was opened in heaven, and there was seen in his temple the ark of his testament: and there were lightnings, and voices, and thunderings, and an earthquake, and great hail.

The temple of God was opened in heaven and the ark of his testament was seen. There were also lightnings, voices, thunderings, an earthquake and great hail.

1: Our faith in God is unshakeable even in the midst of turmoil and chaos.

2: We should always strive to obey God's commandments and trust in His promises.

1: Deuteronomy 10:5 ?□nd I will give you the tables of stone, and the law and the commandment, which I have written; that you may teach them.??

2: Hebrews 10:22 ?□et us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water.??

Revelation 12 is the twelfth chapter of the book of Revelation and continues John's vision of end-time events. This chapter focuses on a symbolic portrayal of a great cosmic battle between the forces of good and evil, depicting the conflict between Satan and the woman.

1st Paragraph: The chapter begins with a vision of a woman clothed with the sun, standing on the moon, and wearing a crown of twelve stars. She is in labor pains, ready

to give birth (Revelation 12:1-2). A great red dragon with seven heads and ten horns appears before her, seeking to devour her child as soon as it is born (Revelation 12:3-4). The woman gives birth to a male child who is destined to rule all nations with an iron scepter. However, her child is caught up to God's throne, safe from the dragon's grasp (Revelation 12:5-6).

2nd Paragraph: War breaks out in heaven as Michael and his angels fight against the dragon and his angels. The dragon, identified as Satan or the Devil, loses this battle and is cast down to earth along with his fallen angels (Revelation 12:7-9). A loud voice in heaven declares victory over Satan because of Christ's sacrifice and believers' testimony that triumphs over him even unto death (Revelation 12:10-11).

3rd Paragraph: Following his defeat in heaven, Satan turns his attention toward persecuting believers on earth. He pursues the woman who gave birth to the male child but fails to harm her directly. Instead, he spews water like a river from his mouth in an attempt to sweep her away (Revelation 12:13-16). However, God provides protection for His people by causing the earth to swallow up this torrential flood (Revelation 12:16). Enraged, the dragon continues to make war against the rest of the woman's offspring—those who keep God's commandments and hold to the testimony of Jesus (Revelation 12:17).

In summary, Chapter twelve of Revelation presents a symbolic depiction of a cosmic battle between good and evil. The woman represents Israel or the faithful people of God throughout history. She gives birth to a male child who symbolizes Christ, destined for universal rule. The dragon, identified as Satan, seeks to devour this child but fails as he is caught up to God's throne. A heavenly war ensues, resulting in Satan's expulsion from heaven and his subsequent persecution of believers on earth. However, God provides protection for His people against Satan's attacks and ensures their ultimate victory through Christ's sacrifice and their faithful testimony.

Revelation 12:1 And there appeared a great wonder in heaven; a woman clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet, and upon her head a crown of twelve stars:

A great wonder appeared in heaven, a woman was clothed with the sun, the moon was under her feet, and a crown of twelve stars was on her head.

1. The Wonder of God's Creation: Examining the Symbolism of Revelation 12:1

2. Our Crown of Glory: Understanding the Significance of the Woman in Revelation 12:1

1. Isaiah 26:3 - “You will keep in perfect peace those whose minds are steadfast, because they trust in you.”

2. Isaiah 60:1 - “Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord rises upon you.”

Revelation 12:2 And she being with child cried, travailing in birth, and pained to be delivered.

A pregnant woman in Revelation 12 cries out in pain as she goes through labor to deliver her child.

1. "Travailing in Birth: Growing in Faith Through Pain"

2. "The Pains of Deliverance: Finding Hope in the Midst of Suffering"

1. Romans 8:18 - "For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us."

2. James 1:2-4 - "Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing."

Revelation 12:3 And there appeared another wonder in heaven; and behold a great red dragon, having seven heads and ten horns, and seven crowns upon his heads.

A great red dragon with seven heads, 10 horns, and seven crowns appeared in heaven.

1. The Reality of a Fallen World - Understanding the Symbolism of the Red Dragon

2. The Power of God's Protection - Revelation 12:3 and the Strength of the Almighty

1. Isaiah 27:1 - “In that day the Lord with his sore and great and strong sword shall punish leviathan the piercing serpent, even leviathan that crooked serpent; and he shall slay the dragon that is in the sea.”

2. Daniel 7:7 - “After this I saw in the night visions, and behold a fourth beast, dreadful and terrible, and strong exceedingly; and it had great iron teeth: it devoured and brake in pieces, and stamped the residue with the feet of it: and it was diverse from all the beasts that were before it; and it had ten horns.”

Revelation 12:4 And his tail drew the third part of the stars of heaven, and did cast them to the earth: and the dragon stood before the woman which was ready to be delivered, for to devour her child as soon as it was born.

A dragon with a tail that can draw stars from the sky stands before a woman who is about to give birth, ready to devour her child.

1. God's Protection of the Innocent: Examining the Significance of Revelation 12:4

2. The Power of Faith: Overcoming Adversity in the Face of Danger

1. Isaiah 54:17 - No weapon formed against you shall prosper

2. Psalm 91:4 - He shall cover you with his feathers, and under his wings you shall take refuge; his faithfulness shall be your shield and buckler.

Revelation 12:5 And she brought forth a man child, who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron: and her child was caught up unto God, and to his throne.

The woman brought forth a child who was destined to govern all nations with a rod of iron, and the child was taken up to God and His throne.

1. The Divine Calling of Jesus to Rule Nations

2. The Power and Authority of Jesus

1. Isaiah 9:6-7 For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore.

2. Psalm 2:6-8 “As for me, I have set my King on Zion, my holy hill.” I will tell of the decree: The Lord said to me, “You are my Son; today I have begotten you. Ask of me, and I will make the nations your heritage, and the ends of the earth your possession.

Revelation 12:6 And the woman fled into the wilderness, where she hath a place

prepared of God, that they should feed her there a thousand two hundred and threescore days.

The woman was given a place of refuge in the wilderness, where she would be taken care of for 1260 days.

1. God's Protection in Times of Trouble

2. God's Provision in Difficult Times

1. Psalm 46:1 - "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble."

2. Matthew 6:25-34 - "Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes? Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they?"

Revelation 12:7 And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels,

In Revelation 12:7, it is written that a war occurred in Heaven between Michael and his angels and the dragon and his angels.

1. God's Victory in Heaven: The War Between Michael and the Dragon

2. The Power of Faith: Standing Against the Dragon

1. Daniel 10:13 - "But the prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me one and twenty days: but, lo, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me; and I remained there with the kings of Persia."

2. Ephesians 6:12 - "For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places."

Revelation 12:8 And prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven.

Satan and his followers were not successful in their attack on God and were cast out of heaven.

1. The Unstoppable Power of God

2. The Defeat of Satan

1. John 4:4 - "Ye must be born again."

2. Psalm 46:10 - "Be still, and know that I am God."

Revelation 12:9 And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.

Satan was cast out of Heaven and sent to Earth, taking his angels with him.

1. The Defeat of Satan: How Jesus Overcame the Deceiver of the World

2. God's Sovereignty: The Power of His Judgement Over Satan

1. John 16:11 - "Concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged"

2. Ephesians 2:2 - "In which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience"

Revelation 12:10 And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night.

The Kingdom of God is now established and the power of His Christ has come to provide salvation and strength. Satan has been silenced, no longer able to accuse the brethren before God.

1: The Kingdom of God - Our Salvation and Strength

2: The Power of Christ - A Victory Over Satan

1: Romans 8:31 - "What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us?"

2: John 16:33 - "These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world."

Revelation 12:11 And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death.

The blood of the Lamb and the word of our testimony are the means to overcome the enemy. We must be willing to love and even lay down our lives for the cause of Christ.

1. The Power of the Blood of the Lamb

2. The Cost of Testimony

1. John 15:13 - Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.

2. Acts 5:41 - They departed from the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for his name.

Revelation 12:12 Therefore rejoice, ye heavens, and ye that dwell in them. Woe to the inhabiters of the earth and of the sea! for the devil is come down unto you, having great wrath, because he knoweth that he hath but a short time.

The devil has come to earth with great wrath, and the heavens should rejoice at this.

1. Rejoice in God's Justice: A Study of Revelation 12:12

2. The Danger of the Devil's Wrath: A Warning from Revelation 12:12

1. James 4:7 - Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

2. 1 Peter 5:8 - Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour.

Revelation 12:13 And when the dragon saw that he was cast unto the earth, he persecuted the woman which brought forth the man child.

The dragon was cast to the earth and persecuted the woman who gave birth to the man-child.

1. God's Protection in Persecution

2. Overcoming Adversity Through Faith

1. Romans 8:35-39 - Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?

2. Psalm 91:1-2 - He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty.

Revelation 12:14 And to the woman were given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness, into her place, where she is nourished for a time, and times, and half a time, from the face of the serpent.

The woman was given the wings of a great eagle to fly to a place where she was nourished for a time, and times, and half a time.

1. How God's Protection Can Help Us in Times of Trouble

2. Drawing Strength from Christ in Difficult Times

1. Deuteronomy 32:11-12 - As an eagle stirs up its nest, hovers over its young, spreading out its wings, taking them up, carrying them on its wings, so the LORD alone led him, and there was no foreign god with him.

2. Psalm 91:4 - He will cover you with his pinions, and under his wings you will find refuge; his faithfulness is a shield and buckler.

Revelation 12:15 And the serpent cast out of his mouth water as a flood after the woman, that he might cause her to be carried away of the flood.

Satan tries to drown the woman and her offspring with a flood of water.

1. The Overwhelming Power of Satan's Lies

2. The Protection of God's Promises

1. Ephesians 6:10-18 - Put on the full armor of God to stand against the schemes of the devil.

2. Psalm 46:1-3 - God is a refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

Revelation 12:16 And the earth helped the woman, and the earth opened her mouth, and swallowed up the flood which the dragon cast out of his mouth.

The earth helps the woman and swallows the flood from the dragon.

1. God will provide protection in the midst of danger and turmoil.

2. When God is on our side, no enemy can prevail against us.

1. Psalm 34:7 - The angel of the Lord encamps around those who fear Him, and He delivers them.

2. Isaiah 54:17 - No weapon formed against you shall prosper, and every tongue which rises against you in judgment you shall condemn.

Revelation 12:17 And the dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.

The dragon is angry with those who keep God's commandments and have faith in Jesus Christ.

1: We must always remain steadfast in our faith in Jesus Christ and keep God's commandments.

2: We must remain vigilant and not give in to anger or temptation, for the dragon will always be ready to attack us.

1: Romans 12:19-21 "Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, “Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord.” To the contrary, “if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink; for by so doing you will heap burning coals on his head.” Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

2: Matthew 22:37-40 Jesus said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets.”

Revelation 13 is the thirteenth chapter of the book of Revelation and continues John's vision of end-time events. This chapter focuses on two beasts that arise—one from the sea and another from the earth—representing political and religious powers aligned with Satan.

1st Paragraph: The chapter begins with John seeing a beast rising out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, with blasphemous names written on it. This beast resembles a leopard but has feet like a bear and a mouth like a lion (Revelation 13:1-2). It receives power from the dragon (Satan) and becomes an object of worship by many people on earth, who marvel at its authority (Revelation 13:3-4). The beast is given authority to continue for forty-two months, during which it blasphemes God, makes war against the saints, and exercises dominion over all nations (Revelation 13:5-7).

2nd Paragraph: Another beast emerges from the earth, having two horns like a lamb but speaking like a dragon. It functions as a false prophet and performs great signs to deceive people into worshiping the first beast (Revelation 13:11-14). This second beast compels everyone to receive a mark on their right hand or forehead in order to engage in economic transactions. The mark bears either the name or number of the first beast—666—and without it, no one can buy or sell (Revelation 13:16-18).

3rd Paragraph: This chapter highlights Satan's deceptive tactics through these beasts. The first beast represents political powers that rise to prominence and exert authority over nations while promoting idolatry. Its ability to perform signs deceives many into following its blasphemous ways. The second beast symbolizes religious deception, operating as a false prophet who leads people astray by performing miracles in support of the first beast. The enforcement of the mark of the beast signifies economic control and a means to identify allegiance to the political and religious systems aligned with Satan. Those who refuse to worship the beasts or receive their mark face severe persecution.

In summary, Chapter thirteen of Revelation presents two beasts—one political and one religious—that arise during end-time events. The first beast gains authority from Satan and becomes an object of worship, exercising dominion over nations for a limited period. The second beast functions as a false prophet, performing signs to deceive people into following the first beast and enforcing economic control through the mark of the beast. This chapter underscores Satan's deceptive strategies, his influence in both political and religious spheres, and the challenges faced by those who remain faithful to God amidst intense persecution.

Revelation 13:1 And I stood upon the sand of the sea, and saw a beast rise up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and upon his horns ten crowns, and upon his heads the name of blasphemy.

John sees a beast rising out of the sea with seven heads, ten horns, and ten crowns, bearing the name of blasphemy.

1. The Power of Blasphemy: Understanding Revelation 13:1

2. The Mark of the Beast: A Study of the Beast from the Sea in Revelation 13:1

1. Revelation 17:3-4, "Then the angel carried me away in the Spirit into a desert. There I saw a woman sitting on a scarlet beast that was covered with blasphemous names and had seven heads and ten horns."

2. Isaiah 27:1, "In that day, the Lord will punish with his sword— his fierce, great and powerful sword— Leviathan the gliding serpent, Leviathan the coiling serpent; he will slay the monster of the sea."

Revelation 13:2 And the beast which I saw was like unto a leopard, and his feet were as the feet of a bear, and his mouth as the mouth of a lion: and the dragon gave him his power, and his seat, and great authority.

The beast in the passage is described as a combination of a leopard, bear, and lion. It is given its power, seat, and authority by the dragon.

1. "God's Authority and the Beast: Knowing Our Place in the Universe"

2. "The Nature of the Beast: Understanding the Power of Symbolic Representation"

1. Daniel 7:3-7 - "And four great beasts came up from the sea, different from one another. The first was like a lion and had eagles' wings. Then as I watched, its wings were plucked off, and it was lifted up from the ground and made to stand on two feet like a human being; and a human mind was given to it."

2. Isaiah 11:6-8 - "The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox."

Revelation 13:3 And I saw one of his heads as it were wounded to death; and his deadly wound was healed: and all the world wondered after the beast.

All the world was amazed at the beast's deadly wound being healed.

1. God's Power to Heal and Transform

2. Surprising Wonders of the World

1. Matthew 8:2-3 - Jesus healed a man with leprosy

2. Psalm 33:9 - The Lord plans and carries out his will.

Revelation 13:4 And they worshipped the dragon which gave power unto the beast: and they worshipped the beast, saying, Who is like unto the beast? who is able to make war with him?

People worshiped the dragon, which gave power to the beast, and also worshiped the beast, asking who could make war with him.

1. The Dangers of Worshiping False Gods

2. The Power of God Compared to the Power of the Beast

1. Exodus 20:3-6 - “You shall have no other gods before me. You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I the Lord your God am a jealous God, punishing children for the iniquity of parents, to the third and the fourth generation of those who reject me.

2. Revelation 17:14 - “They will make war on the Lamb, and the Lamb will conquer them, for he is Lord of lords and King of kings, and those with him are called and chosen and faithful.”

Revelation 13:5 And there was given unto him a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies; and power was given unto him to continue forty and two months.

A great mouth is given to a figure and it speaks blasphemies while being given power to continue for 42 months.

1. The Power of Blasphemy

2. The Consequences of Speaking Great Things

1. Matthew 12:31-32 “Therefore I tell you, every sin and blasphemy will be forgiven people, but the blasphemy against the Spirit will not be forgiven. And whoever speaks a word against the Son of Man will be forgiven, but whoever speaks against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven, either in this age or in the age to come.”

2. Proverbs 8:13 “The fear of the Lord is hatred of evil. Pride and arrogance and the way of evil and perverted speech I hate.”

Revelation 13:6 And he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme his name, and his tabernacle, and them that dwell in heaven.

The passage speaks of blasphemy against God, His name, and those who dwell in Heaven.

1. The seriousness of blaspheming against God and His people.

2. The consequences of neglecting God's commandments.

1. Romans 6:23 - For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

2. Leviticus 24:16 - Whoever blasphemes the name of the Lord shall be put to death; all the congregation shall stone the blasphemer.

Revelation 13:7 And it was given unto him to make war with the saints, and to overcome them: and power was given him over all kindreds, and tongues, and nations.

The Beast in the book of Revelation was given power to make war with believers and to overcome them, and power was given to him over all peoples, languages, and nations.

1. The Perseverance of the Saints: Enduring the Trials of the Beast

2. The Sovereignty of God: The Power of the Beast

1. Daniel 7:21-22 - "I saw this horn making war against the holy people and defeating them, until the Ancient of Days came and gave judgment in favor of the holy people of the Most High, and the time came when they possessed the kingdom."

2. Romans 8:31-39 - "What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? Who will bring any charge against God’s elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us."

Revelation 13:8 And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.

People on earth will worship the beast, but those whose names are written in the Lamb's book of life will not.

1. The Power of Faith: Standing Firm in the Face of Adversity

2. The Strength of God's Love: Eternal Security in the Lamb's Book of Life

1. John 3:16-17 - For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

2. Romans 8:38-39 - For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Revelation 13:9 If any man have an ear, let him hear.

This passage is a call to carefully listen to the Lord and his words.

1. "A Call to Listen: The Importance of Obedience to God's Word"

2. "Heeding the Warning: Obedience to God's Word Leads to Life"

1. Deuteronomy 30:19-20 - "I have set before you life and death, blessing and curse. Therefore choose life, that you and your offspring may live, loving the Lord your God, obeying his voice and holding fast to him, for he is your life and length of days, that you may dwell in the land that the Lord swore to your fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give them”

2. James 1:22-25 - “But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks intently at his natural face in a mirror. For he looks at himself and goes away and at once forgets what he was like. But the one who looks into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and perseveres, being no hearer who forgets but a doer who acts, he will be blessed in his doing.”

Revelation 13:10 He that leadeth into captivity shall go into captivity: he that killeth with the sword must be killed with the sword. Here is the patience and the faith of the saints.

Revelation 13:10 speaks of a concept of justice, where those who lead others into captivity will themselves be taken captive, and anyone who kills with the sword will be killed with the sword. This verse also speaks of the patience and faith of the saints.

1. The Justice of God: Patience and Faith in Revelation 13:10

2. Understanding the Sword of Justice: Patience and Faith in Revelation 13:10

1. Romans 12:19 - "Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, “Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord.”

2. Isaiah 11:4 - "But with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; and he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked."

Revelation 13:11 And I beheld another beast coming up out of the earth; and he had two horns like a lamb, and he spake as a dragon.

A second beast arises with two horns like a lamb, but speaks as a dragon.

1. The Deception of the Beast: Recognizing the Lies of Satan

2. The Lamb and the Dragon: Understanding the Contrast between Good and Evil

1. Matthew 7:15-20 – “Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves.”

2. 1 John 4:1-6 – “Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world.”

Revelation 13:12 And he exerciseth all the power of the first beast before him, and causeth the earth and them which dwell therein to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed.

The second beast exercises all the power of the first beast, and causes the world to worship the first beast, whose fatal wound had been healed.

1. The Power of Influence: Exploring the Power of Worship

2. The Consequences of Worship: Exploring the Effects of Idolatry

1. Romans 1:25 - "They exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served created things rather than the Creator—who is forever praised. Amen."

2. 1 Corinthians 10:14 - "Therefore, my dear friends, flee from idolatry."

Revelation 13:13 And he doeth great wonders, so that he maketh fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men,

The power of the beast is seen in his ability to bring down fire from heaven.

1. The Beast: The Possibility of Unexpected Power

2. The Fire of Heaven: A Miracle to Marvel At

1. Luke 9:54-55 - When his disciples James and John saw this, they asked, “Lord, do you want us to call fire down from heaven to destroy them?”

2. Hebrews 11:3 - By faith we understand that the universe was formed at God’s command, so that what is seen was not made out of what was visible.

Revelation 13:14 And deceiveth them that dwell on the earth by the means of those miracles which he had power to do in the sight of the beast; saying to them that dwell on the earth, that they should make an image to the beast, which had the wound by a sword, and did live.

The Beast uses miraculous powers to deceive those living on earth and orders them to make an image of the Beast, which had been wounded by a sword but was still alive.

1. The Consequences of Following False Gods

2. The Evil of Deception

1. Jeremiah 17:5-8 - Trusting in the Lord and not in idols

2. 2 Corinthians 11:13-15 - False prophets and their deceptive tactics

Revelation 13:15 And he had power to give life unto the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak, and cause that as many as would not worship the image of the beast should be killed.

The Beast possessed the power to animate an image of himself, which would then demand worship from all people and execute those who would not comply.

1. How to Live a Life of Worship: A Study of Revelation 13:15

2. The Blessing of Obedience: A Study of Revelation 13:15

1. Matthew 4:8-10 - Jesus's temptation to worship Satan

2. Daniel 3:16-18 - Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego's refusal to worship Nebuchadnezzar's golden image

Revelation 13:16 And he causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads:

The beast causes all people to receive a mark on their right hand or forehead.

1: We must not give in to the Beast's demands and accept the mark.

2: We must stand firm against the Beast and not be tempted by his mark.

1: Philippians 4:13 - I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.

2: Isaiah 41:10 - Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness.

Revelation 13:17 And that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name.

No one is able to buy or sell unless they have the mark, name, or number of the beast.

1. The Cost of Following Christ: How Much Are We Willing to Sacrifice?

2. The Dangers of the Mark of the Beast: Staying Away From False Promises.

1. Matthew 16:24-26 - Then Jesus said to his disciples, “Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me.

2. Romans 12:2 - Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

Revelation 13:18 Here is wisdom. Let him that hath understanding count the number of the beast: for it is the number of a man; and his number is Six hundred threescore and six.

Wisdom and understanding are needed to discern the number of the beast, which is 666.

1. Satan's Deception: How to Recognize the Number of the Beast

2. Understanding and Wisdom: How to Discern Spiritual Truth

1. Proverbs 3:13-18 - Wisdom is found in trusting in the Lord.

2. 2 Corinthians 11:14 - Satan disguises himself as an angel of light.

Revelation 14 is the fourteenth chapter of the book of Revelation and continues John's vision of end-time events. This chapter focuses on various visions, including the Lamb and the 144,000, three angelic proclamations, and the harvest of the earth.

1st Paragraph: The chapter begins with a vision of the Lamb standing on Mount Zion with 144,000 individuals who have been sealed by God on their foreheads. They are described as redeemed from among humanity as firstfruits to God and to the Lamb (Revelation 14:1-5). These faithful ones follow Christ wherever He goes and sing a new song that only they can learn (Revelation 14:3). They are blameless before God and serve as a special group dedicated to Him.

2nd Paragraph: Three angels appear in succession, each proclaiming a distinct message. The first angel proclaims an eternal gospel to every nation, tribe, language, and people—calling them to fear God, give Him glory, and worship Him alone (Revelation 14:6-7). The second angel announces Babylon's fall—a symbolic representation of all systems that oppose God's reign—and warns against partaking in its corruption (Revelation 14:8). The third angel issues a dire warning about receiving the mark of the beast or worshiping his image. Those who do so will experience God's wrath without rest or relief (Revelation 14:9-11).

3rd Paragraph: Following these proclamations, John witnesses a vision of one like a son of man sitting on a cloud wearing a golden crown. He wields a sharp sickle in his hand. An angel commands him to reap because it is time for judgment—the harvest of the earth has come (Revelation 14:14-16). Another angel appears from the temple instructing this Son of Man to gather the clusters of grapes and throw them into the great winepress of God's wrath. The winepress is trampled outside the city, and blood flows out of it for a distance of about 1,600 stadia (Revelation 14:17-20).

In summary, Chapter fourteen of Revelation presents several visions and proclamations. The vision of the Lamb and the sealed 144,000 highlights a special group dedicated to God's service. Three angels proclaim messages—the eternal gospel, Babylon's fall, and a warning against worshiping the beast or receiving his mark. These messages emphasize God's sovereignty, judgment upon those who oppose Him, and the call to remain faithful amidst worldly pressures. The vision of the Son of Man wielding a sickle symbolizes impending judgment—the harvest—wherein those who reject God will face His wrath in a symbolic winepress. This chapter underscores themes of dedication to God, divine proclamations, warnings against spiritual compromise, and ultimate judgment upon evildoers.

Revelation 14:1 And I looked, and, lo, a Lamb stood on the mount Sion, and with him an hundred forty and four thousand, having his Father's name written in their foreheads.

John sees a Lamb on Mount Zion, accompanied by 144,000 people who have God's name written on their foreheads.

1. The Power of a Name - What does it mean to bear God's name?

2. The Mount of Zion - What does it mean to stand on the mount of Zion?

1. Isaiah 11:10 - "And in that day there shall be a root of Jesse, which shall stand for an ensign of the people; to it shall the Gentiles seek: and his rest shall be glorious."

2. Isaiah 59:20 - "And the Redeemer shall come to Zion, and unto them that turn from transgression in Jacob, saith the Lord."

Revelation 14:2 And I heard a voice from heaven, as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of a great thunder: and I heard the voice of harpers harping with their harps:

A voice from heaven is heard like many waters and a great thunder, and harpers are heard singing with their harps.

1. The Power of Praise: How God's Voice is Heard Through Our Music

2. A Call to Worship: Exploring the Symbolic Nature of Heaven's Voice

1. Psalm 150:3-5 - Praise Him with the sound of the trumpet: praise Him with the psaltery

and harp.

2. Isaiah 55:12 - For ye shall go out with joy, and be led forth with peace: the mountains and the hills shall break forth before you into singing, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.

Revelation 14:3 And they sung as it were a new song before the throne, and before the four beasts, and the elders: and no man could learn that song but the hundred and forty and four thousand, which were redeemed from the earth.

The 144,000 sang a new song that only they could learn.

1: God has blessed the 144,000 with a special song.

2: The redeemed of the earth can join in the song of the 144,000.

1: Ephesians 2:8-9 - For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast.

2: Philippians 2:13 - For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure.

Revelation 14:4 These are they which were not defiled with women; for they are virgins. These are they which follow the Lamb whithersoever he goeth. These were redeemed from among men, being the firstfruits unto God and to the Lamb.

These are those who have not been corrupted by sin, but instead remain devoted to God and the Lamb.

1: We must remain devoted to God and the Lamb no matter the cost.

2: We can be redeemed from sin and become the firstfruits unto God and the Lamb.

1: 1 Corinthians 6:19-20 - Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.

2: Romans 12:1-2 - I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present

your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

Revelation 14:5 And in their mouth was found no guile: for they are without fault before the throne of God.

A group of people will be found without fault before the throne of God, as they had no deceit in their mouths.

1. The Power of Honesty - How living a life of truth and integrity can bring us closer to God.

2. The Blessing of Humility - The importance of humbling ourselves before the Lord and walking in His ways.

1. Proverbs 19:1 - "Better is a poor person who walks in his integrity than one who is crooked in speech and is a fool."

2. Psalm 15:1-2 - "O LORD, who shall sojourn in your tent? Who shall dwell on your holy hill? He who walks blamelessly and does what is right and speaks truth in his heart."

Revelation 14:6 And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people,

The everlasting gospel was being preached to all people on earth.

1. The Power of the Everlasting Gospel

2. The Inclusivity of the Gospel

1. Romans 1:16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes.

2. Galatians 3:28 There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

Revelation 14:7 Saying with a loud voice, Fear God, and give glory to him; for the hour of his judgment is come: and worship him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters.

This passage describes God's hour of judgment arriving and calls for reverence, glory, and worship of the Creator of all.

1. What Does it Mean to Fear God?

2. Worshiping the Creator: Reverence and Gratitude.

1. Psalm 34:9-11 "O fear the LORD, ye his saints: for there is no want to them that fear him. The young lions do lack, and suffer hunger: but they that seek the LORD shall not want any good thing. Come, ye children, hearken unto me: I will teach you the fear of the LORD."

2. Isaiah 43:7 "Even every one that is called by my name: for I have created him for my glory, I have formed him; yea, I have made him."

Revelation 14:8 And there followed another angel, saying, Babylon is fallen, is fallen, that great city, because she made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication.

An angel announced that Babylon had fallen due to its fornication and making all nations drink of its wrath.

1. The Consequences of Fornication

2. God's Justice in Judging Nations

1. Isaiah 47:1-15

2. Jeremiah 51:6-8

Revelation 14:9 And the third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, If any man worship the beast and his image, and receive his mark in his forehead, or in his hand,

This passage is about the consequences of worshipping the beast and receiving his mark.

1. The Danger of Idolatry: A on Revelation 14:9

2. The Cost of Worshiping the Beast: What Revelation 14:9 Teaches Us

1. Exodus 20:4-5 - “You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. You shall not bow down to them or serve them, for I the Lord your God am a jealous God.”

2. Deuteronomy 5:8-9 - “You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. You shall not bow down to them or serve them, for I the Lord your God am a jealous God.”

Revelation 14:10 The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation; and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb:

Those who follow the beast will face God's wrath and be punished by fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels and the Lamb.

1. God's Wrath: What Does It Mean?

2. The Consequences of Disobedience to God

1. Romans 2:5 - But because of your stubbornness and your unrepentant heart, you are storing up wrath against yourself for the day of God’s wrath, when his righteous judgment will be revealed.

2. Hebrews 10:31 - It is a dreadful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

Revelation 14:11 And the smoke of their torment ascendeth up for ever and ever: and they have no rest day nor night, who worship the beast and his image, and whosoever receiveth the mark of his name.

Those who worship the beast and its image, and those who bear its mark, will suffer eternal torment without any rest.

1. Living in Unholy Worship - The Consequences of Serving False Idols

2. A Choice Between Heaven and Hell - The Ultimate Decision We All Must Make

1. Romans 6:23 - For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

2. James 4:17 - So whoever knows the right thing to do and fails to do it, for him it is sin.

Revelation 14:12 Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus.

The saints are patient and obedient to God and Jesus.

1. The Power of Patience in Following God

2. Obedience to God and Jesus: A Path to Blessing

1. Psalm 19:7-11

2. James 1:2-4

Revelation 14:13 And I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Write, Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours; and their works do follow them.

The voice from heaven says that those who die in the Lord are blessed and will rest from their labours, and their works will follow them.

1. Living a Life of Faith: The Blessing of Dying in the Lord

2. Our Works Follow Us: The Legacy of Faith

1. Matthew 11:28–30 - Jesus invites us to come to him and find rest for our souls.

2. Hebrews 4:11 - Let us strive to enter into God's rest.

Revelation 14:14 And I looked, and behold a white cloud, and upon the cloud one sat like unto the Son of man, having on his head a golden crown, and in his hand a sharp sickle.

John sees a figure on a white cloud with a golden crown and a sharp sickle in its hand.

1. The Coming of the Son of Man: How Jesus' Second Coming Will Affect Our Lives

2. The Parable of the Sower and the Harvest: A Lesson on Faithfulness in the Face of Adversity

1. Matthew 13:18-23

2. Revelation 19:11-16

Revelation 14:15 And another angel came out of the temple, crying with a loud voice to him that sat on the cloud, Thrust in thy sickle, and reap: for the time is come for thee to reap; for the harvest of the earth is ripe.

The time has come to reap the harvest of the earth.

1. The Time is Now: Reaping the Harvest of the Earth

2. Bearing Fruit: Reaping the Harvest of the Earth

1. Matthew 3:8, “Therefore bear fruits worthy of repentance.”

2. John 4:35-36, “Do you not say, 'There are still four months and then comes the harvest'? Behold, I say to you, lift up your eyes and look at the fields, for they are already white for harvest!”

Revelation 14:16 And he that sat on the cloud thrust in his sickle on the earth; and the earth was reaped.

God's judgement will come swiftly and unexpectedly.

1. Be ready for God's judgement - don't be complacent.

2. God's judgement is just and unavoidable.

1. Romans 2:5-6 "But because of your hard and impenitent heart you are storing up wrath for yourself on the day of wrath when God's righteous judgment will be revealed."

2. Hebrews 10:27 "But a certain fearful expectation of judgment, and fiery indignation which will devour the adversaries."

Revelation 14:17 And another angel came out of the temple which is in heaven, he also having a sharp sickle.

An angel came out from the temple in Heaven carrying a sharp sickle.

1. The Harvest of Souls: How the Angel With the Sharp Sickle Helps Us Reap the Rewards of Heaven

2. The Power of the Sickle: How We Can Harness the Power of Heaven and Reap the Rewards of Eternity

1. Matthew 9:35-38 - Jesus sends out the disciples to preach and harvest the souls of many.

2. Luke 10:1-2 - Jesus sends out the 72 to preach and to gather the harvest of souls.

Revelation 14:18 And another angel came out from the altar, which had power over fire; and cried with a loud cry to him that had the sharp sickle, saying, Thrust in thy sharp sickle, and gather the clusters of the vine of the earth; for her grapes are fully ripe.

An angel came out from the altar with the power over fire and called to the one with the sharp sickle to gather the clusters of the vine of the earth, as the grapes were fully ripe.

1. Strength in the Harvest: A message of hope from Revelation 14:18

2. The Responsibility of the Reapers: An examination of our role in the harvest of Revelation 14:18

1. Matthew 9:37-38 “Then he said to his disciples, “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.”

2. James 5:7-8 “Be patient, therefore, brothers, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient about it, until it receives the early and the late rains. You also, be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand.”

Revelation 14:19 And the angel thrust in his sickle into the earth, and gathered the vine of the earth, and cast it into the great winepress of the wrath of God.

An angel gathers the vine of the earth and casts it into the great winepress of the wrath of God.

1. The Power of God: Standing Firm in the Face of Wrath

2. The Danger of Rejecting the Lord: The Judgment of God

1. Isaiah 63:3-4 - "I have trodden the winepress alone; and of the people there was none with me: for I will tread them in mine anger, and trample them in my fury; and their blood shall be sprinkled upon my garments, and I will stain all my raiment."

2. Romans 2:5-6 - "But after thy hardness and impenitent heart treasurest up unto thyself wrath against the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God; Who will render to every man according to his deeds."

Revelation 14:20 And the winepress was trodden without the city, and blood came out of the winepress, even unto the horse bridles, by the space of a thousand and six hundred furlongs.

The winepress was trodden outside the city, and the blood flowed out for a great distance.

1. The Blood of Jesus: Our Source of Strength and Protection

2. The Power of the Cross: Overcoming Sin and Death

1. Isaiah 63:1-4 - The Lord's Mighty Deeds of Salvation

2. Hebrews 9:22 - The Blood of Jesus for Redemption

Revelation 15 is the fifteenth chapter of the book of Revelation and continues John's vision of end-time events. This chapter focuses on the introduction of seven angels with seven plagues and the preparation for God's final judgments.

1st Paragraph: The chapter begins with John seeing a great and marvelous sign in heaven—a scene that reveals those who have conquered the beast, its image, and received its mark. They are depicted standing beside a sea of glass mixed with fire, singing praises to God (Revelation 15:2-4). These victorious individuals acknowledge God's righteous acts and worship Him for His holy nature.

2nd Paragraph: Seven angels emerge from the heavenly temple, clothed in clean white linen with golden sashes. They carry seven golden bowls filled with the wrath of God (Revelation 15:5-7). One of the four living creatures gives them these bowls, representing complete divine judgment. The temple is then filled with smoke from God's glory and power, signifying His presence.

3rd Paragraph: As a prelude to pouring out their bowls upon the earth, one of the angels declares that no one may enter or leave the temple until these judgments are complete (Revelation 15:8). The following chapters will detail these final plagues poured out upon those who have aligned themselves against God. This chapter serves as an interlude between visions, setting the stage for imminent divine judgment while emphasizing praise and worship by those who have remained faithful.

In summary, Chapter fifteen of Revelation introduces a scene in heaven where victorious individuals stand beside a sea of glass mixed with fire, praising God for His righteous acts. Seven angels emerge carrying golden bowls filled with divine wrath as they prepare to pour out these final judgments upon earth. The chapter highlights worship and acknowledgment of God's holiness amidst impending judgment. It sets the stage for forthcoming plagues while underscoring themes such as divine righteousness, victory over evil, and the worship of God by those who have remained faithful.

Revelation 15:1 And I saw another sign in heaven, great and marvellous, seven angels having the seven last plagues; for in them is filled up the wrath of God.

In Revelation 15:1, John sees a great and marvellous sign in heaven with seven angels

holding the seven last plagues, signifying the wrath of God being fulfilled.

1. The Wrath of God: When Justice is Served

2. The Sign of Heaven: A Revelation of the Last Plagues

1. Deuteronomy 32:35-36 - "Vengeance is mine, and recompense, for the time when their foot shall slip; for the day of their calamity is at hand, and their doom comes swiftly.' For the Lord will vindicate his people and have compassion on his servants, when he sees that their power is gone and there is none remaining, bond or free.

2. Isaiah 66:15-16 - "For behold, the Lord will come in fire, and his chariots like the whirlwind, to render his anger in fury, and his rebuke with flames of fire. For by fire will the Lord enter into judgment, and by his sword, with all flesh; and those slain by the Lord shall be many.

Revelation 15:2 And I saw as it were a sea of glass mingled with fire: and them that had gotten the victory over the beast, and over his image, and over his mark, and over the number of his name, stand on the sea of glass, having the harps of God.

Those who have overcome the power of the Beast will stand on a sea of glass with the harps of God.

1. The Power of Overcoming: A Look at Revelation 15:2

2. The Blessings of Victory: Reaping the Rewards of Faithfulness

1. 1 Corinthians 15:57-58 - But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.

2. Romans 8:37-39 - Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us. For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Revelation 15:3 And they sing the song of Moses the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying, Great and marvellous are thy works, Lord God Almighty; just and true are

thy ways, thou King of saints.

The angels in Revelation 15:3 are singing the song of Moses and the Lamb, proclaiming the greatness and justice of God Almighty.

1. The Unfailing Justice of God: Exploring the Meaning Behind Revelation 15:3

2. The Song of Moses and the Lamb: Celebrating the Majesty of God Almighty

1. Deuteronomy 32:4 - “He is the Rock, his works are perfect, and all his ways are just. A faithful God who does no wrong, upright and just is he.”

2. Psalm 33:4-5 - “For the word of the Lord is right and true; he is faithful in all he does. The Lord loves righteousness and justice; the earth is full of his unfailing love.”

Revelation 15:4 Who shall not fear thee, O Lord, and glorify thy name? for thou only art holy: for all nations shall come and worship before thee; for thy judgments are made manifest.

God is holy and all nations shall come to worship Him due to His judgments being made known.

1. Understanding the Holiness of God

2. The Need for Worship of God

1. Exodus 15:11 - "Who is like unto thee, O Lord, among the gods? who is like thee, glorious in holiness, fearful in praises, doing wonders?"

2. Isaiah 6:3 - "And one cried unto another, and said, Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord of hosts: the whole earth is full of his glory."

Revelation 15:5 And after that I looked, and, behold, the temple of the tabernacle of the testimony in heaven was opened:

The temple of the tabernacle of testimony was opened in heaven.

1. The Power of Testimony: How Our Faithful Stories Impact the World

2. The Promise of Heaven: What Jesus’ Opening of the Temple Means for Us

1. Hebrews 4:14-16 - Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession.

2. Hebrews 9:1-3 - Now even the first covenant had regulations for worship and an earthly place of holiness. For a tent was prepared, the first section, in which were the lampstand and the table and the bread of the Presence. It is called the Holy Place.

Revelation 15:6 And the seven angels came out of the temple, having the seven plagues, clothed in pure and white linen, and having their breasts girded with golden girdles.

The seven angels came out of the temple with the seven plagues, wearing white linen and golden girdles.

1. The Power of the Lord: Examining the Authority of the Seven Angels in Revelation 15:6

2. God's Provision: Understanding the Significance of White Linen and Golden Girdles in Revelation 15:6

1. Exodus 28:4 - He shall put on the holy linen coat, and he shall have the linen breeches upon his flesh, and shall be girded with a linen girdle, and with the linen mitre shall he be attired: these are holy garments; therefore shall he wash his flesh in water, and so put them on.

2. Isaiah 61:10 - I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my soul shall be joyful in my God; for he hath clothed me with the garments of salvation, he hath covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decketh himself with ornaments, and as a bride adorneth herself with her jewels.

Revelation 15:7 And one of the four beasts gave unto the seven angels seven golden vials full of the wrath of God, who liveth for ever and ever.

The four beasts give seven angels seven golden vials full of the wrath of God.

1. The Consequences of Disobeying God's Will

2. The Mercy and Justice of God

1. James 1:13-15 - No one should be tempted to do evil, for God cannot be tempted by evil and He Himself tempts no one.

2. Hebrews 4:15-16 - Jesus understands our weaknesses, for He faced all of the same testings we do, yet He did not sin.

Revelation 15:8 And the temple was filled with smoke from the glory of God, and from his power; and no man was able to enter into the temple, till the seven plagues of the seven angels were fulfilled.

The temple was filled with smoke from God's glory and power, and nobody was able to enter until the seven plagues of the seven angels were fulfilled.

1. God's Power is Unrivaled and Unstoppable

2. The Results of Disobeying God's Warnings

1. Psalm 29:10 - "The Lord sits enthroned over the flood; the Lord is enthroned as King forever."

2. Isaiah 59:2 - "But your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God, and your sins have hidden his face from you so that he does not hear."

Revelation 16 is the sixteenth chapter of the book of Revelation and continues John's vision of end-time events. This chapter focuses on the pouring out of the seven bowls of God's wrath, resulting in severe judgments upon those who have rejected Him.

1st Paragraph: The chapter begins with the first angel pouring out his bowl upon the earth, resulting in painful sores afflicting those who bear the mark of the beast and worship its image (Revelation 16:2). The second angel pours his bowl into the sea, turning it into blood like that of a dead person. Every living creature in the sea dies as a result (Revelation 16:3). The third angel pours his bowl into rivers and springs, causing them to become blood (Revelation 16:4-6). An angel proclaims that these judgments are just because those who shed blood deserve to drink blood.

2nd Paragraph: The fourth angel pours his bowl upon the sun, scorching people with

intense heat (Revelation 16:8-9). Despite experiencing this torment, people refuse to repent and instead blaspheme God. The fifth angel pours his bowl on the throne of the beast, plunging its kingdom into darkness. People gnaw their tongues in agony but still do not repent from their evil deeds (Revelation 16:10-11).

3rd Paragraph: The sixth angel pours his bowl on the great river Euphrates, drying it up to prepare for kings from the east to gather for battle against God. Three unclean spirits resembling frogs come out from demonic spirits performing signs to deceive people worldwide (Revelation 16:12-14). These spirits gather kings for battle at Armageddon—the symbolic place where final conflict occurs between good and evil forces aligned against God (Revelation 16:15-16).

In summary, Chapter sixteen of Revelation describes the pouring out of the seven bowls of God's wrath upon those who have rejected Him. The judgments include painful sores, the turning of the sea and water sources into blood, scorching heat, darkness over the kingdom of the beast, and demonic deception. Despite experiencing these severe plagues, people refuse to repent and continue to blaspheme God. The chapter also introduces preparations for a final battle at Armageddon. This chapter emphasizes divine judgment upon unrepentant evildoers and highlights their stubborn refusal to acknowledge God's sovereignty and turn from their wicked ways.

Revelation 16:1 And I heard a great voice out of the temple saying to the seven angels, Go your ways, and pour out the vials of the wrath of God upon the earth.

A great voice from the temple instructs the seven angels to pour out the vials of the wrath of God upon the earth.

1. The Wrath of God: Understanding the Consequences of Disobedience

2. God's Mercy in the Midst of Wrath

1. Romans 1:18-32 - God's wrath revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men.

2. 2 Peter 3:9 - The Lord is not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.

Revelation 16:2 And the first went, and poured out his vial upon the earth; and there fell a noisome and grievous sore upon the men which had the mark of the beast, and upon them which worshipped his image.

The first angel poured out his vial upon the earth, causing a terrible and painful sore to afflict those who had the mark of the beast and those who worshipped his image.

1. The Price of Idolatry: The Consequences of Worshipping False Idols

2. God's Judgement: The Consequences of Disobeying God's Word

1. Romans 1:21-23 - For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened. Claiming to be wise, they became fools, and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man and birds and animals and creeping things.

2. Psalm 119:105 - Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.

Revelation 16:3 And the second angel poured out his vial upon the sea; and it became as the blood of a dead man: and every living soul died in the sea.

The second angel poured out his vial and caused the sea to become as the blood of a dead man, killing every living soul in it.

1. The consequences of rejecting God's will - Revelation 16:3

2. The power of God's judgment - Revelation 16:3

1. Ezekiel 32:6 - “I will also water with your blood the land where you are swimming, even to the mountains; and the rivers will be full of you.”

2. Psalm 46:3 - “Though the waters thereof roar and be troubled, though the mountains shake with the swelling thereof.”

Revelation 16:4 And the third angel poured out his vial upon the rivers and fountains of waters; and they became blood.

The third angel poured out his vial on rivers and fountains of water, turning them to blood.

1. The Power of God's Judgement

2. The Importance of Water in the Bible

1. Exodus 7:17-21 - Moses turning the Nile to blood

2. Psalm 78:44 - God opening the floodgates of heaven and giving them water as the dust of the earth

Revelation 16:5 And I heard the angel of the waters say, Thou art righteous, O Lord, which art, and wast, and shalt be, because thou hast judged thus.

An angel of the waters praises God for His righteousness in judging the wicked.

1. The Righteous Judgement of God - Examining the importance of God's justice in our lives.

2. The Mercy of God - A discussion of the balance of God's mercy and judgement.

1. Romans 3:23-24 - For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus.

2. Psalm 145:17 - The Lord is righteous in all his ways and kind in all his works.

Revelation 16:6 For they have shed the blood of saints and prophets, and thou hast given them blood to drink; for they are worthy.

The passage speaks of how those who have shed the blood of the saints and prophets have been given blood to drink, suggesting that they are worthy of such a punishment.

1. The Importance of Justice: Understanding the Righteousness of God's Judgement

2. The Price of Persecution: Examining the Consequences of Oppression

1. Romans 12:19 - "Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, “Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord.”

2. Psalm 106:38 - “They shed innocent blood, the blood of their sons and daughters, whom they sacrificed to the idols of Canaan, and the land was desecrated by their blood.”

Revelation 16:7 And I heard another out of the altar say, Even so, Lord God Almighty, true and righteous are thy judgments.

God's judgments are true and righteous.

1. Living in God's Truth: Understanding the Righteousness of God's Judgments

2. The Faithfulness of God: Resting in His Righteous Judgments

1. Psalm 19:9 - The fear of the Lord is clean, enduring forever; the rules of the Lord are true, and righteous altogether.

2. Isaiah 45:21 - Declare and present your case; let them take counsel together! Who told this long ago? Who declared it of old? Was it not I, the Lord? And there is no other god besides me, a righteous God and a Savior; there is none besides me.

Revelation 16:8 And the fourth angel poured out his vial upon the sun; and power was given unto him to scorch men with fire.

God's judgment is severe and just.

1: We must not take God's judgment lightly, but rather commit to living a life of faith that follows His will.

2: God's punishment is meant to bring us back to Him and to remind us of our need to repent and seek His favor.

1: Luke 13:3 - I tell you, no; but unless you repent you will all likewise perish.

2: Romans 2:5-6 - But because of your hard and impenitent heart you are storing up wrath for yourself on the day of wrath when God's righteous judgment will be revealed.

Revelation 16:9 And men were scorched with great heat, and blasphemed the name of God, which hath power over these plagues: and they repented not to give him glory.

People were severely burned by great heat and yet still refused to glorify God, who has the power to stop the plagues.

1. The Power of God: How to Recognize and Respond to It

2. The Danger of Refusing to Glorify God

1. Romans 1:21-22 - “For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened.”

2. James 4:17 - “Therefore, to one who knows the right thing to do and does not do it, to him it is sin.”

Revelation 16:10 And the fifth angel poured out his vial upon the seat of the beast; and his kingdom was full of darkness; and they gnawed their tongues for pain,

The fifth angel poured out his vial on the seat of the beast, causing his kingdom to be full of darkness and pain.

1. The Destruction of the Beast and Its Consequences

2. The Power of God in Contrast to the Power of the Beast

1. John 3:19-20 - "And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their works were evil. For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his works should be exposed."

2. Daniel 7:11-12 - "I looked then because of the sound of the great words that the horn was speaking. And as I watched, the beast was slain, and its body destroyed and given over to be burned with fire. As for the rest of the beasts, their dominion was taken away, but their lives were prolonged for a season and a time."

Revelation 16:11 And blasphemed the God of heaven because of their pains and their sores, and repented not of their deeds.

People refused to repent of their deeds despite suffering great pains and sores, and blasphemed the God of heaven.

1. Repent or Perish: The Consequences of Refusing to Repent

2. God's Mercy and Compassion Despite Our Rebelliousness

1. Luke 13:3–5, “I tell you, no! But unless you repent, you too will all perish.”

2. Romans 5:8, “But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”

Revelation 16:12 And the sixth angel poured out his vial upon the great river Euphrates; and the water thereof was dried up, that the way of the kings of the east might be prepared.

The sixth angel poured out his vial on the Euphrates river, causing it to dry up in order to prepare the way for the kings of the east.

1: God is Sovereign and He is Able to Make a Way in the Wilderness.

2: Seeking God's Strength and Guidance in Difficult Times.

1: Isaiah 43:19 - “Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.

2: Isaiah 41:10 - “Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.”

Revelation 16:13 And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs come out of the mouth of the dragon, and out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet.

The dragon, beast, and false prophet released three unclean spirits like frogs.

1: We must be wary of the influence of evil that can come through those who are untrustworthy.

2: We must be aware of the dangers of deception and the sources of false teachings.

1: Ephesians 6:12 - For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.

2: 1 Peter 5:8 - Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.

Revelation 16:14 For they are the spirits of devils, working miracles, which go forth unto the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty.

The spirits of devils are working miracles to gather the kings of the earth and of the whole world to the battle of the great day of God Almighty.

1. Don't be deceived by the miracles of the devil, for they lead to destruction.

2. We must be prepared for the great day of God Almighty, and stand firm against the deception of the devil.

1. Ephesians 6:10-17 - Put on the whole armor of God that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil.

2. 2 Corinthians 11:14 - For even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light.

Revelation 16:15 Behold, I come as a thief. Blessed is he that watcheth, and keepeth his garments, lest he walk naked, and they see his shame.

Jesus Christ warns that those who watch and keep their garments will be blessed, while those who do not will be shamed.

1. "The Blessing of Obedience: Guarding Ourselves in a Wayward World"

2. "The Promise of Protection: Staying Vigilant in a Faithful Life"

1. Matthew 24:43 - "But understand this: If the owner of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into."

2. Proverbs 6:27 - "Can a man carry fire next to his chest and his clothes not be burned?"

Revelation 16:16 And he gathered them together into a place called in the Hebrew tongue Armageddon.

In Revelation 16:16, it is stated that God will gather people together to a place called Armageddon.

1. The Coming of Armageddon: What You Need to Know

2. Preparing for Armageddon: God's Plan for the End Times

1. Isaiah 34:1-17 - God's Judgement on the Nations

2. Joel 3:2 - God Gathers Nations for Battle at the Valley of Jehoshaphat

Revelation 16:17 And the seventh angel poured out his vial into the air; and there came a great voice out of the temple of heaven, from the throne, saying, It is done.

The seventh angel poured out his vial into the air, and a great voice from the throne of heaven proclaimed that it is done.

1. The Power of God's Voice - Exploring the Authority of God's Words

2. The Meaning of It is Done - Understanding What it Means to be Completely Finished

1. Psalm 29:3-4 - The voice of the Lord is over the waters; the God of glory thunders, the Lord, over many waters. The voice of the Lord is powerful; the voice of the Lord is full of majesty.

2. Isaiah 40:8 - The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever.

Revelation 16:18 And there were voices, and thunders, and lightnings; and there was a great earthquake, such as was not since men were upon the earth, so mighty an earthquake, and so great.

The earth experienced an unprecedentedly great earthquake.

1: God is in control, even when there is destruction and chaos.

2: In the midst of chaos, God is still there with us.

1: Isaiah 28:2 “Behold, the Lord has one who is mighty and strong; like a storm of hail, a destroying tempest, like a storm of mighty, overflowing waters, He casts them down to the earth with His hand.”

2: Isaiah 43:2 “When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow you. When you walk through the fire, you shall not be burned, nor shall the flame scorch you.”

Revelation 16:19 And the great city was divided into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell: and great Babylon came in remembrance before God, to give unto her the cup of the wine of the fierceness of his wrath.

The great city was divided into three parts and the cities of the nations fell, and Babylon was remembered by God, who gave her the cup of his wrath.

1. The Wrath of God: Understanding the Judgment of Babylon

2. The Enemy Within: Recognizing the Dangers of Pride and Greed

1. Isaiah 13:9-11 - Behold, the day of the Lord cometh, cruel both with wrath and fierce anger, to lay the land desolate: and he shall destroy the sinners thereof out of it.

10 For the stars of heaven and the constellations thereof shall not give their light: the sun shall be darkened in his going forth, and the moon shall not cause her light to shine.

11 And I will punish the world for their evil, and the wicked for their iniquity; and I will cause the arrogancy of the proud to cease, and will lay low the haughtiness of the terrible.

2. Jeremiah 25:15-17 - For thus saith the Lord God of Israel unto me; Take the wine cup of this fury at my hand, and cause all the nations, to whom I send thee, to drink it.

16 And they shall drink, and be moved, and be mad, because of the sword that I will send among them.

17 Then took I the cup at the Lord's hand, and made all the nations to drink, unto whom the Lord had sent me.

Revelation 16:20 And every island fled away, and the mountains were not found.

The islands and mountains disappeared when the seventh angel poured out his bowl of wrath.

1. The Lord's Wrath: When the Seventh Angel Poured Out His Bowl

2. The Vanishing Islands and Mountains: A Sign of God's Judgment

1. Isaiah 13:9-13 - Behold, the day of the Lord comes, cruel, with wrath and fierce anger, to make the land a desolation and to destroy its sinners from it.

2. Isaiah 24:1-6 - The Lord will make the earth empty and make it waste, and he will turn it upside down and scatter its inhabitants.

Revelation 16:21 And there fell upon men a great hail out of heaven, every stone about the weight of a talent: and men blasphemed God because of the plague of the hail; for the plague thereof was exceeding great.

An extremely large hail fell from the sky, causing men to blaspheme God due to its severity.

1. God's Power: The Magnitude of the Hail in Revelation 16:21

2. The Consequence of Blasphemy: Why Men Blasphemed in Revelation 16:21

1. Psalm 18:12-14 - He shot his arrows and scattered the enemies, great bolts of lightning

and routed them. The valleys of the sea were exposed and the foundations of the earth laid bare at your rebuke, Lord, at the blast of breath from your nostrils.

2. Job 38:22-23 - “Have you entered the storehouses of the snow or seen the storehouses of the hail, which I reserve for times of trouble, for days of war and battle?

Revelation 17 is the seventeenth chapter of the book of Revelation and continues John's vision of end-time events. This chapter focuses on the description and judgment of a mysterious woman known as Babylon the Great, along with the beast she rides upon.

1st Paragraph: John is carried away in the Spirit to see a woman sitting on a scarlet beast with seven heads and ten horns. The woman is dressed in luxurious attire and adorned with gold, precious stones, and pearls (Revelation 17:3-4). She holds a golden cup filled with abominable things and has written on her forehead: "Mystery, Babylon the Great, mother of prostitutes and of earth's abominations" (Revelation 17:5). The woman represents a great city that rules over kings and nations.

2nd Paragraph: An angel explains to John that the seven heads represent both seven mountains on which the woman sits—symbolizing political power—and seven kings or kingdoms. Five have fallen, one is currently ruling, and another is yet to come for a brief time before being destroyed (Revelation 17:9-11). The ten horns represent ten kings who will receive authority for one hour alongside the beast. They will wage war against God but ultimately be defeated by Him (Revelation 17:12-14).

3rd Paragraph: The angel further reveals that these kings will turn against Babylon—the woman—and destroy her utterly. God puts it in their hearts to carry out His purpose by making them hate this false system (Revelation 17:16-18). The chapter concludes by describing how this great city—Babylon—is judged as an embodiment of evil. It represents spiritual corruption, idolatry, immorality, economic exploitation, and persecution against believers. Its destruction signifies God's judgment upon all systems that oppose Him.

In summary, Chapter seventeen of Revelation introduces a mysterious woman known as Babylon the Great, who symbolizes a great city ruling over kings and nations. She is depicted as sitting on a scarlet beast with seven heads and ten horns. The chapter reveals that the woman represents spiritual corruption and embodies various forms of evil. The angel explains the symbolism of the seven heads, mountains, kings, and horns, indicating political power structures aligned against God. Ultimately, these systems turn against Babylon and destroy her under God's guidance. This chapter highlights divine judgment upon wickedness and exposes the deceptive nature of worldly powers that oppose God's reign.

Revelation 17:1 And there came one of the seven angels which had the seven vials, and talked with me, saying unto me, Come hither; I will shew unto thee the judgment of the

great whore that sitteth upon many waters:

An angel speaks to the author of Revelation, telling him to come and see the judgement of the great prostitute who sits upon many waters.

1. The Reality And Consequences Of Idolatry

2. The Seriousness Of Spiritual Adultery

1. Isaiah 1:21-23

2. Ezekiel 16:15-43

Revelation 17:2 With whom the kings of the earth have committed fornication, and the inhabitants of the earth have been made drunk with the wine of her fornication.

The kings of the earth have committed spiritual adultery with an evil entity, causing the inhabitants of the earth to be intoxicated by its influence.

1. The Danger of Spiritual Adultery

2. The Intoxicating Effects of Sin

1. James 1:14-15 - “But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire. Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death.”

2. Proverbs 23:29-35 - “Who has woe? Who has sorrow? Who has strife? Who has complaining? Who has wounds without cause? Who has redness of eyes? Those who tarry long over wine; those who go to try mixed wine. Do not look at wine when it is red, when it sparkles in the cup and goes down smoothly. In the end it bites like a serpent and stings like an adder. Your eyes will see strange things, and your heart utter perverse things.”

Revelation 17:3 So he carried me away in the spirit into the wilderness: and I saw a woman sit upon a scarlet coloured beast, full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns.

John is taken away in a vision to the wilderness, where he sees a woman riding a scarlet beast with seven heads and ten horns, full of blasphemous names.

1. The Perils of Idolatry: An Examination of Revelation 17

2. Blasphemy and False Worship: A Warning from Revelation 17

1. Psalm 97:7 (KJV): "Confounded be all they that serve graven images, that boast themselves of idols: worship him, all ye gods."

2. Romans 1:21-25 (KJV): "Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened. Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools, And changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and fourfooted beasts, and creeping things. Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves: Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen."

Revelation 17:4 And the woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet colour, and decked with gold and precious stones and pearls, having a golden cup in her hand full of abominations and filthiness of her fornication:

The woman was dressed in luxurious clothing and jewelry, holding a cup containing her sins.

1. The Vanity of Worldly Lusts

2. The Danger of Idolatry

1. James 4:4 - "You adulterous people, don't you know that friendship with the world means enmity against God? Therefore, anyone who chooses to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God."

2. 1 John 2:15-17 - "Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, love for the Father is not in them. For everything in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—comes not from the Father but from the world. The world and its desires pass away, but whoever does the will of God lives forever."

Revelation 17:5 And upon her forehead was a name written, MYSTERY, BABYLON THE

GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH.

Revelation 17:5 speaks of a woman with a mysterious name written on her forehead, which is "Babylon the Great, the Mother of Harlots and Abominations of the Earth".

1. The Mystery of Babylon the Great: Exploring the Significance of the Name

2. The Abominations of the Earth: A Study of Babylon's Impact on the World

1. Proverbs 7:6-27 - Advice for avoiding the adulterous woman

2. Isaiah 47:1-15 - The judgment of Babylon for its arrogance and pride

Revelation 17:6 And I saw the woman drunken with the blood of the saints, and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus: and when I saw her, I wondered with great admiration.

The woman in Revelation 17 is seen to be drunk with the blood of the saints and martyrs of Jesus.

1. The Power of Christ: How Saints and Martyrs Show Us the Way

2. Persecution and Suffering: A Look at the Blood of Saints and Martyrs

1. Romans 8:17-19 - For we are joint-heirs with Christ, if we suffer with Him, so that we may be also glorified with Him.

2. Hebrews 12:1-3 - Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us rid ourselves of every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us.

Revelation 17:7 And the angel said unto me, Wherefore didst thou marvel? I will tell thee the mystery of the woman, and of the beast that carrieth her, which hath the seven heads and ten horns.

This passage reveals the mysterious identity of a woman and a beast with seven heads and ten horns.

1. The Unveiling of God's Mystery: Understanding the Significance of Revelation 17:7

2. The Power of Revelation: Unlocking God's Purpose in Our Lives

1. Isaiah 25:1 - “O Lord, you are my God; I will exalt you; I will praise your name, for you have done wonderful things, plans formed of old, faithful and sure.”

2. Psalm 25:14 - “The secret of the Lord is with those who fear him, and he will show them his covenant.”

Revelation 17:8 The beast that thou sawest was, and is not; and shall ascend out of the bottomless pit, and go into perdition: and they that dwell on the earth shall wonder, whose names were not written in the book of life from the foundation of the world, when they behold the beast that was, and is not, and yet is.

The beast that was seen by John in the book of Revelation will rise from the bottomless pit and will be seen by those whose names are not written in the book of life, causing them to wonder.

1. "The Beast That Was and Is Not Yet Is"

2. "The Wonder of the Beast"

1. Daniel 7:7-8, “After this I saw in the night visions, and behold a fourth beast, dreadful and terrible, and strong exceedingly; and it had great iron teeth: it devoured and brake in pieces, and stamped the residue with the feet of it: and it was diverse from all the beasts that were before it; and it had ten horns. I considered the horns, and, behold, there came up among them another little horn, before whom there were three of the first horns plucked up by the roots: and, behold, in this horn were eyes like the eyes of man, and a mouth speaking great things.”

2. Ephesians 1:4, “According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love.”

Revelation 17:9 And here is the mind which hath wisdom. The seven heads are seven mountains, on which the woman sitteth.

The seven heads in Revelation 17:9 are the seven mountains on which the woman is seated.

1. The Mountains of Revelation: A Study of Revelation 17:9

2. Wisdom in the Book of Revelation: How to Find God's Guidance

1. Psalm 125:1 - “Those who trust in the LORD are like Mount Zion, which cannot be moved, but abides forever.”

2. Isaiah 12:2 - “Behold, God is my salvation; I will trust and not be afraid; for the LORD GOD is my strength and my song; He also has become my salvation.”

Revelation 17:10 And there are seven kings: five are fallen, and one is, and the other is not yet come; and when he cometh, he must continue a short space.

This passage of Revelation 17:10 talks about seven kings, five of whom have already fallen, one is living and the other has yet to come, and he will only reign for a short time.

1. The Transience of Human Power: How We Should Live in Light of Our Impermanence

2. The Sovereignty of God: Trusting in the Lord for Lasting Peace and Comfort

1. Isaiah 40:6-8 - "All people are like grass, and all their glory is like the flowers of the field; the grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of our God endures forever."

2. James 4:14 - "Why, you do not even know what will happen tomorrow. What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes."

Revelation 17:11 And the beast that was, and is not, even he is the eighth, and is of the seven, and goeth into perdition.

The beast that was, and is not, is the eighth and is of the seven and goes into perdition.

1. The Beast and Perdition: Understanding the Significance of Revelation 17:11

2. The Eighth Beast: A Study of Revelation 17:11

1. Matthew 25:41— “Then he will say to those on his left, ‘Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels.’”

2. Daniel 7:11— “I looked then because of the sound of the great words that the horn was speaking. And as I looked, the beast was killed, and its body destroyed and given over to be burned with fire.”

Revelation 17:12 And the ten horns which thou sawest are ten kings, which have received no kingdom as yet; but receive power as kings one hour with the beast.

The passage describes ten kings who have not yet received a kingdom, but will gain power as kings alongside the beast for one hour.

1. The Power of Kings: Understanding What It Means to Receive Authority

2. The Temporary Nature of Authority: How God's Sovereignty Reigns Supreme

1. Daniel 7:17-18 - “These great beasts, which are four, are four kings, which shall arise out of the earth. But the saints of the most High shall take the kingdom, and possess the kingdom for ever, even for ever and ever.”

2. Romans 13:1-2 - “Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God. Whosoever therefore resisteth the power, resisteth the ordinance of God: and they that resist shall receive to themselves damnation.”

Revelation 17:13 These have one mind, and shall give their power and strength unto the beast.

People of a single-minded mindset give their power and strength to the beast.

1. The Power of Unity - how together we can achieve great things by surrendering our individual power and strength to a common cause.

2. The Beast Within Us - how surrendering to our own selfish desires can lead to our downfall.

1. James 4:7 - "Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you."

2. Matthew 6:24 - "No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money."

Revelation 17:14 These shall make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb shall overcome them: for he is Lord of lords, and King of kings: and they that are with him are called, and chosen, and faithful.

The Lamb will overcome all enemies, for He is Lord of lords and King of kings, and those who are with Him are called, chosen, and faithful.

1: There is no power greater than our Lord, and those who follow Him can be assured of His protection.

2: Our Lord is Lord of lords and King of kings, and those who follow Him are called, chosen, and faithful.

1: Isaiah 41:10 - Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness.

2: Joshua 1:9 - Have not I commanded thee? Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the Lord thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest.

Revelation 17:15 And he saith unto me, The waters which thou sawest, where the whore sitteth, are peoples, and multitudes, and nations, and tongues.

The waters seen in Revelation 17:15 symbolize the different peoples, multitudes, nations, and languages of the world.

1. God's Mercy Extends To All: A Reflection on Revelation 17:15

2. Understanding Different Cultures: A Study of Revelation 17:15

1. Psalm 86:9 - All the nations you have made will come and worship before you, Lord; they will bring glory to your name.

2. Acts 17:26 - From one man he made all the nations, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he marked out their appointed times in history and the boundaries of their lands.

Revelation 17:16 And the ten horns which thou sawest upon the beast, these shall hate the whore, and shall make her desolate and naked, and shall eat her flesh, and burn her with fire.

The ten horns of the beast will hate the whore and destroy her, consuming her flesh and burning her with fire.

1. True hate stems from the consequences of sin and its destruction.

2. Our lives are fleeting and our actions have consequences.

1. Romans 6:23 - For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

2. James 4:14 - Yet you do not know what tomorrow will bring. What is your life? For you are a mist that appears for a little time and then vanishes.

Revelation 17:17 For God hath put in their hearts to fulfil his will, and to agree, and give their kingdom unto the beast, until the words of God shall be fulfilled.

The beast is given authority over the kingdoms until God's will is fulfilled.

1. Understanding God's ultimate authority and will

2. The importance of submission to God's will

1. Matthew 6:10 - "Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven."

2. James 4:7 - "Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you."

Revelation 17:18 And the woman which thou sawest is that great city, which reigneth over the kings of the earth.

The woman in the vision is symbolic of the great city which reigns over the kings of the earth.

1: God's Sovereignty Over Nations

2: The Supremacy of the Church

1: Daniel 7:27 - And the kingdom and dominion, and the greatness of the kingdom under the whole heaven, shall be given to the people of the saints of the most High, whose kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions shall serve and obey him.

2: Psalm 2:10-12 - Be wise now therefore, O ye kings: be instructed, ye judges of the earth. Serve the LORD with fear, and rejoice with trembling. Kiss the Son, lest he be angry, and ye perish from the way, when his wrath is kindled but a little. Blessed are all they that put their trust in him.

Revelation 18 is the eighteenth chapter of the book of Revelation and continues John's vision of end-time events. This chapter focuses on the fall and judgment of Babylon the Great, symbolizing a corrupt and idolatrous system that opposes God.

1st Paragraph: The chapter begins with an angel descending from heaven, proclaiming with a mighty voice that Babylon has fallen. This proclamation announces her destruction and declares that she has become a dwelling place for demons, a haunt for every unclean spirit, and a cage for every unclean bird (Revelation 18:2). The nations have been deceived by her sorcery, immorality, and economic exploitation (Revelation 18:3). Another voice from heaven calls God's people to come out of Babylon so as not to partake in her sins or share in her plagues (Revelation 18:4-5).

2nd Paragraph: The chapter describes the great wealth and luxury associated with Babylon. Merchants mourn over her destruction because no one buys their merchandise anymore—goods such as gold, silver, precious stones, fine fabrics, spices, wine, oil, livestock, slaves—and even human souls (Revelation 18:11-13). They lament over their lost profits as they witness smoke rising from the burning city (Revelation 18:15-19).

3rd Paragraph: Rejoicing breaks out in heaven over Babylon's judgment. An angel throws a mighty stone into the sea declaring that Babylon will be thrown down with violence and never be found again (Revelation 18:21). The city's destruction is described as complete devastation—no more music or craftsman will be heard within its walls; no light will shine there anymore (Revelation 18:22-23). It is emphasized that Babylon is responsible for shedding the blood of prophets and saints throughout history (Revelation 18:24). The chapter concludes with the assurance that God has avenged His people through Babylon's downfall.

In summary, Chapter eighteen of Revelation depicts the fall and judgment of Babylon the Great—a symbol of a corrupt and idolatrous system. The chapter highlights her deceptive practices, economic exploitation, and immorality. An angel proclaims her destruction, calling God's people to separate themselves from her influence. The chapter describes the mourning of merchants over their lost profits and the rejoicing in heaven over Babylon's judgment. It emphasizes the complete devastation of Babylon and affirms God's justice in avenging His people against this wicked system. This chapter underscores themes of divine judgment upon spiritual corruption, economic exploitation, and calls for believers to remain separate from worldly systems opposed to God.

Revelation 18:1 And after these things I saw another angel come down from heaven, having great power; and the earth was lightened with his glory.

An angel descends from heaven and brings great power and glory to the earth.

1. The Power of Heaven: How the Glory of God Can Transform Our Lives

2. Heaven's Glory: How We Can Live in Light of God's Magnificence

1. Psalm 19:1 - The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands.

2. Isaiah 6:3 - And they were calling to one another: “Holy, holy, holy is the Lord Almighty; the whole earth is full of his glory.”

Revelation 18:2 And he cried mightily with a strong voice, saying, Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and is become the habitation of devils, and the hold of every foul spirit, and a cage of every unclean and hateful bird.

The great city of Babylon has fallen and become a place of evil and darkness.

1. God's Judgment on Babylon: A Warning for Today

2. Embracing God's Light and Rejecting the Darkness of Babylon.

1. Isaiah 21:9 - "Babylon, the glory of kingdoms, the beauty of the Chaldeans' pride, shall be as when God overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah."

2. Jeremiah 51:8 - "Babylon is suddenly fallen and destroyed: howl for her; take balm for her pain, if so be she may be healed."

Revelation 18:3 For all nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication, and the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her, and the merchants of the earth are waxed rich through the abundance of her delicacies.

The nations of the world, the kings, and merchants are all corrupt and have grown wealthy through the abundance of luxuries offered by Babylon.

1. The Sins of Babylon: What We Can Learn From the Nation of Luxury and Greed

2. The Dangers of Worldly Riches: How to Avoid the Temptations of Wealth

1. James 4:4 - "You adulterous people, don't you know that friendship with the world means enmity against God? Therefore, anyone who chooses to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God."

2. Proverbs 11:28 - "Whoever trusts in his riches will fall, but the righteous will thrive like a green leaf."

Revelation 18:4 And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues.

God is calling believers to come out of a sinful city and be free from its punishment.

1. "The City of Sin: Avoiding the Plagues of Temptation"

2. "Following God's Call: Leaving the Consequences of Sin Behind"

1. Jeremiah 51:45 - "Come out of her, my people, and save yourselves, every one of you, from the fierce anger of the Lord."

2. Romans 12:2 - "Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect."

Revelation 18:5 For her sins have reached unto heaven, and God hath remembered her iniquities.

God remembers the sins of the people, and their sins have reached heaven.

1. The Consequences of Sin - We will ultimately be held accountable for our sins.

2. Don't Take Sin Lightly - God is always watching and will remember our wrongdoings.

1. Romans 6:23 - For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

2. Ezekiel 18:20 - The soul who sins shall die. The son shall not suffer for the iniquity of the father, nor the father suffer for the iniquity of the son. The righteousness of the righteous shall be upon himself, and the wickedness of the wicked shall be upon himself.

Revelation 18:6 Reward her even as she rewarded you, and double unto her double according to her works: in the cup which she hath filled fill to her double.

God commands us to repay evil with good, and to give double what we have received.

1. Paying Evil with Good: The Power of Love in the Face of Hatred

2. Repaying Evil with Good: The Benefits of Forgiving Instead of Fighting

1. Matthew 5:38-39 "You have heard that it was said, ‘An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.’ But I tell you, do not resist an evil person. If anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to them the other cheek also."

2. Romans 12:19-21 "Do not take revenge, my dear friends, but leave room for God’s wrath, for it is written: “It is mine to avenge; I will repay,” says the Lord. On the contrary: “If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head.” Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good."

Revelation 18:7 How much she hath glorified herself, and lived deliciously, so much torment and sorrow give her: for she saith in her heart, I sit a queen, and am no widow, and shall see no sorrow.

God warns that those who live luxuriously and boast of their own exaltation will receive punishment and sorrow.

1. The Dangers of Boasting and Living Luxuriously

2. Reaping What We Sow: The Consequences of Vain Pride

1. Proverbs 16:18 - Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall.

2. James 4:6 - But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble.

Revelation 18:8 Therefore shall her plagues come in one day, death, and mourning, and famine; and she shall be utterly burned with fire: for strong is the Lord God who judgeth her.

The Lord God will judge Babylon in one day with death, mourning, famine and fire.

1: God's Justice is Powerful and Unstoppable

2: The Consequences of Rejecting the Lord's Love

1: Isaiah 26:9 - "When Your judgments come upon the earth, the people of the world learn righteousness."

2: Psalm 9:8 - He will judge the world with righteousness; He will govern the peoples with justice.

Revelation 18:9 And the kings of the earth, who have committed fornication and lived deliciously with her, shall bewail her, and lament for her, when they shall see the smoke of her burning,

The kings of the earth will mourn for Babylon after witnessing her destruction.

1. The Fall of Babylon: The Consequences of Sin

2. The Wrath of God and the Destruction of the Wicked

1. Jeremiah 51:7-8 "Babylon was a golden cup in the Lord's hand, that made all the earth drunken: the nations have drunken of her wine; therefore the nations are mad. Babylon is suddenly fallen and destroyed: howl for her; take balm for her pain, if so be she may be healed."

2. Isaiah 47:8-9 "Therefore hear now this, thou that art given to pleasures, that dwellest carelessly, that sayest in thine heart, I am, and none else beside me; I shall not sit as a widow, neither shall I know the loss of children: But these two things shall come to thee in a moment in one day, the loss of children, and widowhood: they shall come upon thee in their perfection for the multitude of thy sorceries, and for the great abundance of thine enchantments."

Revelation 18:10 Standing afar off for the fear of her torment, saying, Alas, alas that great city Babylon, that mighty city! for in one hour is thy judgment come.

In one hour, the great city of Babylon will be judged and condemned.

1. The God of Justice: We Serve a God of Righteousness and Judgment

2. The Inevitability of Justice: We Reap What We Sow

1. Romans 2:8-10 “But for those who are self-seeking and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, there will be wrath and fury. There will be tribulation and distress for every human being who does evil, the Jew first and also the Greek, but glory and honor and peace for everyone who does what is good, the Jew first and also the Greek.”

2. Psalm 9:16 “The Lord is known by his acts of justice; the wicked are ensnared by the work of their hands.”

Revelation 18:11 And the merchants of the earth shall weep and mourn over her; for no man buyeth their merchandise any more:

Merchants of the earth are mourning because no one is buying their merchandise.

1. How We Can Rely on God's Provision in Times of Uncertainty

2. Living with Gratitude in the Midst of Loss

1. Isaiah 55:1-2 “Come, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and he who has no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labor for that which does not satisfy? Listen diligently to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food.”

2. Philippians 4:11-12 “Not that I am speaking of being in need, for I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content. I know how to be brought low, and I know how to abound. In any and every circumstance, I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need.”

Revelation 18:12 The merchandise of gold, and silver, and precious stones, and of pearls, and fine linen, and purple, and silk, and scarlet, and all thyine wood, and all manner vessels of ivory, and all manner vessels of most precious wood, and of brass, and iron, and marble,

The passage from Revelation 18:12 describes a variety of precious items, including gold, silver, precious stones, pearls, fine linens, purple, silk, scarlet, thyine wood, ivory, brass, iron, and marble.

1. The Cost of Vanity: A Study of Items Described in Revelation 18:12

2. The Splendid Things of Earth: A Reflection on the Beauty Described in Revelation 18:12

1. 1 Timothy 6:17 - Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment.

2. James 5:1-6 - Come now, you rich, weep and howl for the miseries that are coming upon you. Your riches have rotted and your garments are moth-eaten. Your gold and silver have corroded, and their corrosion will be evidence against you and will eat your flesh like fire. You have laid up treasure in the last days.

Revelation 18:13 And cinnamon, and odours, and ointments, and frankincense, and wine, and oil, and fine flour, and wheat, and beasts, and sheep, and horses, and chariots, and slaves, and souls of men.

Revelation 18:13 mentions a variety of goods and materials including spices, perfumes, ointments, frankincense, wine, oil, flour, wheat, animals, horses, chariots, slaves, and

even souls of men.

1. The Worshipping of Wealth: How Our Love of Material Possessions Can Lead Us Astray

2. The God of All Possessions: How God Provides For Our Needs Through His Abundance

1. Proverbs 11:4- "Wealth is worthless in the day of wrath, but righteousness delivers from death."

2. Matthew 6:19-21 "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

Revelation 18:14 And the fruits that thy soul lusted after are departed from thee, and all things which were dainty and goodly are departed from thee, and thou shalt find them no more at all.

The luxuries of life have been taken away from us.

1: Abide in the Lord and Trust in His Provision

2: Contentment in the Midst of Suffering

1: Philippians 4:11-13 "Not that I am speaking of being in need, for I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content. I know how to be brought low, and I know how to abound. In any and every circumstance, I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need.

2: Matthew 6:25-27 "Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they?

Revelation 18:15 The merchants of these things, which were made rich by her, shall stand afar off for the fear of her torment, weeping and wailing,

The merchants of the world will be filled with fear and sorrow upon seeing the judgment

of God on Babylon.

1. Find security in God, not worldly riches.

2. Have faith in God's ultimate justice.

1. Psalm 112:7 - They shall have no fear of bad news; their hearts are steadfast, trusting in the Lord.

2. Matthew 6:19-21 - “Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

Revelation 18:16 And saying, Alas, alas, that great city, that was clothed in fine linen, and purple, and scarlet, and decked with gold, and precious stones, and pearls!

The great city was adorned in luxurious clothing, with gold, precious stones, and pearls.

1. The Beauty of the City: Lessons from Revelation 18:16

2. Adorning Ourselves with Godliness: What Did the Great City Teach Us?

1. Proverbs 31:25: "Strength and dignity are her clothing, and she laughs at the time to come."

2. 1 Peter 3:3-4: "Do not let your adorning be external—the braiding of hair and the putting on of gold jewelry, or the clothing you wear— but let your adorning be the hidden person of the heart with the imperishable beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which in God's sight is very precious."

Revelation 18:17 For in one hour so great riches is come to nought. And every shipmaster, and all the company in ships, and sailors, and as many as trade by sea, stood afar off,

The great riches of the world come to nothing in a single hour.

1. The Transience of Wealth: How our Riches are Fleeting

2. The Vanity of Pursuing Power and Fortune

1. Matthew 6:24-34 - No one can serve two masters

2. Psalm 39:6 - Surely every man walketh in a vain show

Revelation 18:18 And cried when they saw the smoke of her burning, saying, What city is like unto this great city!

People mourned the destruction of the great city of Babylon.

1. The Destruction of Babylon: What It Teaches Us About Pride and Greed

2. The Power of God: How He Judges the Wicked

1. Proverbs 16:18 - "Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall."

2. Isaiah 13:19-20 - "And Babylon, the glory of kingdoms, the beauty of the Chaldeans' pride, will be as when God overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah. It will never be inhabited, nor will it be settled from generation to generation."

Revelation 18:19 And they cast dust on their heads, and cried, weeping and wailing, saying, Alas, alas, that great city, wherein were made rich all that had ships in the sea by reason of her costliness! for in one hour is she made desolate.

People cried and wailed in sorrow for the great city that was made desolate in one hour.

1. God's Mercy and Judgment

2. The Impermanence of Earthly Treasures

1. Lamentations 3:22-24 - The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.

2. Matthew 6:19-21 - Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and

rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

Revelation 18:20 Rejoice over her, thou heaven, and ye holy apostles and prophets; for God hath avenged you on her.

God has avenged those who were wronged by the sinful city of Babylon.

1: God's justice prevails and He will always avenge those who are wronged.

2: Rejoice in God's justice and show gratitude for His protection.

1: Romans 12:19 - Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, “Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord.”

2: Psalm 7:11 - God is a righteous judge, and a God who feels indignation every day.

Revelation 18:21 And a mighty angel took up a stone like a great millstone, and cast it into the sea, saying, Thus with violence shall that great city Babylon be thrown down, and shall be found no more at all.

A mighty angel cast a great millstone into the sea, symbolizing the destruction of the great city Babylon.

1. The Destruction of Babylon: A Sign of the Coming of the Lord

2. The Consequences of Disobedience: The Fall of Babylon

1. Jeremiah 51:63-64 "And it shall be, when thou hast made an end of reading this book, that thou shalt bind a stone to it, and cast it into the midst of Euphrates: And thou shalt say, Thus shall Babylon sink, and shall not rise from the evil that I will bring upon her."

2. Isaiah 13:19-20 "And Babylon, the glory of kingdoms, the beauty of the Chaldees' excellency, shall be as when God overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah. It shall never be inhabited, neither shall it be dwelt in from generation to generation: neither shall the Arabian pitch tent there; neither shall the shepherds make their fold there."

Revelation 18:22 And the voice of harpers, and musicians, and of pipers, and trumpeters, shall be heard no more at all in thee; and no craftsman, of whatsoever craft he be, shall be found any more in thee; and the sound of a millstone shall be heard no more at all in thee;

Babylon is depicted as a place of great wealth and luxury that has come to an abrupt end.

1. The Vanity of Worldly Pleasures

2. The Transience of Earthly Wealth

1. Ecclesiastes 2:1-11

2. Isaiah 47:8-10

Revelation 18:23 And the light of a candle shall shine no more at all in thee; and the voice of the bridegroom and of the bride shall be heard no more at all in thee: for thy merchants were the great men of the earth; for by thy sorceries were all nations deceived.

Merchants in the city were influential people of the world and their sorcery deceived all nations.

1. The Power of Deception

2. The Influence of Merchants

1. Matthew 24:4-5 - And Jesus answered and said unto them, Take heed that no man deceive you. For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many.

2. Proverbs 12:5 - The thoughts of the righteous are right: but the counsels of the wicked are deceit.

Revelation 18:24 And in her was found the blood of prophets, and of saints, and of all that were slain upon the earth.

Revelation 18:24 reveals that the blood of prophets, saints, and all who were killed on the earth was found in her.

1. A Call to Stand for Justice: The Martyrs Who Refused to Give Up

2. The Power of Love: The Saints Who Sacrificed Everything

1. Matthew 10:28 - “And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell.”

2. Hebrews 11:35-38 - “Women received back their dead by resurrection. Some were tortured, refusing to accept release, so that they might rise again to a better life. Others suffered mocking and flogging, and even chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn in two, they were killed with the sword. They went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, afflicted, mistreated— of whom the world was not worthy— wandering about in deserts and mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth.”

Revelation 19 is the nineteenth chapter of the book of Revelation and continues John's vision of end-time events. This chapter focuses on the glorious return of Christ, the marriage supper of the Lamb, and the defeat of evil powers.

1st Paragraph: The chapter begins with a scene in heaven where a great multitude praises God for His righteous judgments. They exclaim "Hallelujah!" as they rejoice over the destruction of Babylon, symbolizing the corrupt system that opposed God (Revelation 19:1-3). The twenty-four elders and four living creatures join in worship, acknowledging God's sovereignty and praising Him for His salvation and glory (Revelation 19:4-6).

2nd Paragraph: John witnesses a vision of a white horse with its rider called Faithful and True. He is identified as Jesus Christ, who judges and wages war in righteousness (Revelation 19:11). He is clothed in a robe dipped in blood, representing His victory over evil forces. The armies of heaven follow Him on white horses, also dressed in fine linen (Revelation 19:14). A sharp sword proceeds from His mouth to strike down nations, demonstrating His authority to rule with justice (Revelation 19:15).

3rd Paragraph: The beast—the Antichrist—and his false prophet are captured by Christ and thrown alive into the lake of fire. Their followers are killed by the sword that comes from Christ's mouth (Revelation 19:20-21). Then an angel invites all to partake in the marriage supper of the Lamb—the union between Christ as the bridegroom and His faithful followers as the bride (Revelation 19:9). This celebration signifies joyous fellowship between Christ and those who have remained loyal to Him.

In summary, Chapter nineteen of Revelation depicts scenes filled with praise for God's righteous judgments. It portrays the glorious return of Christ as the rider on a white

horse, leading the armies of heaven in victorious battle against evil forces. The chapter emphasizes Christ's role as the righteous judge and His authority to defeat all opposition. The defeat of the beast and false prophet, along with their followers, is described, followed by an invitation to partake in the marriage supper of the Lamb—a celebration symbolizing union and fellowship between Christ and His faithful followers. This chapter underscores themes of worship, divine victory over evil, and joyful anticipation of eternal fellowship with Christ.

Revelation 19:1 And after these things I heard a great voice of much people in heaven, saying, Alleluia; Salvation, and glory, and honour, and power, unto the Lord our God:

A celebration of praise and thanksgiving to the Lord for His salvation, glory, honor, and power.

1. “The Power of Praising God”

2. “God's Unfathomable Love: A Call to Worship”

1. Psalm 150:6 - “Let everything that has breath praise the LORD! Praise the LORD!”

2. Romans 11:33-36 - “Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways! For who has known the mind of the Lord, or who has been his counselor? Or who has given a gift to him that he might be repaid? For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be glory forever. Amen.”

Revelation 19:2 For true and righteous are his judgments: for he hath judged the great whore, which did corrupt the earth with her fornication, and hath avenged the blood of his servants at her hand.

God has judged the great prostitute who has corrupted the earth and has avenged the blood of his servants.

1. God's Righteous Judgements - Revelation 19:2

2. The Corruption of the Earth & Avenging the Blood of the Faithful - Revelation 19:2

1. Psalm 33:5 - "He loves righteousness and justice; the earth is full of the steadfast love

of the Lord."

2. Ezekiel 16:38-39 - "And I will judge you as women who break wedlock and shed blood are judged, and I will bring upon you the blood vengeance of my wrath and jealous anger. Then I will hand you over to your lovers, and they shall tear down your mounds and break down your lofty shrines, and they shall strip you of your clothes and take your beautiful jewels and leave you naked and bare."

Revelation 19:3 And again they said, Alleluia. And her smoke rose up for ever and ever.

The people in Heaven praised God and the smoke from their praise rose for eternity.

1. The Power of Praise: How Our Praise Gives Glory to God

2. The Impact of Our Praise: How Our Praise Lasts Throughout Eternity

1. Psalm 145:3 - Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised; and his greatness is unsearchable.

2. Hebrews 13:15 - By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name.

Revelation 19:4 And the four and twenty elders and the four beasts fell down and worshipped God that sat on the throne, saying, Amen; Alleluia.

The elders and beasts praised God for His glory and power.

1. God is worthy of our praise and adoration.

2. We should always acknowledge God's greatness and power.

1. Psalm 19:1 - "The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims his handiwork."

2. Philippians 2:10-11 - "so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father."

Revelation 19:5 And a voice came out of the throne, saying, Praise our God, all ye his servants, and ye that fear him, both small and great.

The glory of God should be praised by all of His servants, both the small and the great.

1. The Greatness of God: A Call to Praise

2. All Are Equal in the Eyes of the Lord: A Call to Worship

1. Psalm 150:6 - Let everything that has breath praise the Lord.

2. Romans 11:33-36 - O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments, and his ways past finding out! For who hath known the mind of the Lord? Or who hath been his counsellor? Or who hath first given to him, and it shall be recompensed unto him again? For of him, and through him, and to him, are all things: to whom be glory for ever. Amen.

Revelation 19:6 And I heard as it were the voice of a great multitude, and as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of mighty thunderings, saying, Alleluia: for the Lord God omnipotent reigneth.

A great multitude of voices, like the sound of many waters and thunder, sang "Alleluia!" in praise of God's reign.

1. Praise God in all Circumstances: A Reflection on Revelation 19:6

2. Rejoicing in God's Reign: Exploring the Meaning of Revelation 19:6

1. Psalm 29:2-3 - "Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name; worship the Lord in the splendor of his holiness. The voice of the Lord is over the waters; the God of glory thunders, the Lord thunders over the mighty waters."

2. Isaiah 25:1 - "O Lord, you are my God; I will exalt you; I will praise your name, for you have done wonderful things, plans formed of old, faithful and sure."

Revelation 19:7 Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready.

The marriage of the Lamb has come and his wife is ready.

1: The Joys of the Marriage of the Lamb

2: Preparing Ourselves to Join the Lamb's Marriage

1: Ephesians 5:25-27 - Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word.

2: Matthew 22:1-14 - The Parable of the Marriage Feast.

Revelation 19:8 And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints.

The righteousness of saints is symbolised by wearing fine white linen.

1. The Meaning of Righteousness: Exploring the Symbology of Revelation 19:8

2. Receiving and Embracing Righteousness: The Significance of Wearing White Linen

1. Philippians 3:9: "And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith."

2. Romans 10:3-4: "For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God. For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth."

Revelation 19:9 And he saith unto me, Write, Blessed are they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb. And he saith unto me, These are the true sayings of God.

An angel of God tells John to write that those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb are blessed and that these words are true sayings of God.

1. An Invitation to the Marriage Supper of the Lamb - Exploring the Special Privilege of Those Who Are Called

2. The Blessings of Those Who Receive the Invitation to the Marriage Supper of the Lamb

1. Matthew 22:1-14 - Parable of the wedding feast

2. Luke 14:15-24 - Parable of the great banquet

Revelation 19:10 And I fell at his feet to worship him. And he said unto me, See thou do it not: I am thy fellowservant, and of thy brethren that have the testimony of Jesus: worship God: for the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.

The passage from Revelation 19:10 emphasizes the importance of worshipping God and not any other being as Jesus is a fellow servant of God.

1. The Power of Worship: Understanding the Significance of Worshipping God Alone

2. The Testimony of Jesus: Recognizing the Spirit of Prophecy

1. Exodus 20:3-5; Deuteronomy 5:7-10 - The Ten Commandments

2. 1 John 5:9-12 - The Testimony of Jesus is True and Life-Giving.

Revelation 19:11 And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war.

In Revelation 19:11, a vision of heaven is revealed, with a white horse and its rider, called Faithful and True, who is judging and waging war in righteousness.

1. The Faithful and True: The Power of Righteousness

2. The White Horse: A Vision of Heaven

1. Isaiah 11:4-5 - "But with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and reprove with equity for the meek of the earth: and he shall smite the earth with the rod of his mouth,

and with the breath of his lips shall he slay the wicked. And righteousness shall be the girdle of his loins, and faithfulness the girdle of his reins."

2. Revelation 19:8 - "And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints."

Revelation 19:12 His eyes were as a flame of fire, and on his head were many crowns; and he had a name written, that no man knew, but he himself.

He is the King of kings and Lord of lords, with a name known only to him.

1. God is great and mighty, and His name is known only to Him.

2. Jesus is the King of kings and Lord of lords, and we should exalt Him above all else.

1. Isaiah 9:6-7 - "For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this."

2. Philippians 2:9-11 - "Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father."

Revelation 19:13 And he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called The Word of God.

Heavenly armies will follow the Lord Jesus, who is clothed in a vesture dipped in blood.

1. Victory in Christ - the power of the Word of God

2. Dressed for Battle - clothed in victory through Jesus' sacrifice

1. Isaiah 63:1-3

2. Ephesians 6:10-18

Revelation 19:14 And the armies which were in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean.

Jesus leads an army of heaven-dwellers, dressed in white, to battle.

1. Following Jesus in Faith: Learning to Trust His Leadership

2. The Power of Love: Jesus Leading an Army of Heaven-Dwellers

1. 2 Chronicles 20:12-17 - When the people of Judah faced an enemy too great for them, God told them to trust in Him and no one else.

2. Matthew 5:44-45 - Jesus teaches us to love our enemies, even in the midst of battle.

Revelation 19:15 And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God.

God will use his power to bring justice to the nations.

1. God's Justice: The Balance of Mercy and Wrath

2. The Power of the Word: The Sword of the Lord

1. Isaiah 11:4 - "But with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and reprove with equity for the meek of the earth: and he shall smite the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips shall he slay the wicked."

2. Isaiah 63:3-4 - "I have trodden the winepress alone; and of the people there was none with me: for I will tread them in mine anger, and trample them in my fury; and their blood shall be sprinkled upon my garments, and I will stain all my raiment."

Revelation 19:16 And he hath on his vesture and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS.

This passage emphasizes Jesus' power and authority as the King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

1. The Majesty of Jesus: His Kingship and Lordship

2. The Sovereignty of Jesus: His Authority over All Things

1. Philippians 2:5-11 - Jesus' humbling himself to become obedient to death on the cross.

2. Colossians 1:15-20 - Jesus' preeminence and supremacy over all creation.

Revelation 19:17 And I saw an angel standing in the sun; and he cried with a loud voice, saying to all the fowls that fly in the midst of heaven, Come and gather yourselves together unto the supper of the great God;

An angel commanded the birds to gather together for the great supper of God.

1. The Invitation to God's Supper: Investigating Revelation 19:17

2. The Unconditional Invitation of God: Understanding Revelation 19:17

1. Luke 14:15-24 - The parable of the great banquet.

2. Isaiah 25:6-8 - The Lord's promise of a great banquet.

Revelation 19:18 That ye may eat the flesh of kings, and the flesh of captains, and the flesh of mighty men, and the flesh of horses, and of them that sit on them, and the flesh of all men, both free and bond, both small and great.

God allows the faithful to eat the flesh of kings, captains, mighty men, and horses, and of those who ride them, as well as all people, regardless of status.

1. The Blessing of Equality: How God Honors All People Regardless of Status

2. The Necessity of Humility: How God Upholds Those Who Serve Others

1. Galatians 3:28 - There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

2. James 4:10 - Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you.

Revelation 19:19 And I saw the beast, and the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against him that sat on the horse, and against his army.

The Beast and the kings of the earth gathered together to make war against God.

1: The Battle Against God - How to stand firm against the temptation to join the Beast's forces

2: The Counter Attack - Victory in Christ over the forces of evil

1: Ephesians 6:10-13 - Put on the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

2: James 4:7 - Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

Revelation 19:20 And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast, and them that worshipped his image. These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone.

The beast and the false prophet were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone.

1. The Consequences of Sin: God's Punishment in the Lake of Fire

2. The Power of God: His Justice Prevails

1. Romans 6:23 - For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

2. Matthew 25:41 - Then he will say to those on his left, ‘Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels.

Revelation 19:21 And the remnant were slain with the sword of him that sat upon the horse, which sword proceeded out of his mouth: and all the fowls were filled with their flesh.

Jesus will come and defeat evil with a sword that proceeds from his mouth, leaving the evil to be devoured by birds.

1. God's Word is Powerful: The Sword of the Lord

2. The Final Judgment: Jesus' Sword of Justice

1. Isaiah 11:4 - “But with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and reprove with equity for the meek of the earth: and he shall smite the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips shall he slay the wicked.”

2. Hebrews 4:12 - “For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.”

Revelation 20 is the twentieth chapter of the book of Revelation and continues John's vision of end-time events. This chapter focuses on the binding of Satan, the reign of Christ, and the final judgment.

1st Paragraph: The chapter begins with an angel descending from heaven, holding a key and a great chain. He seizes Satan, binds him for a thousand years, and throws him into the abyss, sealing it shut so that he cannot deceive the nations during this period (Revelation 20:1-3). This thousand-year period is referred to as the "millennium" or "the thousand years." During this time, those who have been martyred for their faith reign with Christ and share in His authority (Revelation 20:4-6).

2nd Paragraph: After the thousand years are completed, Satan is released from his prison. He deceives many nations and gathers them for battle against God's people (Revelation 20:7-9). However, fire comes down from heaven and devours them. Satan is then thrown into the lake of fire where he will be tormented forever (Revelation 20:10).

3rd Paragraph: Following this judgment on Satan, John sees a great white throne with God seated on it. The dead—both small and great—are resurrected to stand before Him. Books are opened containing records of everyone's deeds by which they will be judged (Revelation 20:11-12). Those whose names are not found written in the Book of Life are cast into the lake of fire—the second death—alongside death itself and Hades (Revelation 20:13-15). This final judgment signifies eternal separation from God for those who have

rejected Him.

In summary, Chapter twenty of Revelation describes key events related to end-time judgment. It portrays Satan being bound for a thousand years, during which Christ and His faithful followers reign. After the millennium, Satan is released and deceives many nations, leading to their destruction by fire. Satan is then thrown into the lake of fire. The chapter concludes with a vision of the great white throne judgment where all people are resurrected and judged according to their deeds. Those whose names are not found in the Book of Life face eternal punishment in the lake of fire. This chapter emphasizes divine judgment upon Satan, the reign of Christ and His followers, and the final accountability for all humanity before God's throne.

Revelation 20:1 And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand.

An angel is described in Revelation 20:1 as coming down from heaven with a key and a great chain in hand.

1. The Power of the Angel: Exploring the Strength of God's Messengers

2. The Key to the Kingdom: Uncovering the Symbolic Meaning of the Key and Chain

1. Isaiah 22:22 - "And the key of the house of David will I lay upon his shoulder; so he shall open, and none shall shut; and he shall shut, and none shall open."

2. Matthew 16:19 - "And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven."

Revelation 20:2 And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years,

The Devil and Satan were bound by God for a thousand years.

1: God will always be victorious over evil.

2: We must trust in God's power and protection.

1: Romans 8:38-39 - For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

2: Isaiah 54:17 - No weapon that is fashioned against you shall succeed, and you shall refute every tongue that rises against you in judgment. You shall prevail when you contend with your enemies.

Revelation 20:3 And cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled: and after that he must be loosed a little season.

Satan is thrown into a bottomless pit and is restrained for one thousand years until he is allowed a short period of freedom after the thousand years are completed.

1. Be vigilant and resist the Devil's temptations.

2. Look to God in times of struggle and temptation.

1. James 4:7 - "Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you."

2. 1 Corinthians 10:13 - "No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it."

Revelation 20:4 And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years.

John sees thrones and those who sit on them being given judgement. He also sees the souls of those who had been martyred for their faith in Jesus and His Word, and who had not given in to the beast or his image, and had kept their faith in spite of persecution.

1. Making the Most of Our Time on Earth - How to Live a Life of Faith and Courage

2. Enduring to the End - How to Stand Firm in our Faith in the Face of Adversity

1. Romans 8:17-18 - And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together. For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.

2. Matthew 10:22 - And ye shall be hated of all men for my name's sake: but he that endureth to the end shall be saved.

Revelation 20:5 But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection.

This passage from Revelation speaks of the first resurrection, which will occur after the thousand years are finished.

1. The Hope of the Resurrection: What it Means for Us

2. A Closer Look at the First Resurrection

1. 1 Corinthians 15:20-26 - For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive.

2. Romans 6:3-5 - We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.

Revelation 20:6 Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years.

The first resurrection is a blessing, and those who partake in it shall not face the second death. They will be priests of God and Christ and will reign with Him for a thousand years.

1. The Blessing of the First Resurrection

2. Reaping the Rewards of Eternal Life

1. Romans 6:23 - For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

2. 1 Corinthians 15:54–57 - So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory. O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory? The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Revelation 20:7 And when the thousand years are expired, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison,

The thousand years are expired and Satan is released from prison.

1. The End of the Thousand Years and Satan's Release: The Implications of the Milennium

2. The Finale of the Millennium: Understanding the Significance of Satan's Release

1. Isaiah 14:12-15 - Satan's desire to be greater than God

2. 2 Peter 2:4-9 - Satan's character and intentions

Revelation 20:8 And shall go out to deceive the nations which are in the four quarters of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle: the number of whom is as the sand of the sea.

A great army made up of nations from the four corners of the earth will be deceived by a powerful force and gather for battle.

1. Our faith in God will be tested when the nations of the world gather for battle.

2. Be prepared to stand firm in your faith and rely on God's protection and guidance.

1. Isaiah 59:19 So shall they fear the name of the LORD from the west, and his glory from the rising of the sun. When the enemy shall come in like a flood, the Spirit of the LORD shall lift up a standard against him.

2. Ephesians 6:11-13 Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against

spiritual wickedness in high places. Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

Revelation 20:9 And they went up on the breadth of the earth, and compassed the camp of the saints about, and the beloved city: and fire came down from God out of heaven, and devoured them.

The wicked went up and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city, when fire came down from God out of heaven and destroyed them.

1. The Consequences of Wickedness: A Look at Revelation 20:9

2. The Righteousness of God and His Protection of the Saints: Reflections on Revelation 20:9

1. Isaiah 66:15-16 - "For, behold, the LORD will come with fire, and with his chariots like a whirlwind, to render his anger with fury, and his rebuke with flames of fire. For by fire and by his sword will the LORD plead with all flesh: and the slain of the LORD shall be many."

2. Psalm 37:20 - "But the wicked shall perish, and the enemies of the LORD shall be as the fat of lambs: they shall consume; into smoke shall they consume away."

Revelation 20:10 And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever.

The Devil, Beast, and False Prophet will be cast into the lake of fire and will be eternally tormented.

1. The Power of Eternal Torment: A Study on Revelation 20:10

2. The Dangers of Deception: A Study on the Devil's Fate in Revelation 20:10

1. 2 Thessalonians 2:9-10 - The coming of the lawless one is by the activity of Satan with all power and false signs and wonders

2. Matthew 25:41 - Then he will say to those on his left, ‘Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels.

Revelation 20:11 And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them.

John sees a great white throne, and the one sitting on it, from whose face the earth and heaven flee, leaving no place for them.

1. The Majesty of Jesus: Seeing the Great White Throne

2. The Power of Jesus: The Earth and Heaven Fleeing Away

1. Psalm 97:2 - Clouds and thick darkness are round about him: righteousness and judgment are the habitation of his throne.

2. Isaiah 6:1 - In the year that king Uzziah died I saw also the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up, and his train filled the temple.

Revelation 20:12 And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.

All the dead will stand before God and be judged according to their works, as written in the books.

1. The Need for Accountability and Responsibility in our Actions

2. The Importance of Living a Life of Service

1. Ecclesiastes 12:14 - For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil.

2. Romans 2:6-8 - God "will render to every man according to his deeds: To them who by patient continuance in well doing seek for glory and honour and immortality, eternal life: But unto them that are contentious, and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, indignation and wrath.

Revelation 20:13 And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to

their works.

The dead were judged based on their works after the sea and death and hell gave up the dead.

1. The Judgment of the Dead: Living a Life of Righteousness

2. The Day of Judgment: Living with an Eternal Perspective

1. Psalm 62:12 - "Also unto thee, O Lord, belongeth mercy: for thou renderest to every man according to his work."

2. Matthew 16:27 - "For the Son of man shall come in the glory of his Father with his angels; and then he shall reward every man according to his works."

Revelation 20:14 And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.

Death and Hell were thrown into the lake of fire, which is the second death.

1. The Finality of Death and Hell

2. The Lake of Fire: God's Final Judgment

1. Isaiah 25:8 - He will swallow up death forever, and the Lord God will wipe away tears from all faces

2. John 5:24 - Whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be judged but has crossed over from death to life.

Revelation 20:15 And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.

Those who are not found in the book of life will be cast into the lake of fire.

1. The Importance of Living a Life of Faith

2. The Consequences of Rejecting God's Love

1. Romans 10:9-10 - “If you declare with your mouth, ‘Jesus is Lord,’ and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved.”

2. John 3:16-17 - “For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.”

Revelation 21 is the twenty-first chapter of the book of Revelation and continues John's vision of end-time events. This chapter focuses on the new heaven, new earth, and the description of the holy city, New Jerusalem.

1st Paragraph: The chapter begins with a vision of a new heaven and a new earth. The former heaven and earth pass away, and there is no longer any sea (Revelation 21:1). John sees the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down from heaven as a bride beautifully adorned for her husband (Revelation 21:2). A loud voice declares that God's dwelling place is now among His people. He will dwell with them, and they will be His people. God Himself will be with them as their God (Revelation 21:3).

2nd Paragraph: The description of New Jerusalem follows—a city made radiant by the glory of God. It is compared to a bride adorned with precious stones (Revelation 21:11-12). Its walls are high and adorned with twelve gates named after the twelve tribes of Israel. The foundation stones bear the names of the twelve apostles (Revelation 21:12-14). The city is perfectly symmetrical—twelve thousand stadia in length, width, and height—which signifies its perfection and completeness (Revelation 21:16).

3rd Paragraph: John describes various aspects of New Jerusalem—the brilliance of its pure gold streets; its foundations decorated with precious stones; its gates made from pearls; and its temple filled with God's glory where there is no need for sun or moon because God's presence illuminates everything (Revelation 21:18-23). There will be no more tears or death; sorrow or pain—all former things have passed away (Revelation 21:4). Only those whose names are written in the Lamb's Book of Life will enter this glorious city, and they will reign with God forever (Revelation 21:27).

In summary, Chapter twenty-one of Revelation presents a vision of the new heaven and new earth. The holy city, New Jerusalem, descends from heaven as a symbol of God dwelling among His people. The description highlights its radiant beauty and perfect symmetry. The city's foundations bear the names of the twelve apostles, while its gates bear the names of the twelve tribes of Israel. New Jerusalem is depicted as a place without sorrow or pain, where God's glory illuminates everything. Only those whose names are written in the Lamb's Book of Life will enter this eternal dwelling and reign

with God forever. This chapter portrays hope for believers in a future perfected creation where they will dwell in close communion with God for eternity.

Revelation 21:1 And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea.

The first heaven and earth have passed away and a new heaven and a new earth have replaced them, and there is no more sea.

1. Exploring the Promise of a New Heaven and Earth

2. Living in the Hope of a New Creation

1. Genesis 1:1-2 - In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

2. Isaiah 65:17 - For behold, I create new heavens and a new earth; and the former shall not be remembered or come to mind.

Revelation 21:2 And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

The holy city, new Jerusalem, is coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

1. The Beauty of the Kingdom of God

2. The Joy of the Bridegroom and the Bride

1. Isaiah 61:10 - “I will greatly rejoice in the Lord; my soul shall be joyful in my God, for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation; he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself like a priest with a beautiful headdress, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.”

2. John 3:29 - “The bride belongs to the bridegroom. The friend who attends the bridegroom waits and listens for him, and is full of joy when he hears the bridegroom's voice. That joy is mine, and it is now complete.”

Revelation 21:3 And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God.

God will be with his people and will dwell with them, making them his own.

1. God's Unfailing Presence - How the Lord's abiding presence brings us comfort and assurance.

2. Dwelling with God - Understanding the promises of God's presence with us in our lives.

1. Psalm 139:7-10 - Where can I go from Your Spirit? Or where can I flee from Your presence?

2. John 14:23 - Jesus answered and said to him, "If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him.

Revelation 21:4 And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.

God promises to end all suffering and bring eternal joy.

1: We can find hope in God's promises of eternal joy and comfort.

2: Even in our darkest moments, we can trust that God will be with us.

1: Romans 8:18 - For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.

2: Isaiah 25:8 - He will swallow up death in victory; and the Lord GOD will wipe away tears from off all faces.

Revelation 21:5 And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And he said unto me, Write: for these words are true and faithful.

God will make all things new.

1. God's Unfailing Promise: How He Will Make All Things New

2. Embracing Renewal: Living with the Hope of God's Promises

1. Isaiah 43:18-19 - "Remember not the former things, nor consider the things of old. Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert."

2. 2 Corinthians 5:17 - "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come."

Revelation 21:6 And he said unto me, It is done. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely.

God has fulfilled his promise of providing eternal life.

1. God's Fulfillment of His Promise of Eternal Life

2. The Alpha and Omega: From Beginning to End

1. John 3:16-17 - For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

2. Isaiah 55:1 - “Come, all you who are thirsty, come to the waters; and you who have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without cost.

Revelation 21:7 He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son.

He that overcomes will inherit all things and have a special relationship with God.

1. Achieving Victory Through Faith in God

2. Overcoming Challenges with Strength from the Lord

1. 1 John 5:4-5 - For whatever is born of God overcomes the world; and this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith.

2. Romans 8:37 - No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.

Revelation 21:8 But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.

Those who lead unrighteous lives will suffer the consequences of their actions in the second death.

1: We must strive to be righteous in all of our actions.

2: Fear God and do not pursue unrighteousness.

1: Proverbs 14:2 - "Whoever walks in uprightness fears the Lord, but he who is devious in his ways despises him."

2: Matthew 6:33 - "But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you."

Revelation 21:9 And there came unto me one of the seven angels which had the seven vials full of the seven last plagues, and talked with me, saying, Come hither, I will shew thee the bride, the Lamb's wife.

An angel reveals to John the Apostle the bride of the Lamb, who is the Lamb's wife.

1. The Bride and Groom: A Picture of God's Love

2. The Bride of Christ: What it Means to be a Part of His Family

1. Ephesians 5:22-33 - Wives submit to your husbands in the Lord

2. Revelation 19:7-9 - The Marriage Supper of the Lamb

Revelation 21:10 And he carried me away in the spirit to a great and high mountain, and shewed me that great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God,

John saw the Holy City, Jerusalem, descending from Heaven.

1: We can find hope in knowing that one day, God will make a new home for us in Heaven.

2: We should strive to live a life that is worthy of the Holy City, Jerusalem.

1: Isaiah 65:17-19 “For, behold, I create new heavens and a new earth: and the former shall not be remembered, nor come into mind. But be ye glad and rejoice for ever in that which I create: for, behold, I create Jerusalem a rejoicing, and her people a joy.”

2: Revelation 22:17 “And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.”

Revelation 21:11 Having the glory of God: and her light was like unto a stone most precious, even like a jasper stone, clear as crystal;

John saw a vision of a city with the glory of God and a light like a precious jasper stone, clear as crystal.

1. God's glory shines through the Church, Revelation 21:11

2. The City of God and His Glory, Revelation 21:11

1. 2 Corinthians 4:6 - For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

2. Psalm 36:9 - For with you is the fountain of life; in your light do we see light.

Revelation 21:12 And had a wall great and high, and had twelve gates, and at the gates twelve angels, and names written thereon, which are the names of the twelve tribes of the children of Israel:

Revelation 21 speaks of a wall with twelve gates, each guarded by an angel, and each gate is inscribed with the name of one of the twelve tribes of Israel.

1. The Meaning of the Walls and Gates in Revelation 21

2. Understanding the Significance of the Twelve Tribes of Israel in Revelation 21

1. Isaiah 54:12 - "I will make your battlements of rubies, your gates of sparkling jewels, and all your walls of precious stones."

2. Ephesians 2:19-22 - “So now you Gentiles are no longer strangers and foreigners. You are citizens along with all of God’s holy people. You are members of God’s family. Together, we are his house, built on the foundation of the apostles and the prophets. And the cornerstone is Christ Jesus himself. We are carefully joined together in him, becoming a holy temple for the Lord. Through him you Gentiles are also being made part of this dwelling where God lives by his Spirit.”

Revelation 21:13 On the east three gates; on the north three gates; on the south three gates; and on the west three gates.

Revelation 21:13 describes the construction of the New Jerusalem, which will have twelve gates, three on each side.

1. The Power of a City: How the Gates of the New Jerusalem Represent Heaven on Earth

2. A Symbol of Unity: Understanding the Significance of the Twelve Gates in Revelation 21:13

1. Isaiah 60:11 - Your gates will be open continually; they will not be shut day or night, so that people may bring you the wealth of the nations, with their kings led in procession.

2. Psalm 107:16 - He called for a famine on the land; He broke the whole staff of bread.

Revelation 21:14 And the wall of the city had twelve foundations, and in them the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.

The wall of the New Jerusalem in Revelation 21 has twelve foundations, each of which bears the name of one of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.

1. The Unshakable Foundation: The Apostles and the Lamb

2. The New Jerusalem: A City of Unwavering Strength

1. Matthew 16:18 - And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

2. Ephesians 2:19-20 - So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone.

Revelation 21:15 And he that talked with me had a golden reed to measure the city, and the gates thereof, and the wall thereof.

An angel is measuring the city, its gates, and its wall with a golden reed.

1. The Perfect Measure of Heaven 2. The Unfailing Measure of God's City

1. Isaiah 40:12 Who hath measured the waters in the hollow of his hand, and meted out heaven with the span? 2. Ezekiel 40:3-5 And he brought me thither, and, behold, there was a man, whose appearance was like the appearance of brass, with a line of flax in his hand, and a measuring reed; and he stood in the gate. And the man said unto me, Son of man, behold with thine eyes, and hear with thine ears, and set thine heart upon all that I shall shew thee; for to the intent that I might shew them unto thee art thou brought hither: declare all that thou seest to the house of Israel.

Revelation 21:16 And the city lieth foursquare, and the length is as large as the breadth: and he measured the city with the reed, twelve thousand furlongs. The length and the breadth and the height of it are equal.

The New Jerusalem is a perfect square measuring 12000 furlongs in length, width, and height.

1. The Perfection of the New Jerusalem - How God's Perfect Design is Reflected in the New Jerusalem

2. The Measure of Faith - What It Takes to Receive the Perfection of the New Jerusalem

1. James 1:17 - Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows.

2. Luke 6:38 - Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.

Revelation 21:17 And he measured the wall thereof, an hundred and forty and four cubits, according to the measure of a man, that is, of the angel.

The angel measured the wall of the city of the New Jerusalem to be 144 cubits.

1. God's Vision for His People: The Measure of a Man

2. Heaven on Earth: The Measure of a Man

1. Isaiah 60:18 - "No more shall the sound of weeping be heard in it, or the cry of distress."

2. Matthew 6:10 - "Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven."

Revelation 21:18 And the building of the wall of it was of jasper: and the city was pure gold, like unto clear glass.

The city of Revelation is described as having walls made of jasper and the city itself being made of pure gold like clear glass.

1. How the city of Revelation is a reflection of God's beauty and glory

2. The importance of recognizing and striving for holiness like the city of Revelation

1. Romans 8:28-30 “And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.

2. 1 Peter 1:15-16 “But as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct,

since it is written, “You shall be holy, for I am holy.”

Revelation 21:19 And the foundations of the wall of the city were garnished with all manner of precious stones. The first foundation was jasper; the second, sapphire; the third, a chalcedony; the fourth, an emerald;

The foundations of the holy city are decorated with precious stones, each of a different color.

1. The beauty of God's Kingdom: How God's glory is revealed in the foundations of the city

2. The preciousness of the Church: How God's people are of great worth to Him

1. Isaiah 54:11-12 - O thou afflicted, tossed with tempest, and not comforted, behold, I will lay thy stones with fair colours, and lay thy foundations with sapphires.

2. 2 Corinthians 5:17 - Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.

Revelation 21:20 The fifth, sardonyx; the sixth, sardius; the seventh, chrysolyte; the eighth, beryl; the ninth, a topaz; the tenth, a chrysoprasus; the eleventh, a jacinth; the twelfth, an amethyst.

The passage from Revelation 21:20 lists twelve different gems that are featured in the foundation of the walls of the New Jerusalem.

1. The Beauty of Heaven: How Heaven's Gates Will Sparkle and Shine

2. The Magnificence of the New Jerusalem: A City of Splendor and Glory

1. Isaiah 54:11-12 - "O afflicted one, storm-tossed and not comforted, behold, I will set your stones in antimony and lay your foundations with sapphires. I will make your pinnacles of agate, your gates of carbuncles, and all your wall of precious stones."

2. Ezekiel 28:13 - "You were in Eden, the garden of God; every precious stone was your covering, sardius, topaz, and diamond, beryl, onyx, and jasper, sapphire, emerald, and carbuncle; and crafted in gold were your settings and your engravings."

Revelation 21:21 And the twelve gates were twelve pearls: every several gate was of one pearl: and the street of the city was pure gold, as it were transparent glass.

The gates of the New Jerusalem are made of pearls and the street is made of pure transparent gold.

1. The Beauty of Heaven: A Discussion of the Splendor of the New Jerusalem

2. The Worth of Our Souls: A Reflection on the Value of the Kingdom of Heaven

1. Matthew 6:20 - "But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal."

2. Isaiah 54:11-12 - "O thou afflicted, tossed with tempest, and not comforted, behold, I will lay thy stones with fair colours, and lay thy foundations with sapphires. And I will make thy windows of agates, and thy gates of carbuncles, and all thy borders of pleasant stones."

Revelation 21:22 And I saw no temple therein: for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are the temple of it.

The Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are the temple of heaven.

1. The Holiness of Heaven: Worshiping the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb

2. The Sacredness of Heaven: A Place Devoted to God

1. Revelation 7:15 – “Therefore are they before the throne of God, and serve him day and night in his temple: and he that sitteth on the throne shall dwell among them.”

2. John 4:21-24 – “Jesus saith unto her, Woman, believe me, the hour cometh, when ye shall neither in this mountain, nor yet at Jerusalem, worship the Father. Ye worship ye know not what: we know what we worship: for salvation is of the Jews. But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him. God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.”

Revelation 21:23 And the city had no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine in it: for the glory of God did lighten it, and the Lamb is the light thereof.

The city of God is illuminated by the glory of God and the Lamb.

1. The Light of the Lamb: Seeing God's Glory in Our Lives

2. The City of God: Living in the Light of the Lamb

1. John 8:12 - Jesus said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

2. 1 John 1:5 - This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all.

Revelation 21:24 And the nations of them which are saved shall walk in the light of it: and the kings of the earth do bring their glory and honour into it.

The nations of the saved will walk in the glory of God, and the kings of the earth will bring their honor and glory into it.

1. The Nations of the Saved: Choosing God's Light

2. The Kings of the Earth: Honoring God's Glory

1. Isaiah 60:1-3 - Arise, shine; for thy light is come, and the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee.

2. Psalm 145:11-12 - They shall speak of the glory of thy kingdom, and talk of thy power; To make known to the sons of men his mighty acts, and the glorious majesty of his kingdom.

Revelation 21:25 And the gates of it shall not be shut at all by day: for there shall be no night there.

The gates of the New Jerusalem will never be shut, for there will be no night.

1. Living in the Light of Eternity

2. The End of Darkness: Living in the City of God

1. John 8:12 - "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

2. Isaiah 60:19-20 - "No longer will you need the sun to shine by day, nor the moon to give its light at night; for the Lord will be your everlasting light, your God will be your glory. Your sun will never set again, and your moon will wane no more; the Lord will be your everlasting light, and your days of sorrow will end."

Revelation 21:26 And they shall bring the glory and honour of the nations into it.

God will bring the glory and honor of all nations to the New Jerusalem.

1: Jesus is the only path to true glory and honor.

2: We can experience true glory and honor by submitting to Jesus and His authority.

1: Matthew 6:33 - But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.

2: Romans 10:9-10 - That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

Revelation 21:27 And there shall in no wise enter into it any thing that defileth, neither whatsoever worketh abomination, or maketh a lie: but they which are written in the Lamb's book of life.

1. Living a Life that Pleases God

2. The Importance of Living a life of Honesty

1. Ephesians 5:8-10 For ye were sometimes darkness, but now are ye light in the Lord: walk as children of light: (9) For the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness and righteousness

and truth; (10) Proving what is acceptable unto the Lord.

2. James 4:7-8 Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. (8) Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded.

Revelation 22 is the final chapter of the book of Revelation and concludes John's vision of end-time events. This chapter focuses on the description of the river of life, the tree of life, and Jesus' promise to return.

1st Paragraph: The chapter begins with a depiction of the river of life flowing from the throne of God and the Lamb in New Jerusalem. It is described as clear as crystal, symbolizing purity and eternal refreshment (Revelation 22:1). On either side of the river stands the tree of life, bearing twelve kinds of fruit—one for each month—and its leaves are for healing and restoration (Revelation 22:2). The curse that came upon humanity due to sin is no more, and God's people will have access to everlasting life in His presence.

2nd Paragraph: John emphasizes that there will be no more darkness or night in New Jerusalem because God Himself will be their light. His glory will illuminate everything, and His people will reign forever (Revelation 22:5). The angel affirms that these words are faithful and true, given by God Himself. John is reminded not to seal up this prophecy because its fulfillment is near (Revelation 22:6-10).

3rd Paragraph: Jesus Himself declares His imminent return with a promise: "Behold, I am coming soon!" (Revelation 22:7). He reiterates blessings upon those who keep the words written in this book. John falls down to worship at Jesus' feet but is corrected by an angel who reminds him to worship only God (Revelation 22:8-9). Jesus assures His followers that He is "the Alpha and Omega," both beginning and end—the root and descendant of David—and invites all who thirst to come freely drink from Him—the source of living water (Revelation 22:12-17). The chapter concludes with a warning against adding or taking away from the words of this prophecy and a final prayer for Jesus' return: "Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!" (Revelation 22:18-21).

In summary, Chapter twenty-two of Revelation presents a vision of the river of life flowing from God's throne in New Jerusalem, symbolizing eternal refreshment and healing. The tree of life stands on either side, bearing abundant fruit for God's people. Darkness is banished as God Himself becomes their everlasting light. Jesus affirms His imminent return and promises blessings to those who keep the words of this book. He invites all to partake in Him as the source of living water. The chapter concludes with warnings against tampering with this prophecy and a prayer for Jesus' return—a fitting conclusion to the book that emphasizes hope, restoration, and anticipation for Christ's ultimate victory over evil.

Revelation 22:1 And he shewed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb.

The river of life is pure and clear, flowing out from God and the Lamb.

1. The Unlimited Source of Life: How Christ's Grace Allows Us to Receive Abundant Life

2. The Gift of Living Water: How to Receive and Share the Unfailing Source of Life

1. John 4:10-14 - Jesus speaks of the living water He offers

2. John 7:37-38 - Jesus offers living water to those who are thirsty

Revelation 22:2 In the midst of the street of it, and on either side of the river, was there the tree of life, which bare twelve manner of fruits, and yielded her fruit every month: and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations.

The tree of life in the midst of a river bore twelve types of fruit and leaves that could heal the nations.

1. The Healing Power of God

2. Abundance of Fruit: An Analogy of God's Blessings

1. Isaiah 61:1-3 - The Spirit of the Lord God is upon Me, Because the Lord has anointed Me To preach good tidings to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, To proclaim liberty to the captives, And the opening of the prison to those who are bound;

2. James 5:14-16 - Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven. Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.

Revelation 22:3 And there shall be no more curse: but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it; and his servants shall serve him:

God and the Lamb will inhabit the new Jerusalem, and their servants will serve them.

1. The Joy of Serving God and the Lamb

2. God's Blessing of the New Jerusalem

1. Matthew 25:21 - "His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.'"

2. Revelation 21:3-4 - "And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, 'Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.'"

Revelation 22:4 And they shall see his face; and his name shall be in their foreheads.

The passage states that those who follow God will be able to see His face, and will bear His name in their foreheads.

1. The Meaning of Bearing God's Name

2. Experiencing the Presence of God

1. Exodus 33:18-23

2. Psalm 100:2-5

Revelation 22:5 And there shall be no night there; and they need no candle, neither light of the sun; for the Lord God giveth them light: and they shall reign for ever and ever.

God brings eternal light and joy to those who trust in Him.

1. Rejoice in God's Light: A on Revelation 22:5

2. Eternal Reign: A on the Blessing of Trusting in God

1. Isaiah 60:19-20 - The sun shall be no more thy light by day; neither for brightness shall the moon give light unto thee: but the Lord shall be unto thee an everlasting light, and thy God thy glory. Thy sun shall no more go down; neither shall thy moon withdraw itself: for the Lord shall be thine everlasting light, and the days of thy mourning shall be ended.

2. Psalm 36:9 - For with thee is the fountain of life: in thy light shall we see light.

Revelation 22:6 And he said unto me, These sayings are faithful and true: and the Lord God of the holy prophets sent his angel to shew unto his servants the things which must shortly be done.

An angel was sent by the Lord God of the holy prophets to show his servants what must soon come to pass.

1. The Faithfulness of God's Word

2. God's Authority and Power

1. Isaiah 55:11 - So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it.

2. Hebrews 1:14 - Are they not all ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation?

Revelation 22:7 Behold, I come quickly: blessed is he that keepeth the sayings of the prophecy of this book.

The book of Revelation promises that Jesus will return quickly, and those who keep the sayings of the prophecy will be blessed.

1. The Blessing of Obedience: Living by the Prophecies of Revelation

2. Waiting and Watching for the Return of Jesus

1. Deuteronomy 28:1-2 - "And if you faithfully obey the voice of the Lord your God, being

careful to do all his commandments that I command you today, the Lord your God will set you high above all the nations of the earth. And all these blessings shall come upon you and overtake you, if you obey the voice of the Lord your God."

2. Matthew 24:44 - "Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect."

Revelation 22:8 And I John saw these things, and heard them. And when I had heard and seen, I fell down to worship before the feet of the angel which shewed me these things.

The Apostle John saw and heard the things revealed in the book of Revelation.

1: Worship God Alone - The example of John teaches us to worship God alone, and not to bow down to anyone else.

2: Listen and Obey - Even when faced with the supernatural, John listened and obeyed the instructions of the angel.

1: Exodus 20:3-6 "You shall have no other gods before me. You shall not make for yourself an image in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below. You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God."

2: John 4:24 "God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in the Spirit and in truth."

Revelation 22:9 Then saith he unto me, See thou do it not: for I am thy fellowservant, and of thy brethren the prophets, and of them which keep the sayings of this book: worship God.

An angel speaks to John, instructing him not to worship the angel, but to instead worship God, because the angel is a fellowservant and of the prophets and those who keep the words of this book.

1. The Purpose of Prophets: How God Speaks to Us Through His Servants

2. The Power of Worship: Giving God the Glory He Deserves

1. Deuteronomy 10:20 - "Fear the Lord your God, serve him only and take your oaths in his name."

2. Acts 10:34-35 - "Then Peter began to speak: “I now realize how true it is that God does not show favoritism but accepts from every nation the one who fears him and does what is right."

Revelation 22:10 And he saith unto me, Seal not the sayings of the prophecy of this book: for the time is at hand.

John is instructed not to seal the sayings of the prophecy in the book of Revelation because the time is near.

1. The Time is Now: Discovering the Significance of the Prophecies in Revelation

2. Sealing the Prophecies: Choosing to Live in the Moment

1. Matthew 24:36 - “But concerning that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father only.”

2. Romans 13:11-12 - “Besides this you know the time, that the hour has come for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed.”

Revelation 22:11 He that is unjust, let him be unjust still: and he which is filthy, let him be filthy still: and he that is righteous, let him be righteous still: and he that is holy, let him be holy still.

The passage highlights that each individual will be judged according to their deeds.

1. Be Holy: Making Righteous Choices

2. The Power of Grace: Making the Unjust Just

1. 1 John 2:15-17 - Do not Love the World

2. Romans 6:17-18 - Do not let Sin Reign in your Life

Revelation 22:12 And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be.

Jesus Christ is coming quickly and his reward for faithful followers will be given in accordance to their work.

1. "Living with an Eternal Perspective"

2. "The Promise of Eternal Rewards"

1. Matthew 16:27 - For the Son of Man will come in the glory of His Father with His angels, and then He will reward each according to his works.

2. Colossians 3:23-24 - And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance; for you serve the Lord Christ.

Revelation 22:13 I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, the first and the last.

God is the beginning and end of all things, the source of all life and power.

1. The Everlasting Power of God

2. The Divine Origin of Life

1. Romans 11:36 - For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be the glory forever!

2. John 1:3 - All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made.

Revelation 22:14 Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city.

Those who follow God's commands will be granted access to the Tree of Life and the gates of the heavenly city.

1. The Blessing of Obedience: Embracing the Joy of Following God's Will

2. The Promises of the Tree of Life: Reaping the Rewards of Faithfulness

1. Deuteronomy 11:26-28 - Blessings for Obedience

2. Genesis 2:9 - The Tree of Life in the Garden of Eden

Revelation 22:15 For without are dogs, and sorcerers, and whoremongers, and murderers, and idolaters, and whosoever loveth and maketh a lie.

Those who do not accept Jesus will be excluded from God's kingdom.

1. 1: We must accept Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior to enter the Kingdom of God.

2. 2: We must strive to live a holy life in accordance with God's Word.

1. 1: Ephesians 2:8-9 - "For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast."

2. 2: Romans 10:9-10 - "If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved."

Revelation 22:16 I Jesus have sent mine angel to testify unto you these things in the churches. I am the root and the offspring of David, and the bright and morning star.

The root and offspring of David, Jesus, has sent his angel to testify to the churches.

1. Jesus is the Root and Offspring of David, the Bright and Morning Star.

2. The Testimony of Jesus through his Angel in the Churches.

1. Isaiah 11:1-5 - A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse; from his roots a Branch will bear fruit.

2. Luke 1:32-33 - He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord

God will give him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end.

Revelation 22:17 And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.

God invites everyone to come to Him and partake of the water of life freely.

1. The Invitation of God - an invitation for us to come to Him and be saved.

2. The Free Gift of Life - the opportunity to accept the free gift of eternal life.

1. John 3:16 - For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

2. Romans 6:23 - For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Revelation 22:18 For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book:

God warns against adding to the words of the prophecy in the book of Revelation, as those who do will be punished with the plagues written in it.

1. The Dangers of Adding to the Word of God

2. The Importance of Obeying the Word of God

1. Proverbs 30:5-6 (Every word of God is pure: he is a shield unto them that put their trust in him. Add thou not unto his words, lest he reprove thee, and thou be found a liar)

2. Deuteronomy 4:2 (Ye shall not add unto the word which I command you, neither shall ye diminish ought from it, that ye may keep the commandments of the LORD your God which I command you)

Revelation 22:19 And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this

prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book.

Anyone who removes or changes the words of the book of this prophecy will have their name removed from the book of life, the holy city, and the things written in the book.

1. God's Word is Immutable: The Importance of Obeying His Word

2. The Consequences of Disobeying God's Word

1. Deuteronomy 4:2 - "You shall not add to the word which I am commanding you, nor take away from it, that you may keep the commandments of the Lord your God which I command you."

2. Galatians 6:7-8 - "Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, this he will also reap. For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life."

Revelation 22:20 He which testifieth these things saith, Surely I come quickly. Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus.

The speaker in Revelation 22:20 affirms the coming of Jesus.

1. The Hope of Jesus' Return: Encouragement in Times of Trouble

2. The Certainty of Jesus' Return: Reassurance in Times of Uncertainty

1. Isaiah 40:31 – “But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.”

2. Hebrews 10:23-25 – “Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised;) And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.”

Revelation 22:21 The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen.

The writer of Revelation 22:21 wishes God's grace to be with all believers.

1: Let us be thankful for God's grace, and show it to others in all we do.

2: We can trust in God's grace during times of trial and difficulty.

1: Ephesians 2:8-10 - For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.

2: 2 Corinthians 12:9-10 - But he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me.